



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
for comparative and international
PRIVATE LAW HAMBURG



Private International Law Festival – Edinburgh 2026

Breakdown of the Rules-Based International Order – What Role for Private International Law?

Playfair Library, Old College

Thursday 24 September

08:30 – 9:00 Registration

09:00 – 9:15 Welcome Address

Verónica Ruiz Abou-Nigm, University of Edinburgh and Ralf Michaels, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

09:15 – 10:45 The Geopolitical Turn

Chair: Roxana Banu, University of Oxford

Sai Ramani Garimella, South Asian University

Mare Liberum, FONOPs, and Neocolonial Servitudes: The Transit Passage in the Hormuz Crisis

Toni Marzal, University of Glasgow

European Integration, Private International Law and the EU's Geopolitical Turns

Francesca Ragno, Università di Bologna

From Delocalization to the Geopolitical Arena: International Commercial Arbitration in a Fragmented Global Order

Erik Sinander, Stockholm University

Forum Selection Clauses in Times of Turmoil — When Can a Forum Selection Clause Be Set Aside Due to Political and Legal Changes in the Designated Forum?

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break



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11:15 – 12:30 Inter-Associations Panel: Global Trade in Times of Disruption

Chair: Hans van Loon, University of Edinburgh

Stéphanie Francq, Université catholique de Louvain

Groupe européen de droit international privé (GEDIP)

Valesca Raizer Borges Moschen, Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo

American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP)

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

European Law Institute (ELI)

Giesela Rühl, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

European Association of Private International Law (EAPIL)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 The Ukraine War

Chair: Kasey McCall-Smith, University of Edinburgh

Beatriz Añoveros Terradas, Universitat de Barcelona

*Rethinking the Functions of European Private International Law in Times of War:
Lessons from Ukraine*

Aude Fiorini / Peter McEleavy, University of Dundee

*Habitual Residence and the Internationally Displaced Children of Ukraine: Where Facts
and Politics Collide*

Bettina Rentsch, Freie Universität Berlin

Use of Force and Private International Law: A Matter of Time

Piotr Rodziewicz, Uniwersytet Wrocławski

*The Influence of IHL and ECHR on Private International Law —Private Considerations
and the Role of Private International Law Based on the Judgment of 25.6.2024 of
ECtHR in Ukraine v. Russia, re Crimea*

19:00 Ceilidh Party - The Biscuit Factory, Leith, EH6 5NP

(Registered participants only)



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Friday 25 September

09:00 – 10:00 Panel Discussion: Ideas of World Order

Chair: Stéphanie Francq

Panellists:

Andrew Lang, University of Edinburgh

Alex Mills, University College London

Horatia Muir Watt, Sciences Po

10:00 – 11:30 Order and Dis-Order

Chair: Carlos M. Vázquez, Georgetown University

Laura Carpaneto, Università di Genova / Thalia Krüger, Universiteit Antwerpen and University of Johannesburg

Towards a Comprehensive Rule-Based International Order for Multinational Corporations

Stellina Jolly, South Asian University

Climate Litigation Beyond the Rule-Based Order: Reimagining Private International Law Through Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL)

Biset Sena Güneş / Dharmita Prasad, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

The Evolving Role of Corrective Mechanisms in Private International Law in a Shifting Global Order

Veerle Van Den Eeckhout, Universiteit Antwerpen and CJEU

Adapting PIL in an Era of Uncertainty. Rethinking Protection for Weaker Parties. A few observations, with a focus on boundary conditions, preconditions and caveats

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break



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12:00 – 13:00 Sanctions, Global Finance and Politicisation

Chair: Francisco Quintana, University of Edinburgh

Anastasios Lafaras, Havard Law School

Sanctions in International Commercial Arbitration: Navigating Between Scylla and Charybdis

Gülüm Özçelik, Bilkent Üniversitesi

Effects of Economic Sanctions on International Commercial Arbitration

Eduardo Silva de Freitas, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam and T.M.C. Asser Institute

Mariana after Magnitsky: How Global Sanctions and Litigation Funding Politicise Private International Law

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Final Round Table:

Breakdown of the Rules-Based International Order – What Role for Private International Law?

