



ESIL Interest Group on the Law of the Sea Workshop ***"Reconstructing International Law of the Sea"***

Berlin, 10 September 2025, 15:00-18:00 (*in person only*)

On occasion of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference, the ESIL Interest Group on the Law of the Sea will convene a workshop on "Reconstructing International Law of the Sea". The workshop will take place on Wednesday, 10 September 2025, 15.00-18.00, and will be an in-person only event.

The theme

Is the law of the sea fit for the stormy times we are living in? And how should it be (re)constructed, to better align with modern principles of the international community, but also the current shift in the balance of power? The Workshop aims to exploring these fundamental questions, in line with the general theme of the ESIL Annual Conference, "Reconstructing International Law".

The discussion will focus on two main levels, institutional and normative, since both shape the law, including the law of the sea.

Starting from the institutional level, the workshop will discuss institutions that are currently active in shaping and applying the law of the sea, addressing two separate aspects: do these institutions need reconstruction themselves? and how can they contribute to the normative reconstruction of the field? Such institutions include both those active in making and applying the law of the sea – the UN itself, and in particular DOALOS, Specialised Agencies (IMO, ILO, FAO, etc), and regional organisations – as well as those which adjudicate the law, first and foremost the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the advisory jurisdiction of which has significantly contributed to the development of the law of the sea.

Moving to the normative level, the workshop will examine the extent to which current law of the sea aligns with the pledge to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources enshrined in SDG 14, and whether and how it requires reconstruction. The Workshop proposes to focus on the contemporary challenges posed by deep sea mining, fishing, and climate change and the oceans, as well as to the opportunities for normative reshaping that the upcoming entry into force of the BBNJ Treaty promises.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions that address the topics presented above from scholars, practitioners, and activists across disciplines and career stages. We particularly welcome presentations which discuss original research or novel theoretical insights, and those which deal with current challenges for the law of the sea, broadly conceived.

Please note that **the Workshop is in person only and submission of an abstract should be made only if you will be able to travel to Berlin**. 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.

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

If you are interested in presenting, please submit your **abstracts of no more than 500 words, along with an updated cv, to** a.longo31@campus.unimib.it, ip14@soas.ac.uk, gabriela.oanta@udc.es, and efthymios.papastavridis@law.ox.ac.uk **by 25 April 2025**. If you meet the [eligibility conditions](#) for the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize and would like to be considered for it, please mention this in your submission. Selected speakers will be notified at the beginning of May.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to write to a.longo31@campus.unimib.it and efthymios.papastavridis@law.ox.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to Berlin in September and discussing together the law of the sea!

Akis Papastavridis, Andrea Longo, Gabriela Oanta, and Irini Papanicolopulu (ESIL IG on Law of the Sea Convenors)