



ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law

in partnership with Odysseus Network and Human Rights Research League

presents:

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop

(Un)Fairness in Migration and Refugee Law: Past and Present Realities

Aix-en-Provence (France)

31 August 2023, hybrid mode

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

The Interest Group (IG) on Migration and Refugee Law ([MigRefLaw](#)) of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), in partnership with [Odysseus Academic Network](#) and [Human Rights Research League](#) (HRRL), is organising a workshop on **31 August 2023 (Thursday), h. 9.30–12.30 CET**, in Aix-en-Provence (France), as a side event of this year's [ESIL Annual Conference](#). This year's theme of the ESIL Annual Conference concerns fairness and international law, which will be addressed by the IG MigRefLaw workshop within the framework of migration and refugee law.

The IG pre-conference workshop will look at the multifaceted concept of 'fairness' from the general perspective of rights recognition for migrants and refugees, as well as from the specific standpoint of integration policies, with the aim of disentangling the interlocking of legal, political and socio-cultural issues affecting and perpetuating the citizen-denizen divide in international and EU law.

The IG MigRefLaw – acting as the organising committee for this workshop, in cooperation with the Odysseus Academic Network and the Human Rights Research League – welcomes paper proposals addressing mainly (but not limited to) the following themes:

- The interplay between time as a regulatory mechanism of (forced) migration, justice, and fairness;
- The legal, policy and ethical implications of the stratification of protection/migration statuses;
- The interplay between fairness, visa regimes, and access to protection;
- The role of race and colonialism in refugee and migration policies and their interplay with fairness;
- Examining from a perspective of fairness the links between emergencies or 'crises' and derogations from refugees' and/or migrants' rights;
- Examining 'safe third country policies and other externalization mechanisms from a fairness perspective;
- The interplay between solidarity and fairness in constructing refugee/migration policies;
- Examining the differential treatment of (forced) migrants (e.g., access to the labour market, free movement rights) from a fairness perspective.

The IG MigRefLaw, the Odysseus Academic Network, and the Human Rights Research League invite submissions of abstracts, written in English or French, of no more than 300 words. Abstracts should be submitted to the IG conveners at migreflaw@gmail.com by **14 April 2023**, and should also include the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information (e-mail and phone number), and whether the applicant is member of ESIL (these details are excluded from the word count). Selected speakers will be notified by 28 April 2023 via e-mail. After the selection process, we are aiming for extended abstracts from the selected speakers of up to 3000-3500 words. The extended abstracts should be sent to the IG conveners by 15 July 2023.

The IG is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. However, some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL carers grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding. In addition, up to five eligible authors from low-income economies, whose abstracts are selected for presentation, will receive a one-year ESIL membership, including an online subscription to the European Journal of International Law, sponsored by the Human Rights Research League.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event. Please check the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the [ESIL Young Scholar Prize](#), if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April 2023.

IG MigRefLaw Coordinating Committee

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The [Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law](#) (MigRefLaw) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#). The IG focuses on the law and policy of states and international organisations with regard to people who seek entry to their communities. The movement of people across borders is a defining reality of our time. This IG aims to provide a forum for discussion on the legal principles and processes governing the movement of people as well as their reception in host communities. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in migration and refugee law.