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 occasion of its 20th anniversary, we have invited members of the IOLR’s Editorial Board as well as others to contribute to this conference by sharing their ‘love for international organizations’, to use the title of an article recently published in IOLR by our board member Jean d’Aspremont. 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 M. Blokker and Ramses A. Wessel, in close cooperation with August Reinisch