



CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

Navigating a Multipolar World: Challenges to the Post-WWII *Status Quo* of International Law

14th Annual Conference: 28–29 April 2025

University of Cambridge, Faculty of Law,
Cambridge, United Kingdom

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1. Introduction and theme

The Cambridge International Law Journal (CILJ) is proud to host its 14th Annual Conference on 28–29 April 2025 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The theme for this year’s conference is: ‘Navigating a Multipolar World: Challenges to the Post-WWII *Status Quo* of International Law’. The 80th anniversary of the United Nations Charter offers an opportunity to reflect on the modern international order and its effectiveness in addressing evolving challenges. Specifically, the conference hopes to facilitate discourse around an array of topics, including: continued armed conflict in the Global North, the rise of non-conventional warfare, an escalating climate crisis, and the regulation of new regions of law, such as cyberspace, outer space, the deep sea, and the two poles.

While asking whether the post-1945 legal framework is fit for purpose, we also hope to create a discussion on how international law can evolve to meet these challenges.

This brochure provides an overview of the conference and relevant logistical information. The conference is a two-day event, and tickets can be purchased for in-person or virtual attendance.

2. Conference programme

All the venues, save for the formal dinner at Selwyn College, are located in the Faculty of Law Building of the University of Cambridge: David Williams Building, 10 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TDr2oYtFjhm7vMJu5>). There will be conference assistants and clear signposting in the Faculty of Law to help all attendees find the venues on the conference days.

Time	Item	Venue
Day 1 – 28 April 2025		
08:30–09:35	Registration and tea	The main foyer, ground floor
09:35–09:40	Welcoming address by the Editors-in-Chief (Marno Swart and Renatus Otto Franz Derler)	LG18, lower ground floor
09:40–09:50	Welcoming address by the Conference Convenors (Kevin Zou and Renatus Otto Franz Derler)	LG18, lower ground floor
09:50–10:50	Keynote address 1 – Judge Bogdan Aurescu, International Court of Justice: <i>Lessons Learned: the Recent Activity of the International Court of Justice; the Work of the International Law Commission on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law</i>	LG18, lower ground floor
10:50–11:20	Tea time and comfort break	Lower ground atrium, lower ground floor

11:20–13:00	Panel 1: Reconstructing the international legal order in the 21st century	LG18, lower ground floor
13:00–14:30	Lunch	Lower ground atrium, lower ground floor
14:30–15:15	Keynote address 2 – Judge Tomas Heidar, President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: <i>Bringing Climate Change into the Realm of the Law of the Sea Convention: The ITLOS Advisory Opinion</i>	LG18, lower ground floor
15:15–15:30	Comfort break	
15:30–17:00	Panel 2: The role of international law in achieving climate justice	LG18, lower ground floor
	Panel 3: Challenges to international criminal law post-2025 - Rethinking, reframing, reforming	G24, ground floor
19:00–22:00	Optional formal dinner	Selwyn College, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DQ
Day 2 – 29 April 2025		
10:00–10:10	Opening address for the second day, housekeeping by Conference Convenors (Kevin Zou and Renatus Otto Franz Derler)	LG18, lower ground floor
10:10–11:00	Keynote address 3 – Professor Antony Anghie: <i>Law and Disorder: Some Reflections on the United Nations at 80</i>	LG18, lower ground floor
11:00–11:20	Comfort break	
11:20–12:50	Panel 4: International human rights law: <i>quo vadis?</i>	LG18, lower ground floor
	Panel 5: The growing role of international economic law in a globalised world	G24, ground floor
12:50–14:00	Lunch	Lower ground atrium, lower ground floor
14:00–14:50	Keynote address 4 – Ambassador Rena Lee: <i>The Institutionalisation of International Law in a Multipolar World</i>	LG18, lower ground floor
14:50–15:20	Comfort break	
15:20–16:50	Panel 6: Armed conflict and challenges to international peace and security in a multipolar world	G24, ground floor
	Panel 7: The international law of tomorrow: legal innovation and developing fields	LG18, lower ground floor
16:50–17:00	Closing address by the Conference Convenors (Kevin Zou and Renatus Otto Franz Derler)	LG18, lower ground floor

