

INTEREST GROUP ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 and 2025

Past activities:

- **Agora 8 ESIL2025, *Interdisciplinarity and the (Re)construction of International Law*, Berlin, 10 September 2025**

The IG was selected to organize an Agora at the ESIL2025. The Agora revolved around the question what role interdisciplinarity can or should have in the reconstruction of international law. Three excellent presentations addressed this question from different perspectives. Seán Fobbe challenged us to rethink the very nature of disciplinary work by more closely (re)connecting it to the empirical realities it inevitably needs to capture. Anne van Aaken and Tomer Broude touched on the practical value of interdisciplinary insights, exploring how behavioral science may inform law-making processes to achieve the SDGs and other goals. Evelyne Schmid presented insights on the value of interdisciplinary work in studying human rights engagement at the subnational level.

- **Pre-conference workshop ESIL2025, *Interdisciplinarity and the (re)construction of international law*, Berlin, 10 September 2025**

At our fifth pre-conference workshop at the Annual Conference, the IG discussed what interdisciplinary engagement contributes to our analysis and understanding of international law. The workshop had a conference-style format, with 8 paper presentations. The workshop was very successful with lively and in-depth discussions, and in particular thanks to the excellent contributions of the following speakers: Andrea Jiménez Laurence, Elsa Tsioumani, Adriana Moreno-Cely, Christine Frison, Xuan W. Tay, Antoine De Spiegeleir, Regina Jefferies, Alice Margaria, Alice Margaria and Paula Wojcikiewicz Almeida, Lucas Vollers, Valentine Tissot Pinheiro, Vitor Furtado de Melo, Ana Carolina Vasconcelos Livia Rosas Lamour.

- **Speaker series organized with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science (2025)**

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the ASIL and ESIL Interest Groups on International Law and Social Sciences jointly organized the International Law and Social Science Online Speaker Series, continuing their successful collaboration in providing a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue.

In autumn 2024, the series adopted a new format pairing a single speaker with two discussants, designed to foster more dynamic and substantive exchanges. Building on this momentum, the Spring 2025 program featured a diverse set of panels, selected with attention to gender, nationality, disciplinary background, and thematic scope:

- **12 February 2025:** *Lauge Skovgaard Poulsen* (University College London), “Compensation, Economic Hostages, and Market Access: Lump Sum Agreements since Westphalia,” with discussants *Geraldo Vidigal* (University of Amsterdam) and *Joost Pauwelyn* (Graduate Institute, Geneva).
- **26 February 2025:** *Veronika Fikfak* (University College London) and *Nicolo Ridi* (King’s College London), “The Human Rights Bar: Lawyers at the European Court of Human Rights,” with discussants *Malcolm Langford* (University of Oslo) and *Zuzanna Godzimirska* (University of Copenhagen).
- **14 May 2025:** *Janina Dill* (University of Oxford), *Marnie Howlett* (University of Oxford), *Carl Müller-Crepon* (London School of Economics), and *Mara Revkin* (Duke University), “Fate or Choice? Attitudes Toward Collaboration and Redemption in Ukraine,” with discussant *Geoff Dancy* (University of Toronto).

Across these sessions, the series attracted strong participation from the ASIL and ESIL communities, becoming an important hub for discussions on issues at the intersection of law and the social sciences. The speaker series is available [on ASIL’s youtube channel](#).

Future activities:

- **Speaker series organized with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science (2025-2026)**

Building on the success of last year’s series, we are continuing our collaboration with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science. The speaker series brings together leading scholars from around the world to present cutting-edge research at the intersection of international law and social science. Held online, the series is designed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and global participation. The series highlights diverse methodologies, subject areas, and perspectives, ensuring a rich and inclusive dialogue.

- **Pre-conference workshop ESIL2026, *International Law and Conflicts: An Enduring Tension?*, Málaga, September 2025**

At our sixth pre-conference workshop, we plan to explore a theme that aligns with the overarching conference topic, “*International Law and Conflicts: An Enduring Tension?*”. While the specific focus of the workshop is still under development, it will continue our tradition of fostering interdisciplinary dialogue around international law. The workshop will provide a space for both emerging and established scholars to engage critically with the intersections of law and other disciplines, examining how such engagements shape

our understanding and practice of international law in times of conflict and transformation.

Membership:

The current list of members is held by the ESIL Secretariat, and it counts 267 persons (as of September 2023). We welcome proposals from our Members for the organization of conferences, seminar, research fora and other similar events concerning social sciences and international law.

Governance:

The IG is governed by four co-chairs, Zuzanna Godzimirska (University of Copenhagen), Tommaso Soave (Central European University), Ezgi Yildiz (Bowdoin College), Wim Zimmermann (University of Salzburg). They run the IG, administer its webpage and organize regular events. The co-chairs meet regularly on Zoom.