



Università
di Catania



2025 ESIL Research Forum

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE AGE OF PERMACRISIS

20-21 March 2025, University of Catania, Department of Law

Day 1 | Thursday, 20 March 2025

8.30 – 9.00

Reception and Registration

9.00 – 9.15

Welcome addresses

[Villa Cerami, Aula Magna](#)

Salvatore Zappalà, Dean of the Faculty of Law

Adriana Di Stefano, University of Catania

9.15 – 10.15

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Anne Lagerwall, Université Libre de Bruxelles

10.15 – 10.45

Coffee break

10.45 – 12.30

Panel 1

Permacrisis in International Law: Transformative Catalyst or Empty Rhetoric?

[Villa Cerami, Aula Magna](#)

Chair: **Neha Jain**, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Antoine De Spiegeleir, European University Institute, Florence
The Lawyer Who Cried Wolf: Catastrophic Framing in an Age of Permacrisis

Alexander Köhler, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies,
Pisa
*When Crisis Comes Home: A Critical Inquiry into Permanent
Crisis as a New Phenomenon*

Panel 2

Human Rights in an Era of Permacrisis: Resilience or Retreat?

[Auditorium ex Chiesa di Santa Maria della Purità](#)

Chair: **Helmut Aust**, Freie Universität Berlin

Carolina Braglia Aloise Bertazolli,
Central European University, Vienna
*Socioeconomic Rights in Permacrisis: An Analysis of the
Jurisprudence of Regional Human Rights Bodies*

Joanna Bucker, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime,
Security and Law, Freiburg
*Derogation Powers and Continuing States of Emergency under the
ECHR*

Rémi Fuhrmann, University of Glasgow
Moralising Civil Wars: The Laws of War and the Red Cross Turn to Internal Conflicts, 1921-1949

Discussant: **Markus Beham**, University of Passau

Helga Molbaek-Steensing, European University Institute, Florence
Artificial Intelligence in Adjudication as a Creature of the Permacrisis

Discussant: **Ganna Yudkivska**, Former Judge ECtHR

12.30 – 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.00

Panel 3

The Impact of Permacrisis on Sources and Structures of International Law

[Villa Cerami, Aula Magna](#)

Chair: **Federica Paddeu**, University of Cambridge

Stefan Robert McClean, Bocconi University, Milan
The Unknown Source: Obligations for Third States arising from Breaches to Communitarian Norms

Triantafyllos Kouloufakos, KU Leuven
Just Another Hack: A Cyber-attack-induced Permacrisis and the Inadequacy of State Responsibility

Nahide Basri, University College London
Regulating and Restraining Surveillance during Occupation Situations

Discussant: **Helmut Aust**, Freie Universität Berlin

Panel 4

Crisis, Complexity and the Interpretation of International Law

[Auditorium ex Chiesa di Santa Maria della Purità](#)

Chair: **Christian Tams**, University of Glasgow

Jana Ruwayha, University of Geneva
Beyond Reversibility? How Permacrisis Sparks Disruption and Forges a New Equilibrium in Democratic Legal Orders

Violetta Sefkow-Werner, University of Zurich
Revisiting the No Harm Rule in International Environmental Law: Its Relevance and Application to Global Climate Protection

Johannes Tropper, University of Vienna
Permacrisis and its Implications for Impartiality in International Dispute Settlement

Discussant: **Daniel Peat**, Leiden University

16.15 – 17.45

Panel 5
**The Normalization of International
and EU Law Crisis-Responses**

[Villa Cerami, Aula Magna](#)

Chair: **Ganna Yudkivska**,
Former Judge ECtHR

David McKeever, United Nations
*‘In all forms and manifestations’ – The UN
Security Council’s Legislative Response to the
Permacrisis of (International) Terrorism*

Francesca Finelli, University of Luxembourg
and University of Pisa
*The Normalization of Sanctions in the
Russia/Ukraine Permacrisis: The Use of
Designations Against Russian Targets Post-
February 2022*

Emmanuel Nartey, University of East London
*The Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the
Permacrisis of International Law*