Chair: Marie Louise Kinsler KC, University of Edinburgh

Panellists:

Deval Desai, University of Edinburgh

Rosario Espinosa Calabuig, Universitat de València

Richard Fentiman, University of Cambridge

Ralf Michaels, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Marta Pertegás Sender, Universiteit Maastricht and Universiteit Antwerpen

Ilaria Viarengo, Università degli Studi di Milano Statale

17:30 Closing Remarks



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thursday 24 September

Session 1 – Human Rights, Democracy and Vulnerable Parties

Chair: Verónica Ruiz Abou-Nigm, University of Edinburgh

Shambhavi Gour, Amity University Haryana

Invisible Victims, Invisible Conflicts: Towards a Victim-Centric Private International Law in a Post-Rule-Based World

Victoria Garin, European University Institute

How Private International Law Imagines Life Across Borders

Francesca Maoli, Università Telematica San Raffaele

The Role of PIL in Navigating Global Challenges and the Constraints in Democratic Participation: The Case of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)

Patricia Orejudo Pietro de los Mozos, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Deconstructing the Neutrality Myth: Private International Law as a Battlefield for LGBTIQ+ Rights

Session 2 – Neutrality, Values and Theories

Chair: Ralf Michaels, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Ömer Erkut Bulut, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi

The Twilight of the Savignian Ideal of Neutrality: Private International Law in the Age of Geopolitical Fracture

Joanna Langille, University of Western Ontario

International Trade Law and the MFN Principle

Işıl Tekdoğan Bahçıvan, Ankara Üniversitesi

From Neutrality to Value

Jovan Živanović, Miskolci Egyetem

PIL as Metadiscourse



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Session 3 – Geopolitical Fragmentation, Jurisdiction and Injunctions

Chair: Johanna Hoekstra, University of Edinburgh

Claudio Bozzi, Deakin Law School

Trade and National Security in the Age of Weaponised Interdependence

Olesia Chizheva, Independent Researcher

When Choice of Law Becomes a Weapon: Sanctions, Contractual PIL, and the Limits of Party Autonomy

Sitong Li, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Evaluation of Anti-Arbitration Injunctions: The Fragmented Legal Authorities

Jieying Liang, Durham University

Antisuit Injunctions

Session 4 – Intellectual Property, Soft Law and Multinational Corporations

Chair: tbc

Ayşe Kübra Altıparmak Elmas, Anadolu Üniversitesi

IP Protection in a Post-Order World: Can Private International Law Fill the Void?

Ana Cecilia Sotelo Aguilar, IP lawyer and Patents consultant

The End of the Rule-Based Order or the Rise of Soft Law? An Intellectual Property Law Perspective from the Andean Community

Regina Šťastová, Institute of State and Law of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

The Externalisation of European Union Trade Regulations and its Impact on Private International Law

Jianan Wei, Sapienza Università di Roma

Soft Law and Multinational Corporations



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Session 5 – The Political Economy of Cross-Border Financial Regulation

Chair: Dharmita Prasad, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Ligia Catherine Arias-Barrera, Universidad Externado de Colombia

From Rule-Based Order to Legislative Patchwork: Sovereign Debt Governance and the Re-Politicalisation of Private International Law

Andrés F. Durán Rodríguez, Universidad Mayor

From Coordination to Enforcement: Private International Law in an Era of Fiscal Power and Fragmentation

Tao Wu, Zhujiang College of South China Agricultural University

Friction and Harmony: Private International Law and EU-China Green Fiscal Tools in an Age of Conflict

Katsiaryna Zimnokh, Université de Strasbourg

Conflict of Laws Seen Through the Indeterminacy Thesis

Session 6 – Sustainability, Climate Litigation and Regulation

Chair: Iona McEntee, University of Edinburgh

Patrick Schaefer, Judge, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

From Private Ordering to Public Risk Engineering: Private International Law in North Sea Renewable Energy Financing

Lara Schmidt, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

The EU as Global Fashion Sustainability Regulator

Julia Wachowicz, Universität Wien

Geopolitics of Sustainability: The End of Neutral Private International Law?

