



INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM

Fall 2017 Newsletter



Dear ILAW Alumni & Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the International Law and Organizations Program's biannual newsletter. We hope that it will be a great resource for connecting with our ILAW community.

With 2017 coming to an end, we reflect back on the program's activities over the past year, as well as our aspirations for 2018. Highlights from this past year include a student trip to Vietnam, the release of the 2016 - 2017 International Human Rights Clinic's report on the protection of environmental human rights defenders, and the 2017 SAIS Jessup Team's success in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Round of the competition, where they reached the quarterfinals. We are proud of all the hard work and practical learning opportunities that our students had this year.

It proved to be a busy year for ILAW faculty as well. Professor Wedgwood had an article published in the American Interest on President Trump in light of Charlottesville, spoke at a Human Rights Conference in honor of Sir Nigel Rodley at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, and testified before Congress on the May 2017 violent incident in DC involving Turkish President Erodogan's bodyguards - to name a few. Associate Director Basciano spoke at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies in Sri Lanka on Human Rights under the Trump Administration. More recently, she had a blog published by the Hilton Prize Coalition on responsibility-sharing in refugee management.

In 2018, we look forward to continuing to promote the study of international law and to enhance our capacity to offer more programming to students and the general public. We are very excited to have a course on forced migration in Washington, DC offered by Professor Sarah Sewall of the Kissinger Center. We are also excited to begin preparing our students to compete in the 2018 Jessup and ICC competitions' oral rounds, as well as following the International Human Rights Clinic study on the human rights of women living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. We expect that 2018 will bring many new achievements for the ILAW Program. We thank you for your interest and continued support.

Happy New Year!

The International Law and Organizations Program

On this issue...

-
- 2 International Law Weekend
 - 2 Pumpkin Carving Extravaganza
 - 2 Upcoming Events
-
- 3 Venezuela WOLA
 - 4 Event: Conversations in Foreign Policy
 - 4 Student Profile
-
- 5 International Human Rights Clinic 17-18
 - 5 ILAW in Bologna
-
- 6 Alumni Profile

International Law Weekend

By Tyler Lee



The theme of international law weekend this year was "International Law in Challenging Times." Our world faces a diverse array of problems. The subjects of the 30+ lectures were wide ranging, covering international water conflict, copyright reform, the Syrian conflict, naval warfare, and the crime of aggression.

Lawyers and academics, military commanders and judges, descended on Fordham Law to share their expertise on international law. The keynote address was delivered to a standing-room-only crowd by Sir Christopher Greenwood, judge on the International Court of Justice. My personal highlight was a lively and contentious debate on surveillance and human rights.

Having mingled with the experts in international law, I am quite confident that international law will continue to play a prominent role in these challenging times.

Pumpkin Carving Extravaganza

By Stephanie Sepulveda

Professor Dan Magraw and the International Law and Organizations Program hosted the annual Pumpkin Carving Extravaganza on October 30th.

Students from Professor Magraw's International Environmental Law Class and other SAISers had the opportunity to mingle with colleagues while taking part in this fun tradition over food and drinks. Awards were given to the best pumpkins.



Upcoming Events

- **Feb 7** - Jessup Moot Court Dress Rehearsal
- **Feb 14** - Welcome Back Reception
- **Mar 7** - ICC Moot Court Dress Rehearsal
- **Mar 16-18** - ICC Moot Court Competition
- **Mar 19-20** - United Nations Briefings Trip/ The Hague Briefings Trip
- **Mar 19** - Alumni Happy Hour in NYC
- **April 4-7** - ASIL Annual Meeting in DC
- **May 15** - IHRC Presentation and Report
- **May 22** - ILAW Graduation Reception

Event: Assessing Venezuela's New Political Context and International Responses

By Stephanie Sepulveda

On November 29, 2017, the ILAW Program teamed up with WOLA to host a panel discussion on Venezuela's current political situation. The event was moderated by David Smilde, WOLA Senior Fellow and Charles A. and Leo M. Favrot Professor of Social Relations at Tulane University. The panel featured Margarita López Maya, Professor Emeritus at the Centro de Estudios de Desarrollo of the Universidad Central de Venezuela; Jennifer McCoy, Distinguished University Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University; and Mariano de Alba, Venezuelan Lawyer and expert on international law and international affairs.

The event began with a vibrant discussion where Professor Lopez Maya explained that one of the main issues is that Venezuela is not ruled by law, but is instead subject to personal relations of loyalty and affection, which blur the distinction between private and public.

Regarding the future of the country, McCoy argued that a negotiated transitional government would be best, but López Maya insisted that the Maduro regime was not open to negotiations or pluralism, and mused on the greater likelihood

of a coup from within the regime itself that would renovate the party's image. Mr. de Alba considered that the regime would have to completely collapse before the it would agree to any negotiations. He went on to note that, as of right now, the conditions are not right for this to happen, especially with the support of China and Russia.

In terms of international influence, past and present, all the panelists agreed that although international influence is helpful, the real solution must come from within. Interestingly, Mr. de Alba spoke on the negative effects of the vigorous response of the Trump administration, which has generated considerable backlash in the region, as countries fear the interventionist "father-like" role that the United States has historically played in the region.

