

## Call for Papers

### Palestine Against and Through International Law



Photo by Ash Hayes

KÜREMÉR, The Center for Global Public Law, at Koç University is pleased to announce a Workshop to be held in Istanbul on 13 June 2026. The workshop will critically examine the role of international law in enabling, organising, and contesting the genocide in Gaza. It will explore how international law has been central to the historical and contemporary dispossession of the Palestinian people, and how law has helped normalise structures of domination under the guise of neutrality, security, or peace. At the same time, the workshop will interrogate whether and how international

law can still be mobilised as a site of resistance and emancipation from these colonial and racialised legacies. In this context, it will investigate the role of the UN General Assembly in bringing the question of Palestine before the International Court of Justice, the implications of the Court's advisory opinions, and the potential impact of the ongoing contentious proceedings initiated by South Africa and Nicaragua. It will also consider the contributions of UN Special Rapporteurs in foregrounding the gravity of the situation in their reports, and reflect on how international law might provide tools to confront the impunity of powerful states. The workshop explores the tension between a critical position that sheds light on the complicity of international law in the dispossession of Palestinians and a more formalist approach that nonetheless seeks to mobilise its doctrines and institutions as tools for accountability.

Each paper will be assigned a discussant who will provide detailed feedback, fostering an in-depth discussion and critique of the presented work. Discussants include Shahd Hammouri (University of Kent), Victor Kattan (University of Nottingham), Nahed Samour (Radboud University), and Christine Schwöbel-Patel (University of Warwick). Scholars at all stages of their careers, including PhD students, junior and senior academics, are invited to submit abstracts.

### **Workshop Theme**

What does it mean to seek redress for Palestine through a legal language and institutional architecture that is itself deeply implicated in Palestinian dispossession?

Scholars have examined the role of international law in enabling the atrocities that have been committed in Palestine over decades. Yet, alongside this critical posture, any discussion of Palestine will invoke the Genocide Convention, the Rome Statute, the Geneva Conventions, doctrines of occupation and self-determination, and the language of apartheid and ethnic cleansing. International legal vocabulary is being mobilised to make sense of recent developments, while also remaining structurally complicit in the ongoing violence.

Against this background, the workshop seeks to explore the tension between, on the one hand, a critical posture that is necessary to expose the complicity of international law in the creation of these atrocities, on the other, a position that insists on the

strategic and emancipatory importance of invoking international law to name illegalities, articulate claims and chart possible pathways to accountability. Rather than resolving this tension, the workshop aims to dwell in it, asking what kinds of legal practices, narratives and solidarities become possible or foreclosed when Palestine is approached through international law.

We invite submissions addressing, but not limited to, the following themes:

- How do we navigate the tension between exposing law's colonial and racial foundations and still making formal legal claims in courts and institutions?
- What structural features of the current international legal order have allowed the genocide in Gaza and broader Palestinian dispossession to persist?
- What is the importance of discussing the legality and illegality of Israel's acts?
- What is the role of ICJ, ICC or Special Rapporteurs in determining genocide, apartheid or other international crimes?
- Is it possible to conceive of international law as a progressive force in the context of settler colonialism and racial capitalism?
- Is international law capable of responding to settler-colonialism, or are its concepts and categories structurally inadequate to the task?
- How do doctrines such as occupation, self-determination, annexation, apartheid, genocide, humanitarian relief explain or obscure what is unfolding in Palestine?
- How is anti-Palestinian racism articulated, obscured or normalised through international law?
- What are the implications of Palestine's recognition as a state?
- What does UN Security Council Resolution 2803 reveal about the involvement of the international legal order in governing, managing and furthering the dispossession of Palestine?
- How might anti-racist and decolonial methodologies reorient international legal scholarship on Palestine?

### **Submission Guidelines**

Abstracts of no more than **500 words** should be sent to [kuremer@ku.edu.tr](mailto:kuremer@ku.edu.tr) by **22 March**. Please include your affiliation in the abstract, indicate whether you require funding, and provide a 200-word bio.

## **Workshop Format**

The Workshop will adopt a roundtable format to foster in-depth discussions. Each presentation will be followed by comments from discussants and an open discussion. Participants are expected to read the papers before the Workshop and actively engage in the discussions. Selected papers may be published in a special issue.

## **Timeline**

- Deadline for abstract submissions: **22 March**
- Notification of acceptance: **1 April**
- Submission of 3.000-word draft papers: **1 June**

## **Funding**

Limited funding is available to cover travel and accommodation costs, with priority given to junior scholars and those without institutional financial support.

## **Organisers**

Işıl Aral and Francesca Iurlaro

For inquiries, please contact us at [kuremer@ku.edu.tr](mailto:kuremer@ku.edu.tr).