Discussant: **Machiko Kanetake**,
Utrecht University

Panel 6
**Permanent Crisis and Its Impact on
International Economic Law**

[Villa Cerami, Aula Giardino](#)

Chair: **Daniel Peat**,
Leiden University

Alina Papanastasiou, University of
Cambridge
*Defining Stability in Times of Persistent
Instability: Rethinking Investment Treaty
Protection against Regulatory Change in the
Age of ‘Permacrisis’ and ‘Polycrisis’*

Laurence Marquis and Antoine Comont,
Laval University, Québec
*The Legitimacy Permacrisis of Dispute
Settlement Mechanisms in International
Economic Law: A Comparative Approach to
Reform Projects at the WTO and UNCITRAL*

Livia Hinz, Unitelma Sapienza, Rome
*Facing the Twin Challenges of Debt
Sustainability and Climate Change: The Role
of Multilateral Development Banks*

Discussant: **Edouard Fromageau**,
University of Aberdeen

Panel 7
**Permacrisis and the Future of
Climate Change Law: Resilience and
Adaptation in Global Environmental
Governance**

[Auditorium ex Chiesa della Purità](#)

Chair: **Veronika Fikfak**,
University College London

Niklas Sebastian Reetz,
European University Institute, Florence
*Balancing Cooperation and Confrontation in
the Climate Crisis*

Christos Zois, Sciences Po Law School, Paris
*Critical Futurities: Reconsidering the Rights of
Future Generations in the Age of Permacrisis*

Martina Sardo, University of Palermo
Francesca Tammone, University “Magna
Grecia” of Catanzaro
*Responding to the Environmental Chronic
Emergencies through International Law*

Discussant: **Christina Binder**,
Bundeswehr University Munich and
University of Vienna

18.00 – 20.00

Aperitivo convened by the ESIL Early Career Network | [Enoteca Civita, via Carnazza Amari 14, Catania](#)

20.30

Dinner Reception | [Ristorante Basalto, via San Tommaso 22, Catania](#)

Day 2 - Friday, 21 March 2025

08.30 -10.00

Panel 8

International Environmental Law in a State of Permacrisis

[Rectorate Building – Aula Magna](#)

Chair: **Veronika Fikfak**, University College London

Outi Penttilä, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki
*The Age of an Ecological Crisis: The Making of International
Environmental Law*

Eva Baudichau, Grotius Centre for International Legal
Studies, Leiden
*Entangled in Crisis: International Law's Response to the
Overlapping Realities of War and Environmental Degradation*

Lena Helińska, Jagiellonian University, Kraków
*Hazy Terms vs. Clear Solutions: Is Sustainability the Most
Optimal Lens for Crisis Prevention and Management?*

Discussant: **Giulio Bartolini**, Università Roma Tre

Panel 9

Adapting Transnational Justice to Permacrisis

[Rectorate Building – Room 3](#)

Chair: **Gleider Hernández**, KU Leuven

Matteo Colorio, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa
*Polycentric International Criminal Justice: Adjusting to
Permacrisis?*

Nina Bries Silva, European University Institute, Florence
*Criminal Responsibility for Environmental Crimes or
Disharmonies to Mother Earth: Between Opportunities and
Confrontations in the Age of Permacrisis*

Alexandros Lymperopoulos, European University Institute,
Florence
*Risk: A Necessary Tool for International Trade Law in Times of
Uncertainty?*

Discussant: **Daniel-Erasmus Khan**,
Bundeswehr University Munich

10.00 – 10.30

Coffee Break

10.30 – 11.45

CLOSING SESSION

[Rectorate Building – Aula Magna](#)

Chair: **Rosario Sapienza**, University of Catania

Luisa Marin, University of Insubria

The EU in the Age of Permacrisis: The Role of Solidarity in Fostering Constitutional Resilience

12.00 – 13.00

ESIL Early Career Network Event: 'How to' Series

[Rectorate Building – Aula Magna](#) | [online via Teams](#)

How to Secure Research Funding?

Guest Speaker: **Veronika Fikfak**, University College London