



*The Joined-Up-Justice project is a European Research Council funded project that seeks to build a coherent and coordinated system of global criminal justice at the domestic level. While the project's focus is on international criminal law (ICL), international refugee law (exclusion law) is the starting point; it is the metaphorical canary in the coal mine that flags up issues that highlight problems at the heart of ICL. The project scrutinizes the assumptions underlying ICL and proposes an overarching and coordinated policy of international crimes prosecutions. Currently, domestic ICL enforcement is somewhat of a 'black box'; no rigorous and comparative research exists on domestic prosecutorial practices and the fundamental questions behind case selection (why? and who to prosecute?). Researchers in the Joined-Up-Justice project map and examine these practices through empirical and normative research.*

## **The ICC as Justice Hub, Pragmatic Complementarity and Domestic ICL Enforcement**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The [Joined-up-Justice Project](#) at Tilburg Law School, Department of Criminal Law, organizes an international conference on domestic prosecution of international crimes in light of the ICC's shift from "apex court to justice hub". The latter pronouncement was made by the ICC prosecutor on 8 November 2023, signalling a more dynamic approach to complementarity.

The conference will be held over two days: on **13-14 June 2024** in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The organizers aim to bring together a group of scholars, practitioners, and representatives of civil society to discuss the state of play of domestic international criminal law (ICL) enforcement. The conference aims to explore the ICC's role as catalyst for domestic prosecutions of international crimes. The aim is (i) to understand *who, why and how* states prosecute certain individuals, (ii) critically discuss universal jurisdiction (UJ) policies, and (iii) disentangle the interplay between ICL and migration law.

We invite paper proposals addressing the following *themes*;

1. The ICC: Justice Hub or Apex Court?;
2. Critical perspectives: the blind spots of universal jurisdiction prosecutions (e.g. selective justice, questions of legitimacy and legality);
3. Prosecuting core crimes as transnational crimes (e.g. terrorism, human trafficking);
4. Horizontal complementarity: where is the best place to prosecute UJ crimes?;
5. ICL and the crimmigration lens: immigration fraud, refugee exclusion, and deportation as alternatives to criminal prosecution;
6. How do prosecutors decide? Jurisdictional and evidentiary thresholds; small fish or big fish?

A poster session will be organized on the same themes.

## Submissions

We invite submissions of abstracts, written in English, of no more than 500 words. Abstracts should be submitted to the organisers by sending an e-mail to [joinedupjustice@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:joinedupjustice@tilburguniversity.edu) by **15 January 2024**, and should include the author's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information (e-mail). Selected speakers will be notified by 15 February via e-mail. After the selection process, we ask for extended abstracts/papers from the selected speakers of up to 3000-3500 words. The extended abstracts should be sent to the organizers by 1 May 2024. Depending on the submissions, the organizers aim to publish the papers in a special journal issue.

We invite contributions from academics, practitioners, defence counsel, civil society, and state authorities, such as prosecution services, and migration authorities. We encourage and welcome submissions from early career researchers and PhD researchers.

**Practical Information:** Accommodation and travel expenses are covered for speakers. Tilburg University strives to limit its impact on the environment as much as possible. For speakers from Western and Central European countries, we cover travel expenses for train. There will be the option to attend the conference virtually.

## Organizing Committee

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