



Reconstructing International Energy Law in Times of Crisis

**Pre-Conference Workshop of the Interest Group on Energy and International Law
Convened by Elena Cima and Ilaria Espa**

2025 ESIL Annual Conference on “Reconstructing International Law”

10 September 2025 15:00-18:00, Berlin

Hosted by the Department of Law of Freie Universität Berlin

The global energy landscape is undergoing profound transformations due to multiple crises, including climate change, energy security challenges, geopolitical tensions, and technological disruptions. These crises demand a rethinking of international energy law to ensure that it remains relevant, effective, and adaptable to new realities. This workshop seeks to explore how international energy law can be reconstructed to address these interconnected crises while balancing the need for energy security, sustainability, and justice.

The workshop is structured around two thematic panels, each addressing a key dimension of the reconstruction of international energy law. The first panel, *“Energy, Sovereignty, and Security in a Shifting Legal Landscape,”* investigates the legal tensions and opportunities arising from the interplay between state sovereignty, geopolitical dynamics, and the evolving principles of international law. This panel will explore key opportunities for advancing international energy law through both treaty-making and dispute settlement. The second panel, titled *“Decarbonization through International Law: Navigating Carbon Markets, Trade and Investment Disputes,”* turns to the role of economic instruments and dispute settlement in shaping the legal architecture of the energy transition. This panel will delve into transnational governance of carbon pricing, the challenges of integrating carbon markets within the framework of international trade law, and the legal frictions that arise when clean energy investments intersect with existing investment protection standards.

By bringing together diverse legal perspectives, this workshop contributes to a broader effort to critically examine and reconstruct international energy law in response to contemporary and future crises.

Program

15:00-15:15

Welcome and Introduction

Elena Cima, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva and **Ilaria Espa**, Associate Professor, Università della Svizzera Italiana

15:15-16:15

Panel I – Energy, Sovereignty and Security in a Shifting Legal Landscape

Patrick Abel, Assistant Professor, Passau University

Energy Solidarity Agreements

Mattia Colli Vignarelli, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Turin

The Future of Energy Law in the Face of The ICJ Climate Change Advisory Opinion: Is «Drill, Baby, Drill» Internationally Unlawful?

Valeria Fappani, Research Fellow, University of Bologna and PhD Candidate, University of Trento & **Blanca Marabini San Martín**, PhD Researcher, Madrid Autonomous University

Crisis, Control, and China: Rethinking Resource Sovereignty through International Law

Mengjing Kong, Post-Doctoral Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute

The Regulation of Sovereign Investors: Between National Security and Sustainable Development in Critical Mineral Investments

16:15-16:45

Coffee break

16:45-17:45

Panel II – Decarbonization through International Law: Navigating Carbon Markets, Trade and Investment Disputes

Alice Pirlot, Assistant Professor, Geneva Graduate Institute

Transnational Governance on Carbon Pricing

Kateryna Holzer, Senior Researcher, University of Eastern Finland &
Ilaria Espa, Associate Professor, Università della Svizzera Italiana

Trade in Carbon Credits: The Role of WTO Law in Development of International Carbon Markets

Mirko Camanna, Lecturer in International and EU Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam – Erasmus School of Law

The Green Hydrogen Crossroads: Navigating the Tensions between International Investment Law and Just Transition

Claudia Wortmann, PhD Candidate, Hasselt University & KU Leuven

Practical Interpretations of the Fair and Equitable Treatment Standard in Energy Investment Arbitration

17:45-18:00

Conclusions