



CALL FOR PAPERS

Global Harm, Local Justice | The Future of Cross-Border Torts

An Early Career Researcher Conference

We invite submissions for the virtual conference "**Global Harm, Local Justice: The Future of Cross-Border Torts**", which will take place on **6 February 2026**. This conference is designed specifically for early-career scholars working in the field of private international law.

The conference brings together early career researchers to explore contemporary challenges in cross-border torts and private international law. It takes place against the backdrop of potential reform of both the Brussels Ibis Regulation and the Rome II Regulation, raising fresh questions of jurisdiction and applicable law in cross-border disputes. Recent reports prepared by the European Commission on these instruments identify several issues that merit closer attention such as the infringement of privacy and personality rights, the use of artificial intelligence, financial torts and collective redress. Against this backdrop, the conference provides a forum for early career researchers to engage with some of the most pressing questions at the intersection of cross-border torts and private international law.

About the Conference

This event aims to create a dynamic and supportive environment for emerging scholars to present their work, engage in critical discussion and receive constructive feedback from established academics and peers. We welcome theoretical, comparative and practice-oriented contributions that address the growing complexity of tort-related issues in a globalised, digital and technologically mediated world.

The conference will provide early career researchers with the unique opportunity to present their work and receive feedback from leading experts in the field of substantive tort law and private international law. This dual perspective allows participants to engage both with private international law and the foundations of liability and remedies offered by substantive tort law. While private international law frames the jurisdictional and choice-of-law dimensions of cross-border disputes, any analysis requires grounding in the substantive principles that govern liability, causation and remedies within domestic tort systems. Substantive law expertise will help to uncover how divergences between legal systems shape conflicts problems.

Key Topics Include (but are not limited to):

- Jurisdiction and applicable law in cross-border torts
- Torts arising from AI-related harm, automated decision-making and algorithmic bias
- Digital torts, defamation and harm through online platforms
- Environmental harm
- Business and human rights

- Privacy
 - Cross-border collective redress
 - Product liability in global supply chains, including AI-integrated goods
 - The interface between public and private international law in tort
-

Conference Format

The conference will be held **online** and structured around **thematic panels**, each followed by **targeted feedback** from senior scholars in the field. This format is designed to foster scholarly exchange, offer mentorship and help participants further develop their work for publication or future presentation.

Eligibility and Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions from:

- **Current PhD candidates**
- **Postdoctoral researchers**
- **Graduates who obtained their PhD within the last 3 years**

Please submit an **abstract of 300–500 words** and a **short bio (max 150 words)** to dr. K.C. (Kirsten) Henckel k.c.henckel@rug.nl by **1 December 2025**.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **15 December 2025**.

Full papers will not be required in advance, but selected participants may be invited to submit an extended abstract or working draft for pre-circulation in their panel.

Contact and Further Information

For questions or more information, please contact the organising committee:

dr. M.A.S. (Martin) Bulla

Assistant Professor of Private International Law
University of Groningen

m.a.s.bulla@rug.nl

dr. K.C. (Kirsten) Henckel

Assistant Professor of Private International Law
University of Groningen

k.c.henckel@rug.nl

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to welcoming you to an inspiring and collaborative event!