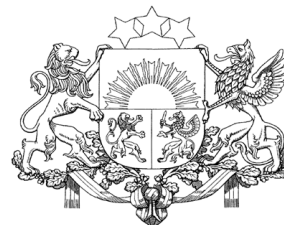




**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**



Constitutional Court of
the Republic of Latvia

European Society of International Law
12th Annual Conference
How International Law Works in Times of Crisis

Riga, 8 - 10 September 2016

Call for Posters

The European Society of International Law will hold its 12th Annual Conference in Riga, Latvia, on 8 - 10 September 2016. The organisers are proud to announce the Conference theme: "How International Law Works in Times of Crisis".

The conference is hosted by Riga Graduate School of Law in cooperation with the Latvian Constitutional Court.

In addition to the plenary sessions, fora featuring invited speakers and agorae featuring speakers selected on the basis of submitted abstracts, the ESIL conference will also offer space for "new voices in international law" to present posters.

The poster sessions are intended to offer early career researchers the opportunity to explain their work to the conference audience. The aims of the poster session are to make connections with people in the respective research field, to present new findings on the topic, and to obtain feedback on existing work.

Accepted posters will be shown in a central location at the conference and there will be an opportunity to present the posters during coffee breaks.

The Theme of the Conference

In recent years the world has yet again been confronted with events that required decisions going to the heart of the international legal order, which it has sought to build since the creation of the United Nations and, especially, since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The 2016 ESIL annual conference in Riga is taking place at a time when the word 'crisis' frequently comes to mind, either with reference to the European public order or international law in general.

The territorial integrity of many States continues to be undermined. The rise of Islamic State and the continued proliferation of other violent extremist groups provide serious challenges to the world order we have striven to build. Crises around the world range from more traditional threats to territorial integrity and security, through the use of modern technology or forms of warfare to more fundamental challenges to the planet through climate change

and environmental threats. Problems in the global, European and national economies and financial markets provide yet further examples of crises. Many of these developments are interlinked. For example, the unprecedented flow of migrants and refugees into Europe is linked to security, the economy, and climate change. This is all taking place at a time when globalization is a reality and traditional societal boundaries are continually being eroded through ever-developing interdependencies while at the same time faced with growing nationalism.

These developments raise challenges at two levels. One is to ask whether international law itself is in crisis. Is it possible to identify challenges to the basic underpinnings of the traditional international legal order that would be qualitatively different from those faced previously? Another way of posing the question is to enquire whether international law is up to the task of dealing with particular crises.

It should, of course, be recognized that crises are not new for the discipline of international law. It has been argued that a sense of crisis is integral to the discipline. The role, relevance and institutions of international law have always been challenged, especially when faced with different kinds of crisis. Moreover, moments of crisis may offer new possibilities. Historically, such moments have led to new solutions in the world community, including new projects involving normative developments. Be that as it may, international lawyers should confront and address this sense of crisis embedded in their discipline.

Against this background, the ESIL Conference in Riga will address the theme **How International Law Works in Times of Crisis**. The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss the crisis of international law, the international law of crisis, and also different biases and assumptions that contribute to questions about crisis. Questions that will be discussed include: In times of crisis, how does international law work? More specifically: How is international law rising to the challenge of contemporary crises, of capturing old and factually new phenomena and dealing with them in a normative context? What is the role of international lawyers in addressing the old and new crises? What role is assumed by (regional) organizations and the European Union in particular as well as non-state actors in this context of multiple tensions and multiple visions of the past and the future? This focus invites legal and interdisciplinary approaches to address these issues more generally as well as in different specialised areas of international law.

Application procedure

Early career scholars are invited to submit written poster proposals (abstracts of 250-300 words). Posters will be reviewed by a selection committee. Joint submissions are possible, but, if selected, only one person may present and qualify for a reduced registration fee to the conference as well as an invitation to the conference dinner on Friday.

Selection criteria are:

- Originality of the work
- Links to the conference theme
- Geographical and gender balance

- Only one proposal per author will be considered.

All poster proposals should include:

- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications
- The author's contact details, including email address and phone number
- Whether the author is an ESIL member
- Poster title (max. 15 words)
- Abstract – a summary including main thesis or research objective; supporting arguments and key findings (250-300 words)
- Keywords

The posters can be in French or English.

Abstracts must be submitted via e-mail: esil.posters@rgsl.edu.lv

Poster preparation guidelines

Size

Poster size limit is 120 centimetres high x 100 centimetres wide with portrait orientation.

Content

Posters must contain the title plus the author's names and affiliations.

Keep it simple. Plan a poster around one or two key points. Design the title, graphics, and text to emphasize those points.

The title is important – be short and compelling. The title might pose a decisive question, define the scope of the study, or hint at a new finding.

Explain your research – what it's about; why it matters; what you did; what the results are; what the "take-home" message is.

Design

Titles and captions should be short and easy to read. Numbered or bulleted lists are effective ways to convey a series of points. Ideally, illustrate your text with a few clear tables, and a few photos or graphics. Photographs should have good contrast and sharp focus.

Text and figures should be designed for viewing from a distance of at least one metre and should use clear, visible graphics and large lettering.

Headings should be a minimum of 50 point size, whereas a minimum of 25 point size typeface is ideal for text.

Use visual elements to separate different sections of the poster and direct attention to key findings.

Keep design clean and simple – limit use of colours, different fonts and sizes of fonts, colour backgrounds.

Poster presentation guidelines

- Please bring your printed poster to the conference on 8 September 2016. The organisers will provide means to display the poster.
- Time will be reserved to present posters to an interested audience.
- You may wish to bring A4 format copies of your poster to distribute during the poster sessions.

Timeline

- The deadline for submission of poster proposals is 31 January 2016
- Successful applicants will be informed by 31 March 2016
- The deadline for submission of copies of posters is 1 July 2016
- The conference begins on Thursday 8 September 2016 in the morning and ends on Saturday 10 September 2016 in the early afternoon

Finances

All selected poster presenters who are ESIL members will be eligible for a reduced registration fee to the conference and an invitation to the conference dinner. ESIL does not cover expenses for travel and accommodation.