



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**30.SEPT.16 & 01.OCT.16 | Workshop**  
on justice in non-international  
armed conflict in Louvain

**05.OCT.16 | Lecture**  
by Professor Nehal Butha

**17.NOV.16 | Lecture**  
by Professor Joost  
Pauwelyn

**26.JAN.17 | Workshop**  
on the Role of International  
Organizations and Non-State  
Actors in the Formation of  
Customary International Law

**New lecture series on  
international organizations**

## MELLAND SCHILL

**May.2017 | The 2016-2017**

Melland Schill lecture will be delivered by **Sir Michael Wood** member of the United Nations International Law Commission and a barrister at 20 Essex Street Chambers. More information will follow in due course.

## EDITORIAL

This second newsletter looks back at the numerous activities carried out under the banner of MILC during the academic year 2015-2016. Created in 2014, MILC has now entered a phase of consolidation. Counting more than 40 members and now attracting regular visiting researchers, MILC has reached its cruising speed. Such successes are of a collective nature. As the Centre is working with very limited means, its activities largely depend on the time and generosity of its members. This second newsletter provides the opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in MILC's activities, with a special thank you to Mariela Apostolaki.

The year 2015-2016 sadly witnessed the passing of Gillian White who preceded us at the University of Manchester. Gillian White was an exceptional figure who inspired many throughout her career. Among other things, MILC is very indebted to her for the creation of the Melland Schill monograph series. To celebrate her legacy, a new annual public lecture in her name has been inaugurated thanks to the generous support of the School of Law. This lecture series will be managed by the newly created Women in International Law Network, which has the aim of providing a professional community for women international lawyers at all stages of their careers.

Last but not least, during this new academic year, MILC will be welcoming a handful of visiting researchers. Welcome to Elena Pineros, Antal Berkes, Sufyan Droubi, Antoine Kaboré! We will have the pleasure to host Professor Dan Joyner as a Simon Fellow and also Professor Olivier Corten during the coming year. We wish everyone a successful and productive research year!





5.July.16

Presentation | Dr. Sufyan Droubi  
The role of the United Nations in  
the development of customary  
international law in the field of  
human rights

10.June.16

Workshop | University of  
Amsterdam in collaboration with  
the Amsterdam Centre for  
International Law on  
'International Legal Argumentation'

8.June.16

First UK-Russia symposium on  
jurisprudence and sovereignty  
in collaboration with MMU

5.May.16

Melland Schill annual lecture  
Judge Hanqin Xue of the  
International Court of Justice  
"The cultural element in  
international law"

21.April.16

Lecture | UN Rapporteur on the  
Right to Education | Dr Kishore  
Singh  
"Human rights bodies: How they  
work and how they think"

8.March.16

Lecture

Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Canada to the  
World Trade Organization  
Jonathan T. Fried  
"The Contribution of the WTO to  
the Development of  
International Law"

19.February.16

Lecture | Ambassador and Deputy  
Director General of the World Trade  
Organization, Frederick Agah  
"Regional Trade agreements in the  
WTO and the Future of the Doha  
Development Round"

24.February.2016

Prof Christian Tams, University of  
Glasgow, Senior Fellow,  
Centre for Global Cooperation  
Research (Duisburg)  
"New Rules for a New World Order?  
Reflections on International Law  
after the Great War"

## NEW MEMBERS (short bio)

**Antal Berkes** recently defended his thesis at Université Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He previously studied at University ELTE (law degree), Central European University (Human rights LLM) and Université Aix-Marseille III (MA). His PhD research topic was "Grey zones": the protection of human rights in areas out of the effective control of the State. In this thesis he analyzed the international protection of human rights in geographical areas where the State, sovereign of its territory, is unable or unwilling to exercise effective control. In Manchester he will research the problem of the loss of the State's effective control over a part of its territory from the point of view of individuals' rights and obligations in other special branches of international law (such as refugee law, international criminal law or international humanitarian law).

**Shavana Musa** has joined Manchester School of Law as Lecturer in Constitutional and International Law. She was previously a Research Fellow at the University of Passau and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Germany. She completed her PhD at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, which investigated the right to reparations for war victims from the 17th century to the present day. Her research focuses on peace and security, humanitarian law, human rights and transitional justice.

**John D. Haskell** began this August at the School of Law as a Senior Lecturer. His research currently focuses on the sociology of idea production within international law, and the historic and contemporary intersections of law, political economy and religion.



