



Call for Papers

Reconstructing International Environmental Law Through Adjudication

**Pre-Conference Workshop of the Interest Group on International Environmental Law
Convened by Daria S. Boklan, Chamu Kuppuswamy, Matjaž Nahtigal, Otto Spijkers and
Martin Švec**

**2025 ESIL Annual Conference on “Reconstructing International Law”
10-13 September 2025, Berlin
Hosted by the Department of Law of Freie Universität Berlin**

In our workshop, we explore the role of international, regional and domestic courts, tribunals, and other adjudicatory bodies in reconstructing international environmental law. At a time when environmental challenges demand urgent and coordinated legal responses, adjudication on the basis of international environmental law has emerged as a crucial arena for contestation, innovation, and norm development.

We welcome submissions that critically examine how adjudicatory bodies contribute to the reconstruction of international environmental law. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. The impact of recently concluded and/or still pending climate change and environmental cases before international, regional and domestic courts and tribunals.
2. The actual and potential role of advisory opinions and pending advisory proceedings in shaping environmental obligations.
3. The interaction in adjudication between environmental law and other areas of international law, in particular human rights law.
4. Procedural innovations and challenges in environmental litigation.
5. The role of non-state actors, including Indigenous communities, in international environmental adjudication.
6. Judicial rationale and innovative reasoning and other methods applied by courts.
7. Reconstructing the sources of international environmental law.
8. The role of international environmental law in the interpretation of norms of international law from other fields.

We particularly encourage contributions that adopt an interdisciplinary approach, engage with novel theoretical perspectives, or propose forward-looking strategies for strengthening the role of adjudication in reconstructing international environmental law.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions are welcome from scholars, practitioners, and activists across disciplines and

career stages. Presentations should present original research or novel theoretical insights that align with the conference theme, i.e., reconstructing international law.

Abstracts of no more than 500 words, along with a short (200 words) biography, should be submitted by 20 April 2025. Participants will be notified about the outcome of the selection process by 30 April 2025.

Submissions and inquiries should be directed to o.spijkers@luc.leidenuniv.nl.

We look forward to welcoming participants in person for this workshop, which will be held onsite in Berlin. Before you submit an abstract proposal to us, please ensure that you are able to travel to Berlin.

Conference Details

The 2025 ESIL Annual Conference on 'Reconstructing International Law' takes place from 11-13 September 2025 in Berlin. Further information about registration and logistical arrangements can be found on the conference website: <https://www.esil2025.de/>.

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.

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.