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SIEL 2018 Conference - Call for Proposals

We are pleased to announce the call for papers, panels & posters for the 6th SIEL Biennial Global Conference that will be held from 12-14 July 2018 at American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.



You can access the call for papers [here](#).

SIEL GOVERNANCE

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Gabrielle Marceau (President); Shin-yi Peng & Holger Hestermeyer (Executive Vice-Presidents); Junji Nakagawa & José Caiado (Treasurers); Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer & Markus Wagner (SIEL Corporate Secretaries)

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Brexit*

The joys, the fears, the benefits, the risks, and the opportunities related to Brexit and its multifaceted impacts are continuing to generate a rich and diverse range of assessments and analyses. The decision of the UK to withdraw from the EU raises broad issues in terms of the UK's Treaty and economic relations which go well beyond simply trade. For example, air, land and water transportation, inter-European economic co-operation on standards and technical matters, immigration and human rights, investment, the relations with Northern Ireland, Scotland and other parts of the UK, implementation of the rule of law and transparency, not to forget security, are some of the sectors where questions have been raised about how the UK future relationship with the EU will be framed. The issues are intensified by the fact that Brexit is not only about the EU/UK relationship, it affects all States and non-state actors in their relations with the UK and the EU, and will historically affect international economic and public international law. In short, Brexit provides a fascinating case study that highlights a range of multifaceted challenges.

While the EU and the UK share a continued aspiration for a close commercial relationship, unbundling and unravelling UK membership of the EU implies thousands of bilateral, regional, multilateral and more universal considerations. So far, the process has been on two tracks: first, the divorce (including the rights of EU and UK nationals residing in each other's territories, the Northern Irish border post-Brexit, and how much the UK owes); second, future economic, legal and political relations between the two sides. For the divorce, the UK has promised that it would honor the financial commitments it made as an EU member, but there is disagreement about what these commitments entail; for the EU, the other issues will only be discussed once 'sufficient progress' has been made on the first track (with this issue to be further reviewed in December 2017). Nonetheless, some work has

begun on the WTO front. The UK is a WTO Member in its own right but will need to manifest that separate membership within the WTO through the implementation and administration of general and scheduled commitments. While the EU currently speaks for all EU Member states in all WTO Councils and Committees with the exception of those relating to Administration, Budget and Finance, post-Brexit, in its capacity as a WTO Member outside the EU, the UK will also be able to engage directly and actively in all WTO bodies.

In their joint communication of 11 October, the EU and the UK acknowledged that "the UK's withdrawal from the EU has implications beyond the EU and the UK's bilateral relationship" and noted "the need for clarity and predictability towards their trading partners in the multilateral trading system" . As announced earlier "in communicating its own separate schedules before it leaves the EU in March 2019, the UK intends to replicate as far as possible its obligations under the current commitments of the EU". While Brexit represents an unprecedented situation for the EU, and even if technically there is no clear precedent to determine the best procedure for unbundling such UK scheduled commitments, the overall message of this communication is framed in positive terms as the EU and the UK commitment to "follow a cooperative and transparent approach regarding any necessary adjustment in the WTO arising from the UK withdrawal from the EU. Both the UK and the EU would like to reassure our WTO partners that we will strive to minimize disruption to trade as the UK leaves the EU."

But this is just the beginning. Several additional areas of adjustments and negotiation will need to be considered. There are close to 50 free-trade agreements, multiple investment agreements, over 700 other relevant

agreements (not necessarily economic), and a very long list of regulations and laws that need to be reviewed. The task is challenging, both because the British and EU economies are closely integrated including in terms of global value chains, because in the EU and the UK trade has purposely been linked to multiple non-trade concerns for sustainable development policies, because of questions related to separate immigration, human rights, rule of law, and the democratic societal values of the UK and the EU member states. Pragmatism and long-term ambitions will be necessary in light of the short timeframe before 29 March 2019 – hence the call by the business communities and the UK for a comprehensive transition period.

The process raises issues where the need for expertise is obvious. International experts and negotiators will need to work creatively at devising effective legal and policy solutions. Several SIEL experts have already contributed importantly to Brexit related work: to name a few, thanks to Lorand Bartels, Freya Baetens, Holger Hestermeyer, Jennifer Hillman, Gary Horlick, Andrew Lang, Fiona Smith, Federico Ortino, and Markus Wagner who have all contributed their views on the various new parameters that Brexit will present for the UK, the EU and the world as a whole. No need to add that Brexit will figure as one of our prominent issues in the next SIEL conference in Washington on 12-14 July 2018!

