



ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice Call for Papers

Technology and the Changing Landscape of International Criminal Justice

The Interest Group on International Criminal Justice is organizing a Workshop on how technology is changing the landscape of international criminal justice. This hybrid workshop will take place online and in-person in Vilnius, Lithuania on Wednesday, 4 September 2024, time TBA, immediately prior to the ESIL 2024 Annual Meeting.

Workshop Theme

Emerging technologies are rapidly reshaping the landscape of international criminal justice. Technologies now exist, and are being used in ways, that is far beyond the imagining of international criminal justice's progenitors. As a result, some core principles of the discipline may no longer be fit for purpose. These include, but are not limited to: the ways in which crimes are committed, how criminal responsibility and modes of liability are understood, and the gathering and use of evidence during investigations and prosecutions. The ways in which institutions, organisations and their partners choose to address these changes will profoundly impact how international criminal justice will operate in the future and could have implications on its continuing viability as a field of law.

Some international actors have begun to identify the need to adapt to this changing world. The UN Secretary General stated in July 2023 that he believes the malicious use of artificial intelligence (AI) poses a sufficient threat to global peace and security that the UN should formulate a legally binding agreement prohibiting the use of AI in automated weapons of war. In November 2023, the Representative of Egypt to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly insisted that AI should not have complete decision-making control over autonomous weapons systems if the international community wishes to preserve the relationship between human responsibility and accountability. In a different vein, the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, in their most recent strategic plan, indicated that it must profoundly change its technological capabilities so that it might become 'the global leader in the use of technology for accountability purposes.' In an effort to accomplish this, the ICC launched OTPLink, a platform for submitting evidence online that will process gathered information utilizing AI and Machine Learning (ML). These examples illustrate that the international community is coming alive to the possible impacts emerging technology will have on international criminal justice, but few solutions to these new challenges have been offered.

We welcome submissions on the issue of emerging technologies and their impact on international criminal justice. Submissions may reflect on, but are in no way limited to, one or more of the topics raised above or the following questions:

- How will new technologies impact international criminal justice?
- What should international criminal justice do to adapt to new technologies?
- How do new technologies change existing ideas about criminal responsibility?
- How do new technologies change existing approaches to modes of liability?
- What benefits and/or detriments do new technologies offer international criminal justice?
- How might new technologies impact case selection by international criminal justice institutions?
- How can new technologies benefit the parties and participants (prosecution/defendants/victims/witnesses) of international criminal trials?
- How might new technologies impact the equality of arms between the parties and/or trial fairness as a whole?
- In what ways can new types of evidence/new ways of gathering evidence influence the development of international criminal justice?
- How do the procedural aspects of evidence gathering and processing change when done using AI and ML?
- Can new technology change existing power structures/dynamics in international criminal justice?

Submission of Proposals and Timeline

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words. The deadline for submissions is **11 April 2024**. Please email your abstracts to the Interest Group's convenors at: esiligicj@gmail.com

The following information should be provided with each abstract in the same document:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- The author's short biography;
- The author's contact details, including email address.

Additionally, please make sure to name your file with your surname and the title of the abstract for easy identification.

Individuals submitting abstracts will be advised of the outcome of the selection procedure by the end of April.

Depending on the number and quality of the submissions, the IG convenors may consider turning workshop contributions into a series of blog posts and/or a Special Issue in an internationally renowned journal.

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL carers' grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize, if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April. The Interest