



PROGRAMME

ESIL Interest Group on International Law and Technology

Pre-Conference Hybrid Workshop

Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Wednesday 10 September, 15.00-18.00 CEST

Forensic and Counter-Forensic Approaches to Reconstructing International Law – A Cartography and Anatomy of Genocide

The ESIL Interest Group on International Law and Technology invites you to a hybrid workshop focusing on the transformative role of forensic and counter-forensic methodologies in (re)constructing international legal analysis. Inspired by the pioneering work of *Forensic Architecture*, this workshop will examine how forensic investigations – through satellite imagery, open-source intelligence, digital modeling, and counter-mapping – are reshaping evidentiary practices and redefining accountability in international law.

This workshop will put [*Cartography of Genocide*](#), a project developed by *Forensic Architecture*, in conversation with the [*Anatomy of a Genocide*](#) report by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, exploring how these investigations can complement and challenge each other in factually and legally reconstructing patterns of genocidal violence in Gaza. The discussion will highlight the intersections of forensic methodologies and international law, revealing how digital evidence can both challenge and substantiate legal accounts, exposing inconsistencies and reinforcing accountability structures.

Background and Theme

The 2025 ESIL Annual Conference will explore the theme of *Reconstructing International Law* – a timely reflection on how international law must evolve to respond to contemporary challenges.

In the context of international law and technology, forensic and counter-forensic methodologies play a crucial role in reconstructing the evidentiary foundations of international law, uncovering hidden violence, countering the structural inequality in the access to knowledge and vision, and challenging dominant legal narratives. This is a particularly powerful practice in a context where, as argued in the *Anatomy of a Genocide* report, the invocation of international law functions as a form of ‘humanitarian camouflage’ which aims to conceal material structures of violence and the intent behind them.

Forensic Architecture’s groundbreaking work demonstrates how new technologies expose violations of international law that might otherwise remain invisible. The concept of forensic architecture reconfigures traditional legal fact-finding by incorporating spatial analysis, architectural modeling, and digital reconstruction to counter state narratives. This approach promises to have a profound impact on international accountability, enabling new forms and fora of legal advocacy.

By engaging *Cartography of Genocide* and the *Anatomy of a Genocide* report in a direct dialogue, this workshop will consider their implications for (re)constructing international legal accountability and justice.

Registration

To register to attend **in person**, it is *required* to register via the ESIL registration site [here](#). Due to room capacity constraints, enrollment will be limited and operated on a first come first serve basis. In the coming weeks, once all IG workshop programmes have been published, the conference organizers will distribute a registration mechanism so that participants can indicate preferences concerning which workshops they want to attend.

It will also be possible to attend this workshop **online**. If you would like to attend the workshop online, please register [here](#).

Programme

15.00-15.05: *Welcome* by ESIL Interest Group on International Law & Technology Coordinators

(*Stefania Di Stefano, Rebecca Mignot-Mahdavi, Barrie Sander, Dimitri Van Den Meerssche, Roxana Vatanparast*)

15.05-16.15: *Keynote Presentations* by **Francesca Albanese** (UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories) and **Eyal Weizman** (Founder, Forensic Architecture), chaired by **Nahed Samour** (Research Associate, Radboud University)

16.15-17.00: *Panel 1*

1. *"The New Geometries of International Law: Deploying Creative Inquiry to Re-Build the Discipline"*
Marina Aksenova (Associate Professor, IE University)
2. *"Visual Truth and Factual Realities – The Impact of Computational Photography on Legal Evidence"*
Akanksha Bisoyi (Post-doctoral Researcher, Professorship of Law, Science, and Technology, Technical University of Munich)
3. *"Producing Visible Evidence in the current Gaza Genocide"*
Laliv Melamed (Professor of Digital Film Culture, Goethe University Frankfurt)
4. *"Earth Observation Technologies and International Legal Accountability: Challenges and Opportunities in Documenting the Ongoing Genocide in Gaza"*
Giuliana Rotola (Fellowship Coordinator at Palestine Space Institute)

17.00-17.10: *Break*

17.10-18.00: *Panel 2*

1. *"Digital Evidence as Surveillance: Ethical Considerations for Platforming Atrocities through the Lens of the Surveillance Subject"*
Christine Carpenter (PhD candidate, University of Cambridge)
2. *"Remote Sensing of Mass Atrocities from Space as a Relative Duty: How satellite capabilities may qualify knowledge under Article 16 ARSIWA and trigger duties to ensure respect under IHL"*
Pedro Rogerio Borges de Carvalho (PhD candidate, KU Leuven)
3. *"Private Investigators, Public Accountability: Digital Forensics and the Politics of Evidence in International Crimes"*
Julia Emtseva (Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute)
4. *"Human-in-the-Loop or Human-in-the-Dark? Algorithmic Targeting and the Evidentiary Collapse of Genocidal Intent in Gaza"*
Madeeha Majid (International Law Practitioner and Consultant, Agami)
5. *"Piecing together the accountability puzzle: Using open source information to fight detention - related impunity in the ongoing genocide in Gaza"*
Sarah Zarmsky (Lecturer, Queen's University of Belfast School of Law)
Sabina Garahan (Lecturer, University of Essex School of Law)