

Seminar: Management Practices at the International Criminal Court

Part of 'The Fabric of International Law' Seminar Series at the TMC Asser Institute.

Date: 12 September 2024, 16:00-17:00.

Location: TMC Asser Institute, The Hague.

Speakers:

[Dr Richard Clements](#) – Assistant Professor, Tilburg University

Dr Thomas Henquet - Senior Legal Adviser and Chief of the Legal Office at the Registry of the International Criminal Court

Goal: Academic Discussion under the Chatham House Rule. (see below)

Envisioned Discussion:

Since the late 1990s, many international institutions, including the International Criminal Court, have undergone a 'managerial turn'. This has involved the uptake of various management tools and ideas, such as strategic plans, performance indicators, mission statements, performance appraisals, and more. After twenty years in operation, though, the full effects of these tools have yet to be considered and discussed by scholars and practitioners interested in the court's functioning. As part of this session, the speakers will seek to flesh out the wide range of effects – both positive and negative – of such tools for the ICC, its professionals, and the wider international criminal justice ecosystem of which they form a central part. Speakers will not seek to discuss specific examples or instances of mismanagement, but how the installation of management tools has changed the way in which the court operates, the priorities it adopts, and the resources and personnel it invests in. The expectation is that the session will both contribute to a practitioner-scholar exchange that is otherwise rare during a busy time in the court's docket, and to better understanding the ways in which management expertise shape the court's work.

The seminar will open 'The Fabric of International Law' seminar series at the TMC Asser Institute, and will be held under the Chatham House Rule. Thus, participants "...are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."¹

Guiding Questions:

- What are some examples of management tools deployed by the International Criminal Court to date?
- What are the effects (some of) these tools have had on the ICC – whether its functioning, its personnel, but also its allocation of resources, priorities, and self-understanding as a global justice institution?
- Zooming in, what have been some professional experiences of management as an ICC professional at the everyday level?
- What kinds of challenges/problems may emerge in relation to management in the present/future?

¹ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>

General format of the seminars:

1. *Opening panel* – Panels will be composed of 2-3 key speakers with at least one academic and one practitioner - Each speaker will have 10-15 minutes to present their research and/or insights on the central topic. A meeting can be organized beforehand so that confirmed speakers can be introduced and briefly discuss what aspects of the conversation they wish to discuss/ consider/ find interesting etc. A researcher from the TMC Asser Institute will chair the seminar.
2. *Speakers' Questions* – Speakers can then ask a question to their fellow panel members, either on their presentation or the central topic, and exchange replies.
3. *Open discussion* – The floor will then open to seminar participants to join the conversation, provide their insights and, of course, ask questions.

No output is envisioned following the seminar series.

Participation to the seminars will be primarily based on invitation. A limited number of seats can be reserved and opened to the public. Speakers can of course inform the organizers if they wish for their seminar to be held under the Chatham House Rule

Series: This series will consist of interactive seminars, wherein academics and practitioners can exchange their research and experiences, reflecting on the role that 'extra-legal' tools, materials and practices play in forming the fabric of international law. The seminars will be held in person, with the possibility for speakers to join via video-link when travelling to the institute is not possible.