

LJUBLJANA SANCTIONS CONFERENCE

Call for papers

25 – 26 September 2025

Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

States, as well as international organizations, have a longstanding sanctioning history. However, the recent unprecedented expansion of sanctioning practices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 brought to the fore (and resurrected) manifold legal and practical questions concerning the adoption of sanctions: sanctions are adopted by non-state actors, individual sanctions are increasingly litigated before the Court of Justice of the EU on account of their non-compliance with human rights standards; national authorities often struggle with the implementation of manifold sanctions regimes; states and international organizations are looking into options for improving the effectiveness of sanctions and tackling sanctions evasion; some States and the EU are developing new confiscation regimes, which include both confiscation of state-owned and private property, etc. This proliferation of sanctions regimes means that in practice, States, various international organizations and non-state actors (often simultaneously) adopt different sectoral, targeted and institutional sanctions, which brings to the fore the question of interactions between these sanctions regimes, their effectiveness and their effect on the civilian population. On the other hand, global actors fail to adopt sanctions in relation to other situations involving serious violations of peremptory norms of international law. All these developments touch upon the fundamental issue of the legality and legitimacy of sanctions and the type of world order such practice upholds. This raises difficult questions including (but not limited to) issues concerning the notion and purpose of sanctions in international law and politics, immunities of States, extraterritoriality of sanctions, intersections with international human rights law and investment law, geoeconomic implications of sanctions and their effectiveness, global injustices, their contribution to colonial projects, etc.

The Ljubljana Sanctions Conference seeks to foster interdisciplinary debates and aims to bring together practitioners (both from relevant state authorities, such as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and the private sector), experts and scholars to discuss sanctions in international and European law, politics and economics. It will highlight theoretical, normative, conceptual, and practical challenges on the topic and provide a unique opportunity for exchanging views on, evaluating and analysing lessons learned.

The organizers welcome abstracts from the following topics:

- The development of international sanctions practice;
- The practice of abstention to sanction and the possible double standards;
- The notion of sanctions – theoretical and practical perspectives;
- Challenges in national implementation of sanctions (including listing and de-listing procedures, compliance, sanctions evasion and procedures concerning sanctions violations);
- Sanctions and human rights in the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- Legal issues concerning the confiscation of state-owned property;
- Extraterritorial effects of sanctions;

- Confiscation of private property and human rights;
- Sanctions of and in the context of international organizations;
- Sanctions as geo-economical and geo-political tools;
- Intersections between sanctions and investment law;
- Sanctions and humanitarian action;
- Effectiveness of sanctions;
- Critical approaches to and double standards in sanctioning policies;
- TWAAIL approaches to sanctions;
- The world-making dimensions of sanctions;
- The type of world order promoted by the practice of sanctions.

All those pursuing research on the topic or working on these issues in practice are invited to submit;

- an abstract of a maximum of 500 words together with a short bio OR
- a panel proposal including 3 – 4 abstracts (maximum 500 words) and short bios of presenters.

Please submit your proposals online here: [submission link](#) by **31 December 2024**. You can find more info on the conference [here](#). Scholars who have their abstracts selected for the conference will be required to submit a full paper (8,000-10,000 words, including footnotes) by 31 July 2025. These papers will be sent to chairs/commentators before the conference. The organisers will strive to publish a selection of the presented papers in a special issue of an international journal or an edited volume.

Organizers:

Maruša T. Veber (University of Ljubljana)

Marko Svcevic (Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law, Palacký University Olomouc)

Peter Van Elsuwege (Ghent University, academic supervisor of the MINOS network) and Celia Challet (MINOS Research coordinator)

Scientific Committee

Thomas Biersteker (Graduate Institute Geneva)

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Martin Faix (Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law)

Francesco Giumelli (Groningen University)

Bruno Merlevede (University of Ghent)

Clara Portela (University of Valencia)

August Reinisch (University of Vienna)

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Vasilka Sancin (University of Ljubljana)

Petr Stejskal (Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law)

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In case of any further questions feel free to write to Maruša T. Veber (marusa.veber@pf.uni-lj.si), Celia Challet (celia.challet@ugent.be) or Marko Svcevic (marko.svcevic@upol.cz).