



**European Society of International Law  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
The Judicialization of International Law – A Mixed Blessing?**

**Oslo, 10 – 12 September 2015**

**Call for Proposals**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law will take place in Oslo, Norway. It is hosted by the PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order, University of Oslo.

**The Theme**

International courts and tribunals (ICs) are increasing in number, impact and importance. They are dealing with an increasing variety of issues, ranging from the law of the sea to international criminal law. And the formal possibility that states may remain unbound often withers when faced with the *de facto* need for the benefit wrought by ICs, be it trade regulations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), foreign investment under bilateral investment treaties (BITs), or EU membership conditional on accession to the European Court of Human Rights.

This judicialization of international law has been hailed as a glimmer of more effective and legitimate world governance promoting human rights, justice and peace. New ICs are called for to solve ever more problems, be it climate change or corporate wrongdoing. But critics abound. Some fear the judicialization of world politics while others question the effectiveness of the ICs and fear new turf wars among them. Some critics lament the circumvention of national legislators and the neglect of cultural differences. Yet others worry that some ICs will fall victim to their own success, pointing to the overburdened European Court of Human Rights.

The topography of ICs is uneven; there are some important areas that are not judicialized by sector-specific courts or tribunals, including military issues, global financial governance, and the environment. This conference will address the international law aspects of increased judicialization from an interdisciplinary perspective. Critical questions will be asked about

how ICs work, whether ICs are needed in new areas, whether there are alternatives to judicialization, and if we should expect further judicialization in the years to come.

## General Guidelines

The purpose of the agorae is to share cutting-edge research in specific areas of international law, to stimulate debate, and to foster discussion between participants. ESIL Interest Groups are particularly welcome to propose agorae. Innovative ideas for conducting a panel (e.g. round table) are also encouraged.

Papers presented in agorae must be connected with the overarching conference theme. Papers should present innovative ideas, be unpublished at the moment of presentation, and be in an advanced stage of completion.

Proposals can be submitted either in English or French.

## Call for Agora Proposals and Papers

The Organising Committee of the conference invites all scholars (including PhD students) to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the conference, as well as proposals for a full panel of speakers for a single agora. Please visit the conference website for more information about the topics of the fora ([www.uio.no/esil2015](http://www.uio.no/esil2015)). Proposal for papers or agorae should correspond to the overall conference theme and can relate to (but need not be limited to) the following, partly overlapping, topics:

- Problems and perspectives of special regional courts, or problems affecting the development of the international judicial function (e.g. access to international justice, judicial review of political acts, revision of an international judgments by a court of appeal, etc.)
- How do courts matter for the substance of the law in particular subject-areas?
- The place of international judgments in the doctrine of sources
- Do international courts and tribunals have a function in relation to economic, social and cultural rights?
- An 'International Tort Court' for multinational corporations?
- A World Court of Human Rights?
- A World Court of International Humanitarian Law?
- The future of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- Professional ethics for judges
- International courts and tribunals in new areas, such as international security; a more fair global resource allocation; protecting social rights; improving global health; more responsible multinational corporations; dealing with transnational internet problems?
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- The future of the International Criminal Court
- Reform of regional human rights courts and global human rights treaty bodies
- The future of investment tribunals
- The WTO and regional trade tribunals
- The role of the ICJ
- Arbitration vs courts

- Sovereign debt default and international dispute settlement mechanisms
- Hybrid courts and their possible use as a form of international justice (piracy, environmental damages, compensations, etc.)
- Courts and third world/postcolonial approaches and feminist theory
- Historical, economic, sociological, etc. approaches to international courts
- Implementation of international judgments in national legal orders

## ESIL Young Scholar Prize

From 2015 onwards, ESIL will award the ESIL Young Scholar Prize at each Annual Conference; this is a prize for the best paper submitted to the conference by scholars at an early stage in their academic career. Early-career scholars are either PhD candidates or those who have had their oral defense no longer than 2 years prior to the submission of the abstract. Candidates for the prize have to be current ESIL members.

The Prize is sponsored by the law firm WilmerHale. Please indicate, when submitting an abstract, if you wish the submission to be considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize.

## Submission of Agora Proposals

Agora proposals must include all information on individual papers that are to be part of the agora, as detailed below under 'Submission of papers'. Proposals (in word or pdf format) must be submitted via the conference website ([www.uio.no/esil2015](http://www.uio.no/esil2015)).

The following information must be provided when submitting an agora proposal:

- The name and affiliation of the person submitting the proposal
- The contact details of the person submitting the proposal, including email address and phone number
- The title of the agora
- A description of the overall theme of the panel and the insights expected from the discussion
- The interest group that proposes the agora, if applicable
- The format of the agora: panel, roundtable, or other format.
- For each paper, the information required for the submission of an abstract (see below)

## Timeline

- The deadline for the submission of agora proposals is 31 January 2015
- Successful applicants will be informed 31 March 2015
- The deadline for the submission of the papers of accepted agorae is 1 July 2015
- The conference begins on Thursday 10 September 2015 in the morning and ends on Saturday 12 September 2015 in the early afternoon
- The deadline for the submission of final papers, to be included in a future conference publication, is 1 October 2015

## Submission of Paper Proposals

Abstracts will be reviewed by a selection committee. Joint submissions are possible, but, if selected, only one person may receive free registration to the conference.

Selection criteria are:

- Originality and innovativeness of the work
- Links to the conference theme (see the description of the theme above, and further details on the conference website)
- Geographical and gender balance
- Only one abstract per author will be considered

Abstracts (in word or pdf format) must be submitted via the conference website ([www.uio.no/esil2015](http://www.uio.no/esil2015)). Abstracts must not exceed 800 words.

The following information must be provided with each abstract:

- The author's name and affiliation
- 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
- Whether the abstract should be considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize

## Timeline

- The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 January 2015
- Successful applicants will be informed by 31 March 2015
- The deadline for the submission of the full papers is 1 July 2015
- The conference begins on Thursday 10 September 2015 in the morning and ends on Saturday 12 September 2015 in the early afternoon
- The deadline for the submission of final papers, to be included in a future conference publication or in the ESIL SSRN series, is 1 October 2015

## Finances

All selected agora speakers will have to register for the conference. They will receive free registration, provided they are ESIL members. The organisation does not cover expenses for travelling and accommodation.

## Publication

After the conference, ESIL provides the opportunity to publish papers in the ESIL SSRN Series and also plans to publish selected high-quality papers in a book series with a renowned publisher.

