Sociological Inquiries into International Law in a Polarized World [as of 27 October 2025]

13-14 November 2025, Utrecht University, Johanna Hudiggebouw - Alex Brenninkmeijerzaal
Achter Sint Pieter 200, 3512 HE Utrecht

Thursday, 13 Nov. 2025

8:30 – 9:00: Welcome Coffee

9:00 – 9:15: Introduction

9:15 – 10:45 - Panel 1: The Social Dimension of International Adjudication

Chair: Moshe Hirsch

Tommaso Soave, 'The Style of the Invisible College: Professional Networks and Argumentative Dominance at the International Court of Justice'

Nicola Strain, 'The Disputed Values of International Economic Law: Unpacking Arbitrators' Double Standards'

Luca Pasquet, 'The Sacrament of international adjudication: Aesthetic of the sacred at the ICJ'

10:45 -11:15: Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 - Panel 2: New Trends in international Human Rights Law

Chair: Luca Pasquet

Jeremia Humolong Prasetya, 'Human Rights at Sea: How international (f)law hinders the protection of Indonesian migrant fishers'

Moritz Baumgärtel, 'Legal status, civic stratification, and the structural limits of the human rights of migrants'

Mariana Canto, 'Human rights ritualism and the commercial spyware issue'

12:45 – 13:45: Lunch Break

13:45 -15:15 - Panel 3: International Investment Law: Winds of Change?

Chair: Sungjoon Cho

Guillaume Larouche and Jean-Michel Marcoux, 'The Practices of Reform: Theorizing the Role of Arbitrators in the Reform of International Investment Law'

Jure Zrilic, 'From the Streets to the Tribunal: Social Protests in International Investment Law'

David Schneiderman, 'Disenchanting International Investment Law'

15:15 – 15:45: Coffee break

15:45 – 17:15 - Panel 4 : New Challenges for International Trade Law

Chair: Birte Böök

Hisashi Harata & Sungjoon Cho, 'Virtual Diligence: A Social Critique of Global Value Chain Governance'

Stefano Saluzzo, 'Extractivism, Sacrifice Zones and International Trade Law'

Henry Lovat, 'After the Fall: The World Trade Organization and the Fragility of International Adjudication'

Dinner for Speakers: 19:00
Restaurant Luc, Voor Clarenburg 8, 3511 JE Utrecht

Friday, 14 Nov. 2025

08:30 – 9:00: **Coffee**

9:00 -10:30- Panel 5: Cognitive Dimensions of International Law

Chair: Tommaso Soave

Moshe Hirsch, 'Cognitive Sociology and International Law: Key Features and Approaches'

Birte Böök, 'The International Court of Justice as a Set for Structural Gaslighting'

Carl Lewis ''Framing International (Legal) Reality'

10:30– 11:00: Coffee break

11:00-13:00: Panel 6: New Political and Regulatory Challenges in the International Legal Order

Chair: Carl Lewis

Henrique Marcos, 'Weaponising International Environmental Law: A Neo-Gramscian Analysis of Article 196 UNCLOS in US-China Rivalry in the South China Sea

Tamar Megiddo, 'Customary International Law in the Age of AI: From Scarcity to Abundance'

Matthias Vanhullebusch, 'Trust, Relational Normativity and the Evolution of International Law in a Polarized World'

Gürkan Capar, 'The Paradox of Global Constitutionalism and Legitimacy of Neoliberal Sectoral Constitutionalization of International Law'

13:00: Concluding Remarks and Lunch

Utrecht University | UCALL Centre for Accountability and Liability Law

Utrecht University | RENFORCE Centre for Shared Regulation and Enforcement in Europe

Utrecht University | Institutions for Open Societies

Utrecht University | Research Platform Peace, Security and Human Rights

Utrecht University | SIM Netherlands Institute of Human Rights