3. Keynote speakers

The following eminent scholars will present their keynote presentations at the conference:

Judge Bogdan Aurescu, International Court of Justice



Bogdan Aurescu is the first Romanian Judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Prior to his swearing-in on 6 February 2024, Dr. Aurescu was a career diplomat (since 1996), who served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (2014-2015; 2019-2023) and as Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Romania (2016-2019; 2023-2024).

He was member of the International Law Commission (ILC) for two mandates between 2017-2024, and Co-chair of the ILC Study Group on 'Sea-level rise in relation to international law' (2019-2024), as well as member of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe (2002-2024). He is also a Professor of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest, having started his teaching activity in 1998, and editor-in-chief of the Romanian Journal of International Law.

Between 2004 and 2009, Dr. Aurescu was his country's Agent before the ICJ in the landmark 'Maritime Delimitation in the Black Sea' case, after being Romania's Agent before the ECtHR (2003-2004). Between 2010 and 2011, he was chief-negotiator on behalf of Romania for the Romania-USA Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement, and for the Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between Romania and USA (both concluded in 2011).

He is the author, co-author or editor of 19 volumes in the field of International Law, 55 chapters in books and/or contributions to international conferences, and over 225 articles, studies, comments and book reviews.

Judge Tomas Heidar, President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea



Tomas Heidar (Iceland) is President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). He has been Judge of the Tribunal since 2014 and was President of the ITLOS Chamber for Fisheries Disputes 2017-2020 and Vice-President of the Tribunal 2020-2023. He was a Member of the ITLOS Special Chamber in the Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean.

From 1996-2014, Judge Heidar served as Legal Adviser of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, attaining the rank of Ambassador. As such he was responsible for all matters of public international law and represented Iceland regularly at meetings on ocean affairs and the law of the sea at the United Nations and in other international fora.

Judge Heidar is also Director of the Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland and Co-director and lecturer of the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy. He has lectured at the University of Iceland and many other universities and institutions around the world,

including the University of Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, University College London, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Leiden University, the University of Virginia, Peking University, the IFLOS Summer Academy, the Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea and the Kadir Has International Law of the Sea Summer Academy. He has taught law of the sea at the United Nations Regional Course in International Law in Ethiopia.

Judge Heidar has published numerous books and articles on ocean affairs and the law of the sea, most recently *New Knowledge and Changing Circumstances in the Law of the Sea* (ed., Brill Nijhoff, 2020), “The Contribution of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Protection of the Marine Environment” in the *Korean Journal of International and Comparative Law* (2021) and *International Fisheries Law: Persistent and Emerging Challenges* (co-ed., Routledge, 2025). He is also Conciliator and Arbitrator under Annexes V and VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Professor Antony Anghie, Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science



Antony Anghie is the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge for 2024-2025. He is Professor of Law at the University of Utah and the National University of Singapore. His research and teaching interests include the history and theory of international law, international economic law, and Third World Approaches to International Law.

Ambassador Rena Lee



Rena Lee is Singapore’s Ambassador for International Law. She has served in a number of roles in the public service for more than three decades, including with the Attorney-General’s Chambers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was most recently also the Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. She specializes in the practice of public international law, covering diverse areas including law of the sea, environmental and climate change law, and humanitarian and human rights law. Rena was Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this capacity, she was elected President of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference in 2018 and served until the successful conclusion of the negotiations and adoption by consensus of the BBNJ Agreement in 2023.

4. Panellists

The seven panels are comprised of the following speakers.

Panel 1: Reconstructing the international legal order in the 21st century

Moderator: Stephen Fietta KC, Founder, Fietta LLP.

