



Interest Group on Peace and Security Workshop Programme

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

ESIL Annual Conference, Malaga 2026

Thursday, 3 September 2026

9.00-12.00 CET

Seminario 5

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?

Programme:

9.00-10.20 First session: Alternative Models of Global Security Law

Chair: Irène Couzigou

- 9.05-9.25 Kenneth Chan (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel) and Graham Melling (University of Northumbria): ‘Confronting the Radical Disorder of the Rules-Based Order: What Role for International Law and the Use of Force?’
- 9.25-9.45 Matei Alexianu (Foley Hoag LLP): ‘Competing Conceptions of Spheres of Influence and International Law’
- 9.45-10.05 Aruna (Avi) Banerjee (University of Glasgow): ‘Securing Beyond the UN: Informality and the Production of Regional Order’
- 10.05-10.25 Q&A and discussion among participants

10.25-10.40 Break for coffee

10.40-12.00 Second session: Alternative Models of Global Security Governance

Chair: Saeed Bagheri

- 10.40-11.00 Michal Saliternik (Netanya Academic College School of Law): ‘The Gaza Board of Peace as Alternative Security Architecture: Appraising a Corporate Model of Post-Conflict Governance’
- 11.00-11.20 Irene Miano (Tilburg University): ‘The Court Within the Charter, the Function Beyond It: the ICJ as an Informal Peace Mechanism’

11.20-11.40 Naman Anand (Legacy Law Offices LLP): 'Outer Space Security Beyond the Charter: Reverse Ersatz Normativity, Juridical Deflation, and the Governance of Peace'

11.40-12.00 Q&A and discussion among participants

ESIL Peace and Security Interest Group Conveners

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