



Interest Group on Peace and Security

Pre-conference Workshop

ESIL Annual Conference 2024

Call for Papers

Posthumanism, Technology, and Peace and Security

The 2024 ESIL Annual Conference will take place on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September 2024 and will be hosted by the Law Faculty of Vilnius University. The theme of this year's conference is *Technological Change and International Law*. The pre-conference workshop of the Society's Interest Group on Peace and Security is scheduled to run on Wednesday 4th September 2024 from 15.45-18.45 and will be held in-person.

Technological advancements have had a profound impact on the way in which international law relating to peace and security operates. Peacebuilding and security work has been furthered and supported by new technologies, supporting the deployment of humanitarian assistance and enhanced connection between those working in the field. Autonomous weaponry is arguably more targeted and effective than traditional means of warfare, raising the possibility of further protection for civilians during war. At the same time, such technologies can be deployed in a way which directly undermines the aims of international law on peace and security. Acts of terrorism can be coordinated more effectively and in a more devastating, surprising way, organised via enhanced and encrypted communications, while autonomous weapons raise the question of a potential accountability gap, where harm is caused without a clearly identifiable, and liable, actor launching the weapon. Such issues raise the question of whether the law on international peace and security has entered an era of posthumanism, in which the emphasis of the individual as civilian, as actor, and as individual on whom liability can be imposed, is no longer a key consideration.

We welcome papers on the themes noted above and connected themes. Areas which could be addressed by papers include:

- The existence of an accountability gap in respect of autonomous weapons systems
- The role of social media in supporting and undermining the law relating to peace and security
- Technological advancements and the problems encountered in combatting terrorism
- The role of technology in supporting criminal enterprises, such as human trafficking, and whether law reform could address the issue

- Potential reforms for the law on the use of force in light of technological developments
- The impact of posthumanism on current law

We particularly welcome papers which address questions from a regional perspective. Work which undertakes a theoretical approach is encouraged.

Application Process

Please submit an abstract in PDF (in English) of no more than 500 words by **midnight on 25th April 2024** to all of the IGPS Convenors:

- Saeed Bagheri: saeed.bagheri[at]reading.ac.uk
- Patryk Labuda: patryk.labuda[at]graduateinstitute.ch
- Clare Frances Moran: cf.moran[at]abdn.ac.uk
- Erin Pobjie: e.pobjie[at]essex.ac.uk

Please title your document as follows for ease of reference: [Surname_abstract title]

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

- Author's name and affiliation;
- Author's brief CV, including a list of relevant publications;
- Author's contact details, including email address and phone number

Only one abstract per author will be considered.

Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than 30th April 2024. Depending on the number and quality of abstracts, up to 6 abstracts may be selected. Draft papers (maximum 3000 words inclusive of footnotes) elaborating the key points of your argument should be submitted by 1st August 2024 for circulation among the panel.

Evaluation criteria

Abstracts will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: 1) their alignment with the objectives of the event; 2) the overall coherence of the panel, and 3) the general criteria according to the ESIL Conference Call for Papers.

Travel, accommodation, and funding

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.