



ESIL BOARD ELECTIONS 2026
ÉLECTIONS DU COMITÉ DE LA SEDI 2026



GAIL LYTHGOE

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Gail Lythgoe teaches and researches global and international law and governance at the University of Edinburgh, where she directs Edinburgh's innovative Global Law LLB. Prior to this, Gail taught international law and international relations at the Universities of Manchester and St Andrews. She has guest-taught at Sciences Po, Paris, and Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa. Gail studied law at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Singapore (NUS) and was a visiting researcher at the Göttingen MPI MMG.

Gail has been an ESIL member since 2016, serving on the Diversity Advisory Body (June 2022-June 2025) and Interest Group for International Organizations Coordinating Committee (Jan 2020–Dec 2023). Currently, Gail serves on Edinburgh Law School's Decolonisation Working Group, convenes the careers group for the Law Schools Global League, sits on the Management Committee of the Scottish Council for Global Affairs and is a member of the Accountability Unit Legal Team.

COURTE BIOGRAPHIE

Gail Lythgoe enseigne et mène des recherches en droit et gouvernance internationaux à l'Université d'Édimbourg, où elle dirige le Global Law LLB programme innovant. Auparavant, elle a enseigné le droit international et les relations internationales aux universités de Manchester et de St Andrews. Elle a également été professeure invitée à Sciences Po (Paris) et à la Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pise). Elle a étudié le droit aux universités d'Édimbourg, de Glasgow et NUS, et a été chercheuse invitée au MPI MMG de Göttingen.

Membre de l'ESIL depuis 2016, elle a siégé au Diversity Advisory Body (2022–2025) et au comité de coordination du groupe d'intérêt sur les organisations internationales (2020–2023). Elle participe actuellement à plusieurs initiatives académiques et professionnelles, notamment le groupe de travail sur la décolonisation de la faculté de droit d'Édimbourg, la Ligue Mondiale des Facultés de Droit, le Conseil Écossais des Affaires Mondiales et l'Unité de Responsabilité.



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STATEMENT

Over the past ten years, I have benefited enormously from ESIL's intellectual community, commitment to developing international legal scholarship, and the opportunities the Society creates for professional engagement and collaboration across Europe and beyond. Having reached this ten-year anniversary, it is the right time for me to step forward and contribute more directly to the Society's governance by seeking election to the Board.

My commitment to ESIL is grounded not only in long-standing membership but also in active service. Having sat on the International Organizations Interest Group Coordinating Committee, I have experience of the practical realities, opportunities, and challenges faced by ESIL's Interest Groups. Interest Groups are core to ESIL's life, providing spaces for intellectual exchange, collaboration, and innovation. I understand the support they require and the importance of ensuring that their interests are represented within ESIL's governance structure.

I have also had the privilege of serving on the first Diversity Advisory Body, where we undertook a survey of ESIL members to better understand their experiences and perspectives. The findings informed numerous recommendations to the Board and subsequent initiatives, including a) improving representation from regions of Europe and professional communities that are underrepresented in the membership, b) creating Guidelines for the diversity of conference speakers to prevent, for example, 'manels', and c) ensuring the Board and event organisers are aware of and take steps to address issues such as childcare, passport privilege and socioeconomic pressures. We led on the introduction of ESIL's Code of Conduct, helping foster an inclusive, welcoming and safe environment for all members, and designed a complaints process to deal with any bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

If elected, one of my key priorities would be to make the Board more accessible and connected to ordinary members in a myriad of ways. Throughout my years of ESIL membership, I have felt an institutional distance between the Board and the membership. While I recognise the significant work undertaken by Board members, there is scope to strengthen communication, transparency, and engagement so that members are more connected to the Society's leadership and decision-making processes.

I am also committed to ensuring that ESIL remains welcoming and inclusive of diverse approaches to scholarship. Intellectual diversity could be an even greater strength of our Society, and it is essential that scholars from different methodological, theoretical, and professional backgrounds feel valued and represented at events and in ESIL publications.

ESIL has given me much over the last decade. I now wish to step up and help ensure that the Society is governed effectively, inclusively, and transparently for the benefit of all its current, lapsed, and future members. I would be honoured to contribute to ESIL's continued development and success as a Board member.

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