



The International Organizations Law Review at 20

Anniversary Conference on The Love for International Organizations

University of Vienna, 17 November 2023

Over the past two decades, IOLR has published articles on almost all aspects of the law of international organizations, written not only by academics but also by practitioners. Many contributions addressed institutional issues, ranging from legal personality to decision-making and from functionalism to constitutionalism. A number of special issues have been published, related to themes such as UN reform (2005), global administrative law (2009), responsibility of international organizations (2012), immunity of international organizations (2014) and COVID-19 and international organizations (2021). At the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the journal aims to take stock of why we actually study international organizations as a separate field of international law. At the Vienna Conference, members of the Editorial Board will share their 'love for international organizations', to use the title of an article recently published in IOLR by our board member Jean d'Aspremont. As argued by d'Aspremont, "international organizations continue to occupy a very central place in the practical, conceptual, cognitive, imaginary, and emotional universe of international lawyers. [...] the resilient centrality of international organizations in international legal thought and practice is the manifestation of international lawyers' love for such institutions." His contribution maps a number of "drivers that inform international lawyers' love for international organizations with a view to elucidating what lies behind the centrality of international organizations in international legal thought and practice."

Indeed, what we aim to find out after 20 successful years of IOLR is what we actually like about studying international organizations. What are the specific characteristics of this field of study that continue to provide a source of inspiration for both academics and practitioners?

Conference organization: Niels Blokker and Ramses Wessel, in close cooperation with August Reinisch

Venue: University of Vienna, Law Faculty (Juridicum *Dachgeschoss*)
Schottenbastei 10-16
1010 Vienna/Austria

Registration by E-Mail to martina.terp@univie.ac.at

Programme

09:00 Walk-in and coffee

09:30 Opening and introduction by Niels Blokker and Ramses Wessel – *The Love for a Journal: Twenty Years of IOLR*

Session I (Chair: Ramses Wessel)

Jean d'Aspremont - *The Love for International Organizations*

Kristina Daugirdas – *Misidentifying the Source of the Love for International Organizations*

Jan Klabbers – *Love is Just a Four-Letter Word*

Q&A

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Session II (Chair: Ramses Wessel)

Jacob Katz Cogan – *The Flexibility of International Organizations*

Ian Johnstone – *Informal Intergovernmental Organizations: How Lovable are They?*

August Reinisch – *Do I Know What I Love When I Say That I Love International Organizations?*

Niels Blokker – *The Love for International Organizations is not so much Logic; it is Experience*

Q&A

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session III (Chair: Niels Blokker)

Kirsten Schmalenbach - *Can International Organizations Turn 'Rogue'?*

Catherine Brölmann – *For the Love of Structure*

Gian Luca Burci – *Patterns of Governance and Institutional Development in International Organizations – Reflections from a Former Practitioner*

Anmol Gulecha – *An Asian Perspective*

Q&A

15:30 Coffee/tea

16:00 Session IV – Perspectives relating to specific international organizations (Chair: Niels Blokker)

Namira Negm - *Distinctively African: The Unique Appeal of the African Union to international Lawyers of African Origin*

Paolo Palchetti and Ramses Wessel – *Our Love for the EU (But is it an International Organization?)*

Gabrielle Marceau - *The World Trade Organization*

Yves Renouf - *International Organizations: The Best and the Worst Employer Possible!*

Q&A

17:30 Closure of the Conference