



ESIL Interest Group on Peace and Security

Pre-Conference Workshop ESIL Annual Conference 2026, Malaga

2 September 2026

Peace and Security beyond the UN Charter: Appraising Alternative Models of Global Security Governance and Law

The United Nations (UN), which stands at the heart of the post-World War II global order, has as its overarching purpose to maintain international peace and security (Article 1(1) UN Charter). According to this order, the UN Security Council serves as the main guardian of these ends (Article 24(1) UN Charter). One of the principal ways to achieve lasting international stability is, as the Charter's preamble puts it, the establishment of "conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained".

In this moment of global crisis, the primacy of both the UN and international law as the central ordering models for the maintenance of international peace and security are, however, increasingly called into question. U.S. president Donald Trump has created a "Board of Peace", designed to circumvent and perhaps even replace the UN Security Council. For at least a decade, political leaders in Western states have adopted the opaque and ambiguous concept of the "rules-based international order" as a shorthand for a selective application of the rules of international law and especially of the *jus contra bellum* as laid down in the UN Charter. More recently, a resurgence of realism in international relations scholarship has led to the pronouncement of a multipolar *Großraumordnung*, based on theories of Carl Schmitt, that divides the globe into fixed spheres of influence between the U.S., China, and Russia, and in which international law is relegated to the margins.

This pre-conference workshop will scrutinize past and present models of global security governance and law that challenge the centrality of the UN and international law. The Interest Group on Peace and Security invites scholars in international law and related disciplines to submit papers that examine alternative models of global security governance and law and their relationship to a global order in flux. We ask: how and to which ends do those alternative models mobilize, undermine, or subvert the international legal order? What are the normative

implications of these models? What affective, aesthetic, moral, political and/or economic judgments underpin them, and whose interests do they promote?

Submission and next steps:

- An abstract up to 300 words and a brief biography of the author, including their affiliation and email address (max 100 words), all compiled into a single PDF document.
- Submission deadline: 28 April 2026
- Decisions communicated: by 15 May 2026
- Abstracts and/or any queries about this call should be sent to igps.esil@gmail.com

Selection criteria:

- Relevance to the theme
- Originality
- Diversity of speakers and perspectives

Workshop format:

The ESIL Interest Group on Peace and Security invites applications for an in-person workshop on 2 September 2026, from 9.00 – 12.00 CET, in Malaga, in connection with the ESIL 2026 annual conference.

The final format will be agreed upon among working group conveners and selected speakers. The interest group's conveners warmly welcome engaged audience members to participate in the workshop in a spirit of constructive discussion, and we will provide ample time for this.

Important information:

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.

Please see the [ESIL Annual Conference website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops, including speakers and chairs, are required to register for the workshop and are warmly invited to attend the whole Annual Conference. Detailed information will follow on the registration options, including information on preferential fees for ESIL Members and the option to register to attend the pre-ESIL Annual Conference workshops only.

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.

ESIL Peace and Security Interest Group Conveners

Saeed Bagheri

Irène Couzigou

Henning Lahmann

Kerttuli Lingenfelter

Prabhpreet Singh