

INTEREST GROUP ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Past activities:

Pre-conference workshop ESIL2026, *Contestation in International Law*, Malaga, 2 September 2026

At our sixth pre-conference workshop at the Annual Conference, the IG discussed various forms of contestation in international law. The workshop had a conference-style format, with 6 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: Corina Heri, Nicola Strain, Florian Kriener, João Victor Morales Sallani, Nina Bries Silva, and Yulia Ioffe.

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

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the ASIL and ESIL Interest Groups on International Law and Social Science continued their joint International Law and Social Science Online Speaker Series. Building on the successful collaboration of previous years, the series brought together scholars from different disciplinary and institutional backgrounds to present and discuss research at the intersection of international law and the social sciences.

The 2025–2026 programme featured the following sessions:

- **26 November 2025:** *Tom Ginsburg* (University of Chicago Law School), “Formal Change in International Organizations: How Amendment Rules Matter,” with *Jan Klabbers* (University of Helsinki) as commentator and *Anne van Aaken* (University of Hamburg) as moderator.
- **10 December 2025:** *Guillermo Garcia Sanchez* (Texas A&M School of Law), “The Other Secret Deals: Uncovering the Power of Non-Binding International Agreements,” with *Timothy Meyer* (Duke University School of Law) as commentator and *Chen Yu* (City University of Hong Kong School of Law) as moderator.
- **29 January 2026:** *Anna Spain Bradley* (UCLA School of Law), “Judicial Emotion at the International Court of Justice,” with *Anne Saab* (Geneva Graduate Institute) as discussant and *Anne van Aaken* (University of Hamburg) as moderator.

- **20 May 2026:** *Jonathan Bonnitcha* (UNSW Sydney), with *Sergio Puig de la Parra* (European University Institute) as commentator and *Anne van Aaken* (University of Hamburg) as moderator.
- **2 June 2026:** *Hannah Birkenkötter* (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México), “The Geography of International Law Scholarship: An Empirical Study of Attention Mechanisms in International Law Literature,” with *Rachel Brewster* (Duke University School of Law) as commentator and *Chen Yu* (City University of Hong Kong) as moderator.

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

Future activities:

Pre-conference workshop ESIL2027, Lisbon, September 2027

At our seventh pre-conference workshop, we 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. 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 Amsterdam). They run the IG, administer its webpage and organize regular events. The co-chairs meet regularly on Zoom.