

European Society of International Law (ESIL)

Annual Conference 2025 | Berlin, Germany

Pre-Conference workshop of the Feminism and International Law Interest Group

10 September 2025

‘Feminist Visions for Reconstructing International Law’

The ESIL Feminism and International Law Interest Group invites paper proposals for a pre-conference workshop in the context of the ESIL Annual Conference 2025, on **‘Reconstructing International Law.’**

As we enter a crucial moment for international law –marked by the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and the impending review of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030– questions of reconstruction demand not just a forward-looking approach but also a deeply critical and inclusive one. Feminist scholarship and praxis have long challenged the power dynamics, exclusions, and systemic inequalities embedded in international law and its institutions. This workshop seeks to harness feminist perspectives to interrogate and reimagine the institutional, normative, historical, and theoretical dimensions of international law’s reconstruction.

We invite contributions that explore the intersections of feminism and international law under the following thematic umbrellas, though proposals addressing related topics are also welcome:

1. Institutional Reconstruction:

- How can feminist perspectives inform the reconstruction of international institutions, such as the United Nations, the IMF, or the WTO?
- How can feminist approaches influence the role of informal institutions in the international legal order?
- What role can feminist legal methodologies play in rethinking collective security and global governance?
- How do intersectional feminist frameworks address the structural failings of international institutions in responding to crises such as the war in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, or climate change?

2. Normative Futures:

- What does a feminist vision of sustainable development look like?
- How can international law better address contemporary challenges such as care work, labour rights, and environmental justice by recognising their

disproportionate impact on women and marginalised communities, particularly in the Global South?

- How can international law better account for intersecting forms of discrimination (such as gender, race, and class) and the differing economic and developmental realities of States in crafting more equitable solutions to global challenges?

3. Historical Lessons:

- How have feminist movements and legal scholars influenced past reconstructions of international law?
- What can be learned from feminist critiques of major historical shifts in international legal systems, such as post-war institutional reforms or decolonisation?

4. Theoretical Foundations and the Future:

- How can feminist legal theories, including insights from Critical Legal Studies and Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL), contribute to reconstructing the authority and legitimacy of international law?
- What role do feminist theories play in resisting the reproduction of colonial and patriarchal hierarchies in international legal frameworks?

5. Substantive and Cross-Cutting Legal Issues:

- We welcome proposals offering feminist insights on the development, amendment, or reinterpretation of international law across various domains, including international economic law, human rights law, climate change, the law of armed conflicts, international criminal law, refugee and migration law, technology and artificial intelligence, and beyond.
- Cross-disciplinary proposals are also encouraged, particularly those exploring feminist approaches to reconstructing international law from the perspectives of sociology, history, political science, and related disciplines.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome abstracts for individual papers (300–500 words). Submissions should clearly outline the relevance of the topic to the workshop theme and its contribution to feminist engagements with international law. Proposals from early-career scholars and practitioners are particularly encouraged.

Practical Information

- **Workshop Date:** 10 September 2025, 15:00-18:00.

- **Format and location:** The workshop is planned to take place **in person at Freie Universität Berlin** (room TBC), and we strongly encourage in-person participation wherever possible to foster community building and facilitate informal interactions among participants. However, we recognise that not all members may be able to travel, and in the interest of equity and accessibility, we will also accept applications from those unable to attend in person. We will strive to provide a *hybrid option* to ensure broader participation and inclusivity. Members are also reminded that a limited number of [travel grants](#) and [carers' grants](#) are available to encourage and facilitate attendance at ESIL events. Details on how to apply for these grants can be found on the ESIL website.
- **Submission Deadline:** 15 April 2025, midnight.
- **Submission documents:**
 1. Abstract, not exceeding 500 words.
 2. Author's name, affiliation, and email address.
 3. Author's CV, including a list of relevant publications (please note: the CV is consulted at a second stage, after review of the abstract, to ensure that the workshop programme is in line with EDI ESIL principles).
 4. Confirmation of ESIL membership or willingness to join ESIL if the paper is accepted.
 5. Please indicate in your submission whether you plan to attend the workshop **in person** at Freie Universität Berlin or if you would like to be considered for *hybrid* participation.
 6. Please indicate whether the abstract should be considered for the [ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize](#) and, if so, the relevant information about eligibility and ESIL membership. Upon acceptance of the abstract for presentation at the Interest Group event and confirmation that they are eligible for the Prize, authors must submit a paper of between 8,000 and 12,000 words (including footnotes) to the ESIL Secretariat by 1 July for consideration by the Early-Career Scholar Prize jury.
- **Submission Email:** Please submit your proposal and related documents via e-mail at feminismesil2023@gmail.com

Contact

For inquiries, please contact us at feminismesil2023@gmail.com

We look forward to receiving your proposals and to seeing you all in September!