

# International Organizations Law Review

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

### The Love for International Organizations

Friday, 17 November 2023, 8:45 a.m.

Juridicum – Dachgeschoss (Top Floor)  
Schottenbastei 10-16  
1010 Vienna

#### Organized by:

Niels Blokker  
Leiden University  
Institute of Public Law

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Department for European and Economic Law

#### In close cooperation with

August Reinisch  
University of Vienna  
Section for International Law and International Relations



# IOLR - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

Over the past two decades, IOLR has published articles on almost all aspects of the law of international organizations, written not only by academics but also by practitioners. Many contributions addressed institutional issues, ranging from legal personality to decision-making and from functionalism to constitutionalism. A number of special issues have been published, related to themes such as UN reform (2005), global administrative law (2009), responsibility of international organizations (2012), immunity of international organizations (2014) and COVID-19 and international organizations (2021). At the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the journal aims to take stock of why we actually study international organizations as a separate field of international law. At the Vienna Conference, members of the Editorial Board will share their 'love for international organizations', to use the title of an article recently published in IOLR by our board member Jean d'Aspremont. As argued by d'Aspremont, "international organizations continue to occupy a very central place in the practical, conceptual, cognitive, imaginary, and emotional universe of international lawyers. [...] the resilient centrality of international organizations in international legal thought and practice is the manifestation of international lawyers' love for such institutions." His contribution maps a number of "drivers that inform international lawyers' love for international organizations with a view to elucidating what lies behind the centrality of international organizations in international legal thought and practice."

Indeed, what we aim to find out after 20 successful years of IOLR is what we actually like about studying international organizations. What are the specific characteristics of this field of study that continue to provide a source of inspiration for both academics and practitioners?

## Programme

- 08:45** Walk-in and coffee
- 09:15** **Opening and introduction**  
by [Niels Blokker](#) and [Ramses Wessel](#) – *The Love for a Journal: Twenty Years of IOLR*  
[Ingeborg van der Laan](#) (Brill – Nijhoff) – A Few Words from the Publisher
- Session I (Chair: [Ramses Wessel](#))**  
[Jean d'Aspremont](#) – *The Love for International Organizations*  
[Kristina Daugirdas](#) – *Misidentifying the Source of the Love for International Organizations*  
[Jan Klabbers](#) – *Love is Just a Four-Letter Word*
- Q&A

## Programme

- 11:00** Coffee break
- 11:30** **Session II (Chair: [Ramses Wessel](#))**  
[Jacob Katz Cogan](#) – *The Flexibility of International Organizations*  
[Ian Johnstone](#) – *Informal Intergovernmental Organizations: How Lovable are They?*  
[August Reinisch](#) – *Do I Know What I Love When I Say That I Love International Organizations?*  
[Niels Blokker](#) – *The Love of International Organizations is not so much Logic; it is Experience*
- Q&A
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** **Session III (Chair: [Niels Blokker](#))**  
[Kirsten Schmalenbach](#) – *Can International Organizations Turn 'Rogue'?*  
[Catherine Brölmann](#) – *For the Love of Structure*  
[Gian Luca Burci](#) – *Patterns of Governance and Institutional Development in International Organizations – Reflections from a Former Practitioner*  
[Elisabetta Morlino](#) – *Studying (and Loving) International Organizations to Understand Public Power and its Changes*
- Q&A
- 15:30** Coffee break
- 16:00** **Session IV – Perspectives relating to specific international organizations (Chair: [Niels Blokker](#))**  
[Namira Negm](#) – *Distinctively African: The Unique Appeal of the African Union to International Lawyers of African Origin*  
[Anmol Gulecha](#) – *Love-Hate Relationship with International Organizations: An Asian Perspective*  
[Ramses Wessel](#) – *Our love for the EU (but is it an international organization?)*  
[Gabrielle Marceau](#) – *IGO Initiatives : the WTO as an Example*
- Q&A
- 17:30** Closure of the Conference