

Exploring the Intersections of International Law and Time

Date: 11 March 2025

Time: 15:00-16:30 CET

Location: In-person event at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN, Den Haag

Registration: This seminar is invite-only. Should you wish to join, please send an email with your name, affiliation and a few lines expressing your interest to f.bensadon@asser.nl.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Geoff Gordon** – Senior Researcher, Asser Institute
- **Dr. Eliana Cusato** – Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam
- **Manasa Venkatachalam** – Legal Consultant, Blue Ocean Law

Overview:

Time is a constant. It is so ingrained into how we operate, that it is somewhat invisible. Yet, the way we perceive and structure time has profound implications in international law. Western notions of linear time, which became globally dominant through colonial rule, shape much of our current legal and political order. This framework also intersects with temporalities of industrial capitalism and neoliberal markets, which are contributing to the ongoing environmental crisis. In this seminar we will explore how time is conceptualized in international law. By bringing together academics and practitioners, we seek to explore the ways in which time influences legal decision-making, particularly in the context of environmental law. Can the concept of time resonate in international law in a way that challenges existing structures? How might time be reimaged in legal practice to better understand the uneven distribution of resources and opportunities across different regions? From a TWAIL perspective, how can we better account for historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism in legal temporalities? Join us as we explore the intersection between international law and time.

Exploring the Intersections of International Law and Time

Speaker bios



Dr. Geoff Gordon is a Senior Research at the Asser Institute. His research into legal practices includes attention to material and technological aspects of international law in institutional contexts and maintains a parallel focus on considerations of knowledge production.



Dr. Eliana Cusato is an Assistant Professor at the Amsterdam Law School and a member of the Amsterdam Center for International Law. Her research examines how international law, in theory and practice, deals with the interrelation of global political economy, violence, and ecological destruction. She is currently working on two research projects: the first explores how temporal notions are encoded in/through legal norms relevant to address the unfolding climate crisis; the second investigates the transformative potentials of claims for reparations for intersecting injustices emanating from the world's periphery.



Manasa Venkatachalam is a legal consultant and researcher with expertise in public international law and human rights. She identifies as a Third World Approaches to International Law scholar and is particularly interested in the applications of the right to self-determination and the right against racial discrimination in the context of climate change. She currently works with Blue Ocean Law in representing the Republic of Vanuatu at the ICJ in their pursuit of an advisory opinion on climate change.