



## ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law

in partnership with REF-FIN and CoSME

presents:

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop

*“De/Re-Constructing Asylum: New Actors, Processes and Spaces”*

**Berlin (Germany), 11 September 2025 (9:00–12:00 CET)**

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

The **Interest Group (IG) on Migration and Refugee Law** ([MigRefLaw](#)) of the **European Society of International Law (ESIL)**, in partnership with [REF-FIN](#) (*Refugee Finance: Histories, Frameworks, Practices*) and [CoSME](#) (*Community Sponsorship for Migrants in Europe*), is organising a Workshop on 11 September 2025 in Berlin (Germany) as a side event of this year’s [ESIL Annual Conference](#). The theme of the Conference is reconstructing international law, which the IG MigRefLaw workshop will address in the context of migration and refugee law.

The IG MigRefLaw pre-conference Workshop will focus on asylum and the new actors and processes shaping its practice and legal dimension in new spaces and non-spaces. In an era of growing restrictions on mobility, externalised migration governance and an increasing reliance on private and non-state actors, the traditional frameworks of asylum are undergoing significant transformations. The role of **financial institutions, private sponsorship schemes, digital technologies, humanitarian actors, local communities and refugees themselves** is expanding, while **legal voids, extraterritorial border policies and offshore processing** are reconfiguring the legal cornerstones of international protection as developed since the first World War.

The IG MigRefLaw – acting as the organising committee for this Workshop, in collaboration with REF-FIN and CoSME – welcomes presentation proposals that focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Legal changes to the international legal framework since the UN Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees;

- Impact of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum on international protection, de-spatialisation of protection and asylum outsourcing;
- Role of new actors, including private actors, both in migration management and integration;
- Refugees as agents of change: Exploring "meaningful refugee participation" as introduced by the Global Compact on Refugees;
- The changing role of UNCHR in refugee protection and durable solutions;
- The increasing Informalisation of migration and refugee law (e.g., Memoranda of Understanding, tailor made partnerships, declarations and other soft-law instruments) and its legal impact on migrant and refugee rights;
- Extraterritorial asylum and extraterritorial procedures;
- Legal fictions and presumptions in asylum procedures;
- Automated decision making in asylum procedures;
- "Protection elsewhere practices";
- Resettlement and legal pathways: potential and limits;
- The role of community sponsorship initiatives in rethinking refugee access and integration.

The IG MigRefLaw, REF-FIN and CoSME invite submissions of abstracts, written in English, of no more than **300 words**. The candidates are invited to make clear methodologies and approaches/perspectives. Abstracts should be submitted to the IG conveners at [migreflaw@gmail.com](mailto:migreflaw@gmail.com) by **11 April 2025** and should also include the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information (e-mail) and whether the applicant is a member of ESIL (these details are excluded from the word count). Selected speakers will be notified by **24 April** via e-mail. After the selection process, we are aiming for extended abstracts of **3000-3500 words** from the selected speakers. The extended abstracts should be sent to the IG conveners by **31 July**.

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 check the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference. 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 2025.

All participants at ESIL IG 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.

#### REF-FIN

Daria DAVITTI  
Sara ARAPILES

#### The IG MigRefLaw Coordinating Committee

Sara ARAPILES  
Sissy KATSONI  
Giulia RAIMONDO  
Daniela VITIELLO

#### CoSME

Daniela VITIELLO  
Marco BORRACCETTI  
Stefano MONTALDO

The [Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law](#) (MigRefLaw) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#). The IG focuses on the law and policy of states and international organisations with regard to people who seek entry to their communities. The movement of people across borders is a defining reality of our time. This IG aims to provide a forum for discussion on the legal principles and processes governing the movement of people as well as their reception in host communities. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in migration and refugee law.