* The views expressed are personal to the author and do not bind SIEL or the WTO.

Gabrielle Marceau

Publications by SIEL members

SIEL Members on the Move

The SIEL/Hart Prize

SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize

Save the Date

- A. Conference on The Legitimacy of Unseen Actors in International Adjudication.
- B. PEPA/SIEL 2018
- C. ELSA Moot Competition
- D. 11th WTO Ministerial Conference

Courses

- A. WTI Course on Treaty Interpretation for PhD Students

Vacancies

- A. Professorship in International Arbitration Law

Other activities

Publications by SIEL members

Neuwirth, Rostam J., Svetlicinii, Alexandr, De Castro Halis, Denis (eds.), [A BRICS-Lawyers' Guide to Global Cooperation](#); Cambridge University Press 2017.

SIEL Members on the Move

[Jurgen Kurtz](#) has been appointed to the Chair in International Economic Law at the

European University Institute as of 1 January 2018.

[Marin-Duran Gracia](#) joined UCL Faculty of Laws in London. as Senior Lecturer in International Economic Law on 1 September 2017.

[Colin Picker](#) joined the University of Wollongong as its Dean of Law on 1 July 2017.

The SIEL/Hart Prize

Submissions for the SIEL/Hart Prize are now open. The SIEL/Hart Prize is a brand new prize sponsored by Hart Publishing and awarded every two years to an outstanding unpublished manuscript by an early career scholar in the field of International Economic Law.

The deadline for submissions is 15th January 2018. Further information is available [here](#)

SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize

The Society of International Economic Law, the Journal of International Economic Law, and Oxford University Press have jointly established the SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize to award the best essay submitted on any topic in any field of international economic law.

The deadline for submissions for the 2017-2018 SIEL/JIEL/OUP Prize is Friday 16 February 2018.

The competition is open to all current undergraduate and graduate students of any university or other tertiary education institution, and those who have graduated from a university or other tertiary

education institution no earlier than five years before the submission deadline.

Further information is available [here](#).

Any queries should be addressed by email to Dr [Gracia Marin Duran](#) (UCL).

Save the Date

A. Conference on The Legitimacy of Unseen Actors in International Adjudication

On 26 and 27 October, *the Conference on the Legitimacy of Unseen Actors in International Adjudication* will take place in The Hague, co-organised by the PluriCourts Centre of Excellence (Oslo University) and the Europa Instituut (Leiden University).

'Unseen actors' are central to the 'institutional makeup' of international courts and tribunals as registries and secretariats, law clerks and legal officers may exert varying levels of influence on the judicial process.

At this conference, legal and political science scholars and members of adjudicatory institutions will consider and discuss the legitimacy of assigning 'unseen actors' certain roles in the judicial process as well as the implications thereof for the dispute settlement mechanism as such.

The Conference Programme and link for registration are now available [here](#). For more information, please email Prof. dr. [Freya Baetens](#).

B. PEPA/SIEL 2018

The 7th Conference of the Postgraduate and Early Professionals/ Academics Network of the Society of International Economic Law (PEPA/SIEL) organised by PEPA/SIEL in collaboration with the Law School of the European University

of Cyprus, will take place on 13 - 14 April 2018 in Nicosia, Cyprus. For more information, please click [here](#).

C. ELSA Moot Competition

Registration for the 16th edition of the ELSA Moot Competition is now open and will close on 3 December 2018. Competition materials and further information is available [here](#).

D. 11th WTO Ministerial Conference

The Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) will take place from 10 to 13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Logistical details are available [here](#).

Courses

A. WTI Course on Treaty Interpretation for PhD Students

The WTI offers a course on Treaty interpretation on 4-8 December 2017. Find the details [here](#).

Vacancies

A. Professorship in International Arbitration Law

The University of Geneva is advertising for a professor or associate professor in international arbitration law.

More information is available [here](#).

Other Activities

A. The UK Trade Forum

The UK Trade Forum is an independent and non-partisan group of trade policy

experts from various backgrounds – law, civil service, journalism, academia, civil society – committed to improving the quality of public debate about international trade and investment policy in the United Kingdom.

The Forum invites all those interested to join this discussion to visit and subscribe to the forum. Further information is available [here](#).

Please note that the next SIEL newsletter is scheduled for **January 2018**. Should you wish to include an item in the next issue, please contact us before the end of December.

Thanks for your support and interest.
Susan Isiko Strba, Maria Laura Marceddu & Johanna Jacobsson.