



Call for abstracts

Ius Commune workshop on:

**The Ukrainian Conflict in the Global Legal Contexts:
Tracing the Past in the Present**

Maastricht, Thursday 11 May 2023

The Ius Commune research programme [Constitutional Processes in the Global Legal Order](#) is organising a workshop on the Ukrainian conflict at the occasion of Ius Commune conference 2023 (11-12 May 2023). The workshop will take place on Thursday 11 May 2023.

Theme of the workshop

Continuity between the past and the present may be an inherent characteristic of law, including international law. Continuity gives stability and foreseeability with respect to the content of law, how it is applied, and what impact legal norms have on societies. At the same time, the continuity of law can be accompanied by the preservation of underlying historical patterns and political dynamics. Without critical scrutiny, law and its stability can serve to perpetuate some of the problematic patterns and dynamics in a supposedly changing world.

By using continuity—and discontinuity—as a central angle, the Ius Commune workshop will take part in ongoing discussion of international law in connection to the conflict in Ukraine. The conflict has no doubt given rise to many issues concerning international law. Russian aggression in Ukraine was accompanied by the rhetorical use of international legal principles and rules. In contesting the rhetoric, Ukraine has resorted to the International Court of Justice through the parameters of the Genocide Convention. A possibility to establish a special tribunal for the crime of aggression has been widely discussed in academia and at governmental levels. A wide range of national and international organisations engage in collecting and verifying evidence of possible war crimes, and the International Criminal Court has been investigating alleged crimes. In the meantime, multiple packages of economic sanctions were introduced by the EU, US, and some like-minded states, which also exposed the relative shortage of international legal rules to regulate the use of unilateral sanctions outside the auspices of the UN. Many other domestic and international legal issues have arisen from the war in Ukraine.

On the basis of ongoing debates, the Ius Commune programme invites abstracts that shed light on how the past is relevant in understanding or addressing international law surrounding the Russian-Ukrainian war. By tracing the past projects, practices, debates, and/or ideologies in the present shape of international law, the workshop aims to facilitate forward-looking discussions. The programme welcomes proposals that address the question of (dis)continuity with regard to, for instance:

- the rhetorical use of international law in times of war;
- the use of the International Court of Justice in times of war;
- the crime of aggression and an international special tribunal;

- the regulation of non-UN economic sanctions;
- evidence collection and verification of international crimes

Submission of proposals and the timeline

Interested researchers are invited to submit abstracts of up to 500 words. We welcome proposals by both Ius Commune members and other interested colleagues.

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15 February 2023.

The following information must also be provided with each abstract:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- The author's short biography;
- The author's email address.

Authors of selected abstracts will be notified by 28 February 2023. Unfortunately, Ius Commune will not be able to cover travel and accommodation.

Abstracts should be sent to: m.kanetake@uu.nl; denise.prevost@maastrichtuniversity.nl

For substantive questions, please contact the aforementioned emails. The research programme is coordinated by Machiko Kanetake (Utrecht University), Denise Prévost (Maastricht University), and Jan Wouters (KU Leuven).