1. **Dr Jolyon Ford SFHEA**, Professor, Australian National University; and **Dr Imogen Saunders**, Associate Professor, Australian National University: *International Law as Geology: Crawford's core/periphery metaphor and challenges to the contemporary international legal order.*
2. **Ms Jessie Phyffer**, LLD Candidate, University of Pretoria; Research Associate University of Johannesburg: *The "International Community": A Useful Rhetorical Technique to Induce a Common Interest-Based International Legal Order.*
3. **Dr Sarah McCosker**, Founding Partner, Lexbridge Lawyers; and **Dr Esmé Shirlow**, Associate Professor, Australian National University: *The Rise of Non-Treaty Instruments: Challenges and Implications for the Post-WWII Status Quo of International Law.*
4. **Mr Taran Molloy**, Barrister (New Zealand): *De-pluralising International Legal Personality: International Organisations and the 20th Century Shift to Statehood.*
5. **Mr Sebastian von Massow**, PhD Candidate, European University Institute: *Litigating Colonial Self-Determination.*

Panel 2: The role of international law in achieving climate justice

Moderator: Jessica Simor KC, Barrister, Matrix Chambers.

1. **Ms Crisela Bernardino**, Researcher in Corporate Climate Litigation, British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL): *In the Interests of Climate Justice: International Law and Decolonial Perspectives on the Philippine Climate Case Against the 'Carbon Majors'.*
2. **Mr Selman Aksünger**, PhD Candidate, Maastricht University: *Permanent Sovereignty Over Maritime Zones: A Response to Sea Level Rise Induced Coastal Instability.*
3. **Ms Jessica Crow**, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge: *Emissions Trading: An Emerging Tension at the Nexus of Investment Protection and Climate Governance.*
4. **Ms Katharina Neumann**, DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford: *The Forgotten Sector: The UN Climate Change Regime and Agricultural Emissions.*



Panel 3: Challenges to international criminal law post-2025 - Rethinking, reframing, reforming

Moderator: Émilie Pottle, Barrister, Temple Garden Chambers.

1. **Ms Danielle Flanagan**, Associate, Hogan Lovells LLP: *Rethinking Universal Jurisdiction: A Shift Towards Greater Universality?*
2. **Dr B. Aloka Wanigasuriya**, Assistant Professor in International Law, University of Southern Denmark: *ICC Arrest Warrants and Issues of Execution: Examining the Broader Implications.*
3. **Dr Ata Hindi**, Murphy Institute Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Tulane University School of Law: *Here Comes Your Ghost Again: Individual Immunities for International Crimes.*
4. **Dr Giovanni Chiarini**, Assistant Professor of Law, Alfaisal University: *Negotiated Justice Transformation: From Post-WWII Military Tribunals' Ethical Denial to Modern International Courts' Procedural Approaches.*

Panel 4: International human rights law: *quo vadis?*

Moderator: Dr Tugba Basaran, Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, University of Cambridge.

1. **Dr Lora Izvorova**, LSE Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Sciences: *Deconstructing Dignity: Two Archetypes in European Human Rights Law.*
2. **Dr Chloë McRae Gilgan**, Senior Lecturer, University of Lincoln: *Refuge in Peril: The Responsibility to Protect Populations Fleeing Mass Atrocities.*
3. **Dr Bethan Hall**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore: *The Human Rights Obligations of Corporate Sovereigns.*
4. **Dr Gabriela García Escobar**, Professor of Public International Law, Universidad Panamericana: *Two Models of Universality: What are the Prospects for Human Rights in a Fragmented World?*

Panel 5: The growing role of international economic law in a globalised world

Moderator: Bart Wasiak, Senior Associate, Arnold & Porter.

