



Interest Group on Peace and Security

Call for Papers

Reconstructing Peace: (Mis)Uses of International Law

ESIL Annual Conference, Berlin 2025

Thursday, 11 September 2025

9.00-12.00 CET

(hybrid format)

Across ongoing conflicts, international and regional organizations and international legal norms are engaged in efforts to bring conflicts to an end and to reconstruct peace. These engagements play out within existing power imbalances and political economy. Embarking on the ESIL Annual Conference's forward-looking approach, the Interest Group on Peace and Security convenes a workshop to reflect on international law's role in transitions to peace. Accounts that assume international law's positive contributions to peace risk overlooking how international law continues to shape the concept and material conditions of peace. Starting, instead, by asking when, where, how, and by whom can international law be used for peace, and questioning what kind of peace can be constructed through or with international law, the workshop aims to generate critical and normative reflection on international law's many uses in reconstructing peace(s).

Centring on the theme of reconstructing peace, we invite authors to submit abstracts of papers that engage with, but are not necessarily limited to, the following questions and themes:

- What kinds of peace does international law produce, conceptually and materially;
- How do changing notions of international peace and security and threats thereto reconfigure the authority and relevance of different international actors and bodies of norms;

- How do international norms and institutions shape transitions out of conflict and towards peace, including through managerial practices, settlement of disputes, adjudication, financial means, etc.;
- How do current international legal frameworks and logics facilitate or limit transitions to peace;
- When and how does international law contribute to or constrain local peace-processes; and
- To what extent do institutional reforms and new modes of cooperation contribute to reconstructing peace?

We welcome submissions from scholars working in international law and related disciplines at all stages of their careers, in hopes of facilitating a discussion that reaches across the institutional, normative, historical, and theoretical dimensions of these questions.

Selection criteria:

- Originality
- Relevance to the theme; and
- Diversity of speakers and perspectives

Submission and next steps:

- Abstract (max. 400 words) in PDF format,
- Submission deadline: 18 April 2025,
- Decisions communicated: 24 April 2025,
- Abstracts and/or any queries about this call should be sent to igps.esil@gmail.com

Workshop format:

The ESIL Interest Group on Peace and Security invites applications for a hybrid workshop on 11 September 2025 at 9.00 CET in Berlin and online, in connection with the ESIL 2025 annual conference.

The final format will be agreed upon among working group conveners and selected speakers. The interest group's conveners warmly welcome engaged audience members to participate in the workshop in a spirit of constructive discussion, for which we will provide ample time.

Important information:

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 to attend only 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.

ESIL Peace and Security Interest Group Conveners

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