



INTEREST GROUP ON “INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

13th ESIL Annual Meeting

‘Global Public Goods, Global Commons and Fundamental Values: The Responses of International Law’,

Naples, 7–9 September 2017

“Public Values and Public Goods: How do They Live in the Intersection of Finance and Human Rights?”

WORKSHOP

Wednesday, 6th September 2017

From 15.00 to 18.00

University of Naples “Federico II”, Naples (please visit [conference website](#) for directions)

On the occasion of the 13th ESIL Annual Conference *‘Global Public Goods, Global Commons and Fundamental Values: The Responses of International Law’*, **the Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights** invites its members and other interested academics and experts to join a discussion on the role of the business sector in the funding for development.

Background

While the principle of State sovereignty still holds in the contemporary international arena, the financial crisis has drawn attention to the relationship between financial markets and human rights. Compliance with human rights, and, more broadly, the protection of public values and public goods have emerged as central themes in this debate. The 2016 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights acknowledged the need for further research on how the links between finance development and human rights and, more generally, sustainable development can serve as a catalyst for change in social and economic life. Financial institutions have started to scrutinize (i) how the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can be applied effectively across all types of products and services provided to customers; and (ii) the scope and content of their human rights responsibilities and due diligence requirements should be.

Human rights impact assessments and due diligence processes to manage environmental and social risks are tools for protecting public goods of individuals and communities. Whereas public goods have a collective dimension, human rights continue to place the individual at their ethical core. The concepts of ‘public goods’ and ‘public values’ could, thus, complement each other. They could also operate on different levels and remain parallel to one another. The relation between fundamental rights and business entities could also be considered from the perspective of convergence towards the protection and promotion of global public goods, global commons, and public values.



PROGRAMME (Draft)

WORKSHOP

Welcome and objectives of the Workshop: Marta Bordignon, Lecturer, Temple University and Sevilla University; Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

Co-Chairs: *Karin Buhmann* – Professor, Department for Intercultural Communication and Management (ICM), Copenhagen Business School; *Stéphane Brabant* - Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills Law Firm.

“Creating markets for virtue or a virtuous market? The UN Guiding Principles, the Financial Services Industry and the Search for Shared Fundamental Values in the Global Economy” - Michelle Ruby Kelsall - PhD candidate, School of Law, University of Nottingham.

“Agreeing on Accounting: The Construction of Carbon Accounting in the Paris Agreement of 2016” - Dennis West - MA, LL.M., London School of Economics and Political Science. Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights.”

“At the intersection between investment and human rights: is the EU able and willing to promote a paradigm shift?” - Chiara Macchi - Research Fellow, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies.

16:00- 16:15

Questions and answers

Co-chairs: *Marco Fasciglione* - Researcher in International law, IRISS-CNR; *Stéphane Brabant* - Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills Law Firm.

“European Union approaches towards Andean Genetic Resources Accommodating Human Rights with Economic Interests in the Context of Genetic Resources through ‘Disclosure of Origin’: Something More than a Procedural Obligation” - Beatriz Barreiro Carril - Lecturer of International Law and International, Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid.

“Business entities under the European Convention on Human Rights” - Alla Tymofeyeva - Assistant Professor International Law Department, Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague.

“Non-judicial grievance mechanisms in commercial banks for victims of human rights infringements arising from project finance” - Gabriela Schwarz, PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich.

17:00-17:15

Questions and answers



Conclusions: *Stéphane Brabant* - Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills Law Firm.

17.30 -18.00
IG MEETING

AGENDA

- Updates and exchange of information on the activities of the IG members.
- Outlook: 2018 ESIL Conference Annual Conference in Manchester and new term of the Coordinating Committee.