



## ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals

### **Who Watches the Bench? Judicial Independence and the Uneven Architecture of International Courts**

Thursday 22 October 2026, 15:00-16:30 CEST (14:00-15:30 UK)

As international courts and tribunals take on increasingly politically charged disputes, the individuals deciding them have become objects of scrutiny in their own right. This panel brings together three perspectives on judicial independence, impartiality, and accountability across international adjudication. What standards govern challenges to the composition of international tribunals, and are they shifting? How much of the ICJ's practice on judicial conflicts of interest remains unwritten and unexamined? And how evenly — or unevenly — have different international courts institutionalised the safeguards on which their legitimacy ultimately depends? By examining disqualification, recusal, and judicial conduct across UNCLOS, the ICJ, the ICC, and ICSID, the panel asks whether the regulation of judicial independence has become a new arena in which states negotiate the authority and limits of international courts.

Moderator: Yusra Suedi (University of Manchester)

The Unwritten Jurisprudence: Judicial Recusal and Conflicts of Interest at the ICJ

*Dari Nof (University of Haifa)*

Measure for Measure: The Uneven Architecture of Judicial Safeguards

*Hendrik Mathis Drößler (University of Salzburg)*

Challenging the Judges: Judicial Disqualification and the Uneven Judicialization of International Adjudication

*Dr Oktawian Kuc (University of Warsaw) and Dr Miłosz Gapsa (University of Łódź)*

**Register here:** [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/PES0\\_KRtTnqVXVjinaadMA](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/PES0_KRtTnqVXVjinaadMA)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

*The ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals is convened by Michael Becker, Yusra Suedi, Sarah Thin, Veronica Botticelli and James Devaney.*