

Report from the inaugural conference of the Australasian Association of Private International Law (AAPrIL)



On 16 and 17 April 2025, the Australasian Association of Private International Law (AAPrIL) held its inaugural conference in Brisbane, Australia. Hosted by Griffith University—the home of AAPrIL President **Mary Keyes**—the conference featured stimulating panel presentations from speakers from around Australia and abroad.



The conference started with a panel on jurisdiction and judgments, chaired by **Richard Garnett** of Melbourne Law School. **Reid Mortensen** of USQ kicked things off with a presentation on Australia's cross-vesting scheme. **Priskila Penasthika** of the Universitas Indonesia then spoke on 'The Indonesian Language Contract Requirements versus Arbitration as a Choice of Forum'.

The second panel was on private international law and climate change, chaired by **Lemuel Lopez** of RMIT. **Yao-Ming Hsu** of the National Cheng-Chi University, Taiwan, spoke on 'Cross-border/Transnational Climate Change Litigation and

Private International Law', then **Ekaterina Aristova** of Oxford presented on 'Private International Law and Climate Change: Trends in Transnational Litigation'.



In the afternoon, **Reid** chaired a panel on Private International Law and Technology. **Richard** spoke on 'Private International Law Aspects of Blockchain Contracts', followed by **Nargiza Abdurakhmonova** of Griffith University who covered 'Private international law and data protection in the Eurasian Economic Union'.

The first day was capped off with drinks and dinner overlooking the Brisbane River at South Bank. I had fish and beers. They were delicious.

Sore heads backed up well for the morning session on day 2, chaired by **Mary**, which considered 'Prenuptial Agreements: Comparative Perspectives from France, Australia and Hong Kong'. **Susannah Quinn** of Mills Oakley provided an 'Australian perspective, examining how Australian law handles foreign prenuptial agreements', then **Shu Mei Hoon** of Drew Napier, Singapore spoke to 'Exploring the treatment of prenuptial agreements in Singapore'. **Emmanuelle Bonboire-Barthélémy** of Chauveau Mulon & Associés



provided a 'French perspective, addressing the recognition and application of foreign prenuptial agreements in France and the international circulation of French marriage contracts in cross-border scenarios'.

After snacks, I chaired a session where **Lemuel** spoke on 'Islamic Law in Non-Muslim Majority Jurisdictions: Lessons from the Philippines and Australia', followed by **Inma Conde** of the University of Sydney and the Office of International Law (Australia), who spoke on 'Ernst Rabel and the PIL Framework for International Sales'.

In the final session, **Brody Warren**, Assistant Director of the Private International & Commercial Law Section, Attorney-General's Department (Australia), and formerly of HCCH fame, chaired a session where I defamed him and also spoke on 'Extraterritorial enforcement of Australia's eSafety regulation'. **Paul Abraham** of the University of Newcastle then presented on 'Anti-enforcement Injunctions: A Discussion of Principles and Trends'. Last but not least, **Mary** spoke on 'Anti-suit Injunctions and Choices of Court'.

The first AAPrIL Conference was a great event and a credit to the organisational skills of Mary Keyes and Mel Davies of Griffith University. I will remember it for the collegiality as much as the educational content. Please join us for the next one! You can follow us at <https://aapril.org/> and on LinkedIn.

