



Interest Group on the Law of the Sea ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

I. Governance

LAWSEA is one of the 20 [Interest Groups of the European Society of International Law](#), that aims to provide a forum for those involved in, or interested in, international law of the sea matters. In July 2022, its Coordinating Committee has been partially renewed following the elections, which took place during June and July 2022. At present, this Interest Group is made up by: [Gabriela Oanta](#) (University of A Coruña), [Iriní Papanicolopulu](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca), [Efthymios Papastavridis](#) (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens/University of Oxford) and [Jessica Schechinger](#) (University of Glasgow). We thank Anthi Koskina for her service the past four years!

LAWSEA IG maintains a presence in the academic community, especially by participating in and organizing events in the context of the ESIL Annual Conferences and ESIL Research Fora. We are collaborating intensively, via email and (virtual) meetings, to formulate and structure activities allowing our IG members to meet (in person or remotely), to exchange ideas and discuss challenging LoS topics.

Our IG also has a strong web presence to inform and reach as many LoS scholars as possible. Our online presence developed further; we have a [website](#), and we have now more than 1.730 followers that follow our [twitter account](#). We plan to remain active, and we keep on encouraging our IG members to contact us for disseminating upcoming law of the sea events, seminars, publications, news items, etc. We believe and hope that our online presence is allowing for thoughtful discussion amongst the members of the IG and the wider LoS community.

II. Events

1. Pre-conference Workshop at the 2022 ESIL Research Forum (Glasgow) on '**International Law of the Sea and Global Security: Regulating an Illusion?: A Roundtable Discussion**'

LAWSEA IG organised a pre-conference workshop on 30 March 2022 titled '[International Law of the Sea and Global Security: Regulating an Illusion?: A Roundtable Discussion](#)'. This informal ECR-oriented meeting was organised within the framework of the 2022 ESIL Research Forum that was held in Glasgow. It was an excellent opportunity, especially for young scholars, to meet, discuss developments in the LoS field and share their current research ideas.

2. Pre-conference Hybrid Workshop at the 2022 ESIL Annual Conference (Utrecht) on '**Law of the Sea and Its In/Ex-clusiveness**'

LAWSEA IG organised a pre-conference hybrid workshop on 31 August 2022 titled '[Law of the sea and its in/ex-clusiveness](#)'. This workshop was part of the 2022 ESIL Annual Conference, which was organised by the University of Utrecht.

The workshop was structured around two panels. The First Panel was chaired by Efthymios Papastavridis (University of Oxford/University of Athens), who at present is also one of the co-convenors of our IG. Three highly topical issues were tackled, namely: *'A bridge across troubled waters: intersection between international water and law of the sea'*, by Chukwuebuka Edum (University of Bologna); *'The legal status of marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction: A third world perspective'*, by Pannavit Tapaneeyakorn (Naresuan University/University of Lincoln); and *'Old Sea, New Ice: Geoengineering and indigenous rights in Arctic Ocean governance'*, by Romain Chuffart (Durham University) and Aaron Cooper (Stavanger University).

Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Professor of international law at Maastricht University, and Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) chaired the Second Panel. Four speakers addressed highly interesting issues, being: *'Judicial inclusiveness of external issues under UNCLOS dispute settlement mechanism'*, by Bin Zhao (University of Luxembourg/Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law); *'Exclusion of the third States before international adjudication in the context of maritime delimitation'*, by Beril Söğüt (University of Bristol); *'Assessing State interference with NGOs' search and rescue operations in light of the right to be rescued at sea'*, by Matilde Rocca (University of Padua); and *'The inclusion of the ocean in the Glasgow Climate Pact: A new voyage for the law of the sea and climate change?'*, by Mitchell Lennan (University of Strathclyde/University of Aberdeen).

The discussions that followed after both Panels were lively and drew attention to key issues not only for the LoS, but also for international law more broadly.

III. Plans for the future

On 19 December 2022, LAWSEA IG will organise a joint conference with the ESIL IG on International Organisations, titled '[Sustainability in the Sea: A Gaze from the Mediterranean Barcelona](#)'. This academic event is organised at the initiative of the University of Barcelona and 'Salvador de Madariaga' University Institute for European Studies (University of A Coruña). Please note that the [Call for Abstracts](#) closes on 21 October 2022.

We furthermore plan to organise other activities during this academic year, which we will inform you about in due course. At the same time, we strongly encourage all IG members to contact us with any ideas and ideas on possible LoS activities and any opportunities for co-operation.

23 September 2022

For ESIL LAWSEA IG
Gabriela Oanta,
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