Andrew Walters, University of Aberdeen

AI in Civil Nuclear Energy: Private International Law at the Frontier of Technological Governance



Session 7 – Islamic Law, Legal Pluralism and Personal Status

Chair: Nora Jaber, University of Edinburgh

Katiyani Juneja, Centre of Excellence on AI for Human Security / Shri Rahul Sharma, Collector and District Magistrate, Joyashankar Bhupalpally, Telangana

Uniformity Without Universality: India's Uniform Civil Code, Foreign Divorce Decrees, and the Fracturing of Private International Law's Rule-Based Architecture

Amel Solène, New York State Court of Claims

Translating Islamic Law in Arbitral Review

Mohammed Warmzyar, Independent researcher and practitioner

Judicial Sovereignty and the Fragmentation of Private International Law: The Iraqi Federal Supreme Court's Reconfiguration of Personal Status and Cross-Border Legal Certainty

Peng Guo, Swinburne Law School / Shu Zhang, Deakin Law School

Beyond the Illusion of Alignment: A Pluralist-Reflective Approach to the Decline of Private International Law

Session 8 – Children, Family and Cross-Border Challenges

Chair: Kate Macfarlane, University of Edinburgh

Alexander Critchley, Westwater Advocates

Art 13 (1) (b) 1980 HCCH Child Abduction Convention

Julianna G. Kubik / Stephanie Hayle, University of Edinburgh

Evolving Trends in Child Marriage and the Role that Private International Law Can Play in its Prevention

Klaudia Lozyk, Uniwersytet Pomorski w Slupsku

Safeguarding Vulnerable Parties in Cross-Border Family Disputes: Rule of Law and Courts in an Eroding International Order

Mahdi Rahmani, Independent researcher and practitioner

Legal Parentage in the Age of DNA and Assisted Reproduction: Cross-Border Challenges

Session 9 – Interactive Roundtable: How Mandatory is Private International Law?

Convenor: Silvia Marino, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday 25 September

Session 10 – Arbitration, Party Autonomy and a Shifting Global Order

Chair: Bruno Sousa Rodrigues, University of Edinburgh

Lyra Çela, Università Bocconi

From Arbitration to Adjudication? The Multilateral Investment Court and the Transformation of Private International Law in a Post-Rules-Based Order

Orhan Emre Konuralp, Kırklareli Üniversitesi

Restrictive Judicial Review of Arbitration Agreements under Turkish Law and its Impact on International Commercial Arbitration

Rhea Pradeep Kumar, Jindal Global Law School

The Fiction of Choice: Party Autonomy as Geopolitical Performance in Contemporary Commercial PIL

Nathan Willems, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

The Last Safe Haven? Arbitration and Overriding Mandatory Provisions

Session 11 – International Civil Procedure, Foreign Law and Public Policy

Chair: Kane Oxholm-Abry-Diaw de Baye, University of Edinburgh

Douglas Admiral Louzada / Ketilly Christine Boecke da Silva, Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo / Isabela Tonon da Costa Dondone, Universidade de São Paulo

International Civil Procedure in a Fragmented Global Order: Between Harmonisation and Resilience

Başak İrem Coşkun, Ankara University

How Equal are "Equals"? Public Policy and the Fragility of Rule-Based Private International Order

Alan K. Koh, Nanyang Business School

Neither Multilateral nor Unilateral: Taking Foreign Law into Consideration Across Private Law

Gizem Yılmaz, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf Üniversitesi

Public Policy and Succession in UAE



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Session 12 – Access to Justice in Arbitration, Mediation, and Adjudication