## VISITING RESEARCHERS

**Antoine Kabore** | "What are the Applicable Fair Trial Rules in Proceedings before Tribunals Established by Non-State Armed Groups?"

**Elena Pineros** | "Amicus curiae briefs in international litigation"

**Sufyan Droubi** | "The Role of the UN in the Development of Customary International Norms in Respect to Non-State Actors"



3. February.16

Visit of the Secretary General of the Curatorium of the Xiamen Academy of International Law | Professor Chia-Jui Cheng

1. February.16

Launch of the Digitised Melland Schill Lectures | Sir Michael Wood, member of the UN International Law Commission | Barrister at 20 Essex Street Chambers

21. January.16

Workshop | Cyber Espionage and International Law | Dr Russel Buchan, Senior Lecturer University of Sheffield, Thibault Moulin, PhD Candidate University of Manchester/ Université Grenoble-Alpes, Marusa Veber, PhD Candidate University of Ljubljana

8. December.15

Workshop | Carina Calabria, Loredana Tassone, Sara De Vido "Human rights bodies: How they work and how they think"

24. November.15

Lecture on Iran's nuclear program and International Law  
Professor Dan Joiner,  
University of Alabama

29&amp;30. October.15

Co-organizer of the Annual meeting of the African Society of International Law held in Yaounde, Cameroon

4&amp;5. September.15

Workshop on the Sources of International Law in collaboration with the University of Fribourg

## MILC RESEARCH | INTERVIEW | Sara De Vido

Sara De Vido is assistant professor of international law at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy. She spent three months at our School of Law as visiting academic, from October to December 2015, where she worked on the topic 'violence against women' and its relationship with the human right to health. She is an affiliate to the Manchester International Law Centre and one of the researchers who co-founded the Women in International Law Network (Wilnet).



**MILC:** *Sara, why did you choose to become a visiting academic in the University of Manchester?*

**Sara De Vito:** At the beginning of 2015, I was looking for a stimulating environment where to spend some months doing research. While searching among different possibilities in the UK, I found MILC. The directors are well-known international lawyers and the presentation of the Centre on the website was extremely promising. I therefore decided to apply for a position of visiting academic. It was accepted.

**M:** *What was the focus of your research?*

**SDV:** At the very beginning, the purpose was, quite generally, to lay the groundwork for a monograph on the topic of violence against women under an international law perspective. My interest on this challenging issue started with a conference I organised in Venice in November 2014, some months after the entry into force of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In the aftermath of the conference, I worked on some aspects related to violence against women, such as female genital mutilation. However, time had come to think about a more complete work: a book. During my stay in Manchester, after having the opportunity to explain my project to Professor D'Aspremont and Professor Scobbie, as well as to all MILC members, I could narrow my focus and concentrate on a specific aspect: the relationship between violence against women and the human right to health, including reproductive rights.

**M:** *What was the outcome of your research?*

**SDV:** Violence against women clearly affects women's' health. However, what I found of extreme interest was the analysis of both the impact of violence on women's' human rights, and the consequences of certain national policies which, directly or indirectly, may create the conditions for violence against women. I studied this relationship under the lens of international law, in particular in terms of States' obligations and sources of law (including the recent Council of Europe Istanbul Convention). I have also undertaken the legal analysis of the notion of violence against women, and investigated the possibility that the EU ratifies the Convention. I hope that this project will become a book in the near future.

**M:** *During your stay, did you participate in MILC activities?*

**SDV:** Yes, I did. And it was a great experience. I worked with the other female researchers on the creation of the "Women in international law" network (Wilnet), and participated in the interesting events organised by the Centre, such as the Melland Schill lectures and the MILC meetings. I also organised, along with two MILC researchers, a seminar on the existing mechanisms at international and regional level for the protection of human rights. I am still contributing to Wilnet and to OXIO, the database on international organisations.

**M:** *What do you think of MILC?*

**SDV:** MILC is a very stimulating environment. The directors are always available to give you advice in order to improve your research; they pose to you intriguing questions trying to let the best of your research emerge. Furthermore, MILC meetings are a useful way to receive feedback on your projects. MILC events host renowned experts, who are always source of inspiration.

**M:** *What will you miss?*

**SDV:** I will miss my new friends at MILC, the long meetings among young researchers trying with such great enthusiasm to create something new, the stimulating environment that gave me the unique opportunity to achieve a book proposal in English. It is not easy to find elsewhere what I found in Manchester. I hope I will come back. One day.