1. **Dr Ernst-Ulrich Petersman**, Professor Emeritus, European University Insitutite: *Constitutional Pluralism as Political Driver for Multipolar Re-ordering of International Legal Systems.*
2. **Dr Konstantina Georgaki**, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Athens: *The EU's defence to economic warfare: A long-awaited U-turn?*
3. **Dr Abdulkadir Nacar**, Researcher, Istanbul Univeristy: *Decentralized Finance as a Tool for Objective Global Sanctions: Integrating Capital Influence within the UN System.*
4. **Ms Khrystyna Kostiuszko**, Independent Counsel: *Consequences of Incorporation/Annexation of Territory for the Spatial Scope of Application of Investment Treaties.*

Panel 6: Armed conflict and challenges to international peace and security in a multipolar world

Moderator: Commodore Ian Park, UK Royal Navy; Visiting Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School.

1. **Ms Liuva Ramos Masó**, Early Career Researcher (Ghent Alumni), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): *Hide and seek with private military companies (pmcs) the urgent need for an international regulatory framework.*
2. **Dr Kostia Gorobets**, Assistant Professor of International Law, University of Groningen: *The Law of Multipolarity: How Russia Creates Its Alternative Legality.*
3. **Dr Alberto Rinaldi**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Lund University: *Cognitive Warfare in the Biotechnological Age: Threats and Challenges to International Law.*
4. **Dr Mohamad Janaby**, Lecturer, University of Glasgow: *Counter-Terrorism and Government Recognition: The Intersection of International Law in Post-Conflict Transitions.*

Panel 7: The international law of tomorrow: legal innovation and developing fields

Moderator: Joshua Kelly, Freshfields.

1. **Ms Paulina Rundel**, PhD Candidate, University of Vienna: *The UN Charter Navigating the Moon: The Moon Agreement versus the Artemis Accords.*
2. **Dr Abbie-Rose Hampton**, Research Associate; Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow, King's College London: *Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Pandemic Treaty: Maintaining the Status Quo?*
3. **Dr Milena Sterio**, Charles R. Emrick Jr. – Calfee Halter & Griswold Professor of Law, Cleveland State University College of Law: *Artificial Intelligence and Individual Criminal Responsibility: A Paradox or a Possibility?*
4. **Ms Martina Elia Vitoloni**, DCL Candidate, McGill University: *Orbiting Beyond Control: International Law and the Rise of Private Power in Outer Space.*

5. Formal dinner at Selwyn College

An optional formal dinner in the iconic dining hall of Selwyn College will be held on Monday, 28 April 2025, at 19:00. All conference attendees are welcome to attend. Traditionally, formal halls at the University of Cambridge are formal events; thus, the dress code is 'lounge suit'. Any business formal outfit will be suitable. The formal dinner costs **£60** and includes a three-course meal (with wine) in the beautiful Selwyn College Cambridge.

Tickets for the formal hall have to be purchased on the same Google Form as the general ticket sales for the conference. Tickets for the formal hall can be purchased at any point until **15 April 2025**. The formal dinner is a highlight of the conference. It promises to be an authentic Cantabrigian experience and an excellent opportunity to network with eminent scholars from around the world.

Note that the formal hall will be held at Selwyn College (and not at the Faculty of Law). Selwyn College is located at Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DQ (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7RFkZCgQwLReLecQ8>), right next to the Faculty of Law. Please indicate any dietary preferences or restrictions clearly on the Google Form. Please send us an e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

6. Ticket sales

The conference can be attended in person or virtually. Tickets for in-person and virtual attendance can be purchased until **20 April 2025**. Tickets for the Selwyn Formal have to be purchased before **15 April 2025**. The cost of in-person attendance includes a light lunch and refreshments (tickets for the Selwyn Formal are sold separately).

The prices of tickets are as follows:

Academics and professionals:	£ 70
Students and post-doctoral candidates:	£ 45
Virtual attendance:	£ 35
University of Cambridge students:	£ 25

All tickets (for the conference and the Selwyn formal) have to be purchased via this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/qFDwt3AiENJfur2H6>.

Please indicate any dietary restrictions or preferences on the form for the lunch offering. If you have any queries or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact us (conference@cilj.co.uk).

