

A pre-Annual Conference workshop organized by the Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law in the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference taking place at the Department of Law of Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), 10-13 September 2025, themed “Reconstructing International Law”.

Pre-Annual Conference Workshop on

REEVALUATING THE RULE OF LAW IN AN ERA OF GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS: NECESSITY AND PROSPECTS FOR REFORM

DATES ESIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE IG ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND RULE OF LAW

PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

VENUE

BERLIN, GERMANY



**INTEREST GROUP ON EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RULE OF
LAW**

Reevaluating the Rule of Law in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions: Necessity and Prospects for Reform

As part of the broader conference theme on **Reconstructing International Law**, this IG event seeks to explore the evolving role of the **rule of law** in the face of rising geopolitical tensions. Over the past decade, global governance has been increasingly challenged by unilateralism, regional conflicts, economic coercion, and competing legal frameworks, as more recently shown also by the ongoing actions of the US Trump Administration. These developments necessitate a critical reexamination of the rule of law in international relations and international institutions.

With 2025 marking the **80th anniversary of the United Nations**, this moment presents an opportunity to reflect on the resilience and adaptability of international legal norms.

Furthermore, with just five years remaining before the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deadline**, it is imperative to consider how legal frameworks can better support global stability, security, and development.

We welcome papers that address the rule of law in international governance through **institutional, normative, historical, and theoretical** lenses, including but not limited to the following topics:

- **Institutional Challenges and Reforms:** The effectiveness of the **United Nations, WTO, WHO**, and other international organizations in upholding the rule of law in crisis situations.
- **Rule of Law and Global Security:** Evaluating the role of legal mechanisms in addressing **territorial conflicts, sanctions regimes, and economic coercion**.
- **The Rule of Law and Sustainable Development:** How legal reforms can support the **SDGs** without reinforcing historical patterns of inequality and exclusion.
- **Historical Lessons on the Rule of Law:** What past efforts at reconstructing international legal order teach us about its current challenges.
- **Theoretical Perspectives:** Critical approaches to the legitimacy and authority of the rule of law in international governance.

We invite scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to contribute to this discussion. Papers that incorporate perspectives from the **Global South, critical legal studies, and Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL)** are especially encouraged.

APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY

Submission Guidelines:

This call is open to academics, as well as practitioners of international organizations and NGOs working in these areas. The objective is to optimize research impact of our participants by engaging the different communities of practice in law, political science, and other disciplines to permit an interdisciplinary dialogue

- Abstracts (300-500 words) should be submitted by **April 30, 2025**.
- Please include your name, affiliation, and a short bio (150 words).
- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;
- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;
- Whether the author is an ESIL member (Being an ESIL Member is not a requirement to submit an abstract)
- Interdisciplinary and co-authored papers are also welcomed
- Full papers will be considered for publication in a special issue or reputable publisher or for the EUI/ESIL working papers.

Submissions should be sent to **paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk**

For inquiries, please contact **paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk**

Multiple abstracts from the same authors will be considered, but only one can be selected. Co-authored multidisciplinary papers are also welcomed. Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than **30 April 2025**. The Organizers are unable to provide funding for any cost related to participation to the conference.

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 careers' 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.

All Members of the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the members of the ESIL Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law, the members of other ESIL IGs and also the non -ESIL members (ESIL membership might be required if the abstract is selected) are invited to submit abstracts.

VENUE AND DATES

A pre-Annual Conference workshop on **Reevaluating the Rule of Law in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions: Necessity and Prospects for Reform** in the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference. The ESIL Annual conference will take place in Berlin, Germany, 10-13 September 2025 and the pre-Annual Conference workshop organized by the Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law on 11 September 2025.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise format of the publication will be discussed during the conference.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chair of the Pre-Annual ESIL Conference Workshop: Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development).

Scientific Committee: Till Patrik Holterhus (Leuphana Law School), Denise Wohlwend (Kellerhals Carrard & Université de Fribourg - Universität Freiburg) and Velimir Zivkovic (University of Warwick), Martin Svec (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)