



**Interest Group on Peace and Security  
Workshop Programme**

**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).

**Programme:**

**9.00-10.20     First session: The (Mis)Uses of International Law in Transitions to Peace**

Chair: Henning Lahmann (Leiden University)

- 9.00-9.20 Milena Sterio (Cleveland State University College of Law): ‘The Role of International, Regional, and Domestic Courts in Transitions Towards Peace and Security’
- 9.20-9.40 Luciano Pezzano (National University of Cordoba): ‘Peace After Aggression: The Importance of Reparations’
- 9.40-10.00 Agata Bidas (University of Vienna): ‘Peace through Threat? The Legal Dilemma of Nuclear Deterrence’
- 10.00-10.20 Q&A and discussion among participants

**10.20-10.40 Break for coffee**

**10.40-12.00 Second session: Reconstructing ‘Peace’ In and Through International Law**

Chair: Irène Couzigou (University of Aberdeen)

- 10.40-11.00 Mélanie Dubuy (University of Lorraine): ‘The embodiment of the concept of peace by the European Union: a (too) idealized peace project?’
- 11.00-11.20 Ragul OV (Tamil Nadu National University), also on behalf of E. Prema: ‘The Silence of Peace: Rethinking International Law’s Temporal Violence and Epistemic Claims in Reconstructing Order’
- 11.20-11.40 Marina Aksenova (IE Law School): ‘Reconstructing Peace: The Role of Aesthetics in International Law’
- 11.40-12.00 Q&A and discussion among participants

ESIL Peace and Security Interest Group Conveners

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