

# Visualizing International Law: communication, demystification, destabilization

**Date:** 16 April 2025

**Time:** 10:30-12:00 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](mailto:f.bensadon@asser.nl).

## Speakers:

- **Dr. Fadi El-Abdallah** – Spokesperson and Head of Public Affairs Unit, International Criminal Court
- **Daria Radu** – Artist in residency at Asser Institute, student at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague
- **Dr. Sofia Stolk** – Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

## Overview:

If you close your eyes and think of international law, what do you see? The Peace Palace? The UN logo? Guernica? Whatever it is that you imagine, you are engaging in the practice of visualizing international law. Despite the profession's fixation on text, international law is a hyper-visual practice. Visuals matter to how we literally and figuratively see international law; how we experience it, how we feel about it, how we understand it, and how we can destabilize these meanings. In this session, we invite you to look with us at international law: its buildings; its Instagram pages; its artistic representations; and perhaps its invisibility too. We will lend you three different sets of eyes to get multidimensional perspective on international law's visuality: the eyes of the artist, the eyes of a spokesperson for an international court, and the eyes of the researcher. In return, we invite the audience to tap into their own imagination so that we can create an interactive visual dialogue together.

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## Speaker bios



**Dr. Fadi El Abdallah** is currently the Spokesperson and Head of the Public Affairs Unit at the International Criminal Court (ICC) based in The Hague. After studying law at the Sagesse University and the Lebanese University, Dr. Fadi El Abdallah obtained his PhD from the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas. Prior to obtaining his position at the ICC, Dr. Abdallah taught at both the Law and International Business Institute (IDAI) in Cairo, Egypt, as well as Paris II within the Paris and Melun Centers. Since joining the ICC in 2008, Dr. Abdallah has committed himself to increasing awareness of the ICC's mandate and its importance to the international community including the Middle East.



**Daria Radu** is an Artist in Residency at the Asser Institute and a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in Photography at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague. As a Romanian artist, her photography practice investigates notions of *post-memory*, *transgenerational trauma*, *untold stories*, *cultural identity* and *Western-Eastern European tension*. As her interest lies primarily in the past, she uses her projects as outlets for stories that could be forgotten. In her work, she uses photography, sound, book-making and research, the latter being a very important aspect.



**Dr. Sofia Stolk** is an Assistant Professor in International Law at VU Amsterdam and an Associate Fellow at the Asser Institute. Her research focuses on the use of visual means by international courts and tribunals and explores the role of visuality in the engagement between international law and its different audiences through, for example, art, architecture, and film. Together with dr. Renske Vos, Sofia co-directs the Legal Sightseeing research platform. At VU, Sofia coordinates the interdisciplinary minor program *Visual Evidence: crafting truth knowledge through film*. From 2011 onwards, Sofia has been involved in the organization of the Movies that Matter Festival in The Hague in different roles.