7. Logistical information

We are aware that many attendees will not be familiar with Cambridge. Accordingly, we provide the following information to assist you in planning your visit. Please note that the details below comprise mere suggestions as a matter of courtesy, and the CILJ does not have a business relationship with any of the entities below. The CILJ is unable to provide individual assistance with regard to travel or accommodation arrangements, and bears no liability in connection to the services mentioned below.

7.1 Faculty of Law of the University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is spread out over the City of Cambridge. The conference will be held in the Faculty of Law, which is located in the David Williams Building on the Sidgwick site at 10 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FKkTGRaA7ACervuM7>).



The University has a well-detailed map of all the university and college grounds, which might be helpful and is available at: <https://map.cam.ac.uk/>.

There will be various conference assistants and signposting inside the Faculty of Law on the conference days to guide you to the correct venues, as indicated in the programme.

7.2 Travelling to Cambridge from an airport

There are various ways to travel from London airports to Cambridge, including by coach. There are direct coach services from the following airports to Cambridge bus stations:


- London Stansted Airport
- London Heathrow Airport
- London Gatwick Airport
- London City Airport
- Luton Airport

Drummer Street bus station is in Cambridge's town centre (about a 15-minute walk from the Faculty of Law). Parkside bus station is located only a few minutes further away. Taxis can pick you up from any point in Cambridge, including from the train and bus stations, but we advise that you make arrangements in advance. If you wish to book a coach service, we advise you to look at National Express:

<https://www.nationalexpress.com/en>.

Several taxi services local to Cambridge also offer airport pickups, including:

- CamCab Ltd: www.camcab.co.uk
- A1 Cabco Taxis: www.a1cabco.co.uk
- Panther Taxis: www.panther taxis.co.uk



Taxis are considerably more expensive than a coach or train. Prices are around:

- From Heathrow to Cambridge: £110
- From Gatwick to Cambridge: £130
- From Stansted to Cambridge: £60

It is advisable to book a taxi in advance.

7.3 Cambridge train station

Regular trains run between Cambridge, London King's Cross and London Liverpool Street Station. The most convenient place to book train tickets is on Trainline: <https://www.thetrainline.com/>.

However, be aware that the train station is located outside the city centre (about a 35-minute walk to the Faculty of Law). There is, however, a taxi rank at the train station where you can easily get a cab. The cost to take a cab from the station to the Faculty of Law is usually around £12.

Please note that traffic is extremely heavy in the morning in Cambridge, so, depending on when you arrive to Cambridge, your best option may be to walk to the Faculty of Law to arrive on time.

7.4 Getting around in Cambridge

Cambridge is a small, scenic city and relatively flat. This makes it ideal for walking or cycling. You can rent an e-scooter or e-bike using the Voi app on your mobile phone: <https://www.voi.com/>. These bicycles and scooters are also available from the train station.

You can also use any of the mentioned taxi cab services or simply walk. Please be advised that traffic may particularly worsen around the city centre during peak hours.

7.5 Accommodation in Cambridge

Guests who plan on staying the night in Cambridge can have an authentic Cambridge college experience by booking accommodation in any of the 31 constituent colleges, but please be advised that availability may be limited as the conference is being hosted at the start of term. A useful webpage may be the Accommodation Service of the University of Cambridge which lists various hotels, B&Bs and hostels (<https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/VisitingCambridge/>).

Of course, guests are welcome to book any accommodation, whether private or at another college. However, we advise that you specifically take note of where the accommodation is situated in relation to the Faculty of Law, and plan accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you to the University of Cambridge in the beautiful City of Cambridge. If you have any questions, require a letter for visa purposes or encounter any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Convenors at conference@cilj.co.uk.

Kevin Zou

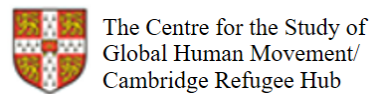
Conference Convenor

Renatus Otto Franz Derler and Marno Swart

Editors-in-Chief

Conference assistants: Mariam Aboelmagd, Indumugi Chandarvairavan, Pratyusha Ivaturi, Cecile Schuster, Ramayni Sood, and Paavni Jain

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