Chair: Agata Daszko, University of Edinburgh

Shouyu Chong, University of Leeds

Enforcing Mediation and ADR Agreements in International Commercial Contracts: Transnational Principles and Comparative Perspectives

Alvaro Jose Gutierrez Calero, Legal consultant, Del Canto Chambers

The Division and Privatisation of Cross-Border Dispute Resolution: Arbitration, Tax and the Changing Role of Private International Law

Jin Wang, University of Edinburgh

Access to Justice in International Commercial Arbitration

Victor Willcox, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Dispute Resolution and Contract Formation Under Breakdown

Session 13 – Challenging Assumptions

Chair: Michael Picard, University of Edinburgh

W. Connor Cepella, University of Victoria

PIL and Indigenous-Settler Relations

Zhen Chen, University of Edinburgh

The Restitution of Colonial Human Remains in Private International Law: Breaking the 'Civilised' and 'Uncivilised' Divide

Anzhelika Makhmudova, Saint Petersburg State University

Should Private International Law Enforce Choreographic Authenticity? Ballet Foundations, Foreign Theatres, and the Limits of Transnational Private Ordering

Karina Junqueira de Almeida, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio do Janeiro

Scientific Paradigms, Technical Standardization, and Hegemonic Crisis: Quantum Technologies, Long Economic Cycles, and the Limits of the Rule-Based International Order



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Session 14 – Rethinking Rationales

Chair: Biset Sena Güneş, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Zihao Fan, Peking University Law School

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and Advanced Technologies: A Paradigm Shift from Justification to Coordination

Dinda R. Himmah, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

The Portability of Foreign Judgments Circulation: Between Regionalism and Globalism in Private International Law

Nicolas Kyriakides, University of Nicosia / Nicholas Mouttotos, Universität Bremen

From Harmonisation to Fragmentation: US Disengagement and the Reconfiguration of Private International Law

Arti Rathore / Vishakha Sharma, Chambers of Arti Rathore

Recognition Without Trust? The 2019 Hague Judgments Convention in an Age of Selective Geopolitical Alignment

Session 15 – Digital Trade, Data, Platforms and AI Governance

Chair: Morshed Mannan, University of Edinburgh

Weiyao Han, University of Cambridge / Victor Zhang, University of Oxford

A Functional Shift after the Rule-Based Order: The New Territoriality of Private International Law in the Digital Economy

Yutong Hou, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Rethinking Choice-of-Law in the Path of Generative AI Training

Shruti Singhi, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Society for Impact and Policy Research

Rethinking Private International Law for Transnational Platform Governance

Pilar Vargas Martínez, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

The Rise of Private International Law in the Digital Trade Era

Yuhang Wu, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

The New Geography of Scientific Data: Regulatory Divergence and the Transformation of Private International Law



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Session 16 – Sovereignty, Self-Determination and Unilateralism

Chair: Bruno Rodriguez Revegino, University of Edinburgh

Lukas Petschnig, Universität Wien

Official Liability for Internationally Wrongful Acts: Reconsidering Connecting Factors for a New Era of International Relations

Rebecca Ricifari, University of Antwerp

The Enforcement of the Principle of Self-Determination of Peoples Through Private International Law

Sören Segger-Piening, Universität Osnabrück

The Unilateral Politicisation of Private International Law in Europe and Balancing of Interests as an Answer?

Iryna Dikovska, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Prospects for Compensation for Torts Resulting from Violations of International Humanitarian Law and State Immunity

Session 17 – The EU, the Brussels Effect and EU Law Global Reach

Chair: Eleftheria Asimakopoulou, University of Edinburgh

Stefano Dominelli, Università di Genova

From Rule-Based Conflict of Laws (Back) to Political-Based Private International Law?

Suzan R. Hofstede, Bilkent Üniversitesi

The Brussels Effect and the Erosion of Private Law Sovereignty

Johannes Ungerer, University of Oxford

EU Law Offshore and Onshore after Brexit: Private International Law as Conduit