McCoy was adamant that both, the opposition and the current regime, needed to move away from the idea of a zero-sum game. "While there is a mindset, on both sides, that this is an all or nothing game, then it's going to remain very ugly and remain a stalemate," McCoy said, "until Venezuelans actually believe that they can live together, then I don't see any good solution."

To watch the discussion in full, visit:
<https://www.wola.org/analysis/assessing-venezuelas-new-political-context-international-responses/>



Event: Conversations in Contemporary Foreign Policy “Can shedding multilateralism—or international law—make America “great”?”

By Stephanie Sepulveda



On November 14th, Professors Ruth Wedgwood and Sarah Sewall invited SAIS students to an informal discussion on current events, the future of multilateralism, and the role of the United States in the international system, at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and give their opinions on the past, present, and future of multilateralism in the international system. The talk eventually led to a vibrant discussion on the current foreign policy stance of the United States, as well as its possible consequences for the prospect of international relations.

Student Profile: Ponsawan Gift Watanasathorn



Ponsawan Gift Watanasathorn is a second-year M.A. student at SAIS in the International Law and Organizations Program with a minor in International Development. She spent her first year at the SAIS Bologna Center, where she was a member of SAIS' Global Security and Conflict Management Club, and participated in Migration and Security Trek to study the refugee crisis in Lesbos, Greece.

During summer 2017, she interned with the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development Team at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Bangkok Regional Hub. Prior to SAIS, she was a consultant at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and worked for Oxfam on sustainable value chain and business and human rights. She is currently working at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Washington D.C. as a Resettlement Intern. Originally from Thailand, she received her Bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology. Gift plans to pursue a career in international development focusing on sustainable development, migration and international human rights.

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2017-2018 International Human Rights Clinic

A Study on Human Rights of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda



Tiffany Cox, Eleanor Dickens, Utpala Menon, Daphne Panayotatos, Radhika Venkataraman, Aieshwarya Davis, Tiffany Basciano, Gift Watanasathorn, Kristin Buchanan, Gheeeun Song.

This fall the 2017 – 2018 international human rights clinic (IHRC) began its study into the rights of women living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The research team has been busy conducting background research, speaking with experts, and preparing the logistics for a field study in January. A few members of the team had the opportunity to meet with the Ugandan Ambassador to the United States and his colleagues for a constructive dialogue on the clinic’s research interests. The team looks forward to their field research and reporting their findings in May 2018.

If you are interested in donating to the IHRC, your support would be greatly appreciated.

International Law at SAIS Europe

Highlights from the events hosted by the *Law and International Organizations Society* at SAIS Europe



“LIOS and GWL Europe collaborate for a screening of “The Testimony” for the International Day to End Sexual Violence against Women.”



“LIOS and the SAIS Europe Food Security Club meet with local representatives from Rise Against Hunger to discuss involvement opportunities.”



“LIOS holds a Halloween-themed UN mini-simulation for UN Day.”

Conversations with Alumni : Ana Vasudevan and Madison Wilcox



Ana Vasudevan and Madison Wilcox currently work at the International Trade Centre (ITC), which is the joint 'trade for development' organization of the United Nations (UNCTAD) and the WTO.

Can you tell us a little bit about where you are working now?

Madison Wilcox: I work on the Trade for Sustainable Development Team (T4SD), whose mission is to connect producers and SMEs in developing countries to international markets through sustainable trade that helps improve their social, environmental, and economic situations.

Ana Vasudevan: I am an International Consultant focused on Research, Partnerships, and Projects for the Women & Trade team, primarily contributing to our flagship "SheTrades Initiative" that is committed to helping women reap the full benefits of trade through greater integration in global commerce and investment. SheTrades aims to connect 1 million women to market by 2020 through an integrated approach involving both private and public-sector partners.

How did the ILAW concentration help you in preparing for your career?

AV: The ILAW concentration helped me better understand how international organizations work together, where gaps remain, and where individuals fit into the picture. The breadth of coursework allowed us to tailor our interests, whether that be the intersection of law and development or another topic.

One of the most valuable experiences that the ILAW program provided was the International Human Rights Clinic. This class really taught me a lot about research methods, in-person interviews, and co-authoring a report. I would highly recommend the experience!

MW: I gained knowledge and experience through the ILAW concentration that has (and continues to) benefit my everyday work. For instance, research methods experience as part of the Human Rights Clinic has been very useful in helping with the design and implementation of my team's projects in Nepal and Cambodia. The ILAW trip to Viet Nam was eye-opening.... and little did I know that Viet Nam would be one of our core project countries at ITC. Additionally, I work with many standards and regulations regarding social sustainability in international trade and environmental sustainability, both of which require me to draw on my education in the ILAW program.

What advice you would give current SAIS students?

MW: Career-wise, start networking early on. Two years will pass by very quickly. If you are coming straight out of undergrad with little full-time work experience (I was as a BA/MA) the summer internship and/or internships during the year can be critical for finding a job afterward. In terms of classes, try to take a broad range but still prioritize the classes you find interesting... In general, make sure to spend time and go to many SAIS events/treks with your friends and classmates. Not only do these people have tons of experience, but they could be the essential contacts you need to get that dream job in the future.

AV: SAIS provides you with a solid education and background, but you need to prepare yourself for the opportunities out there. Start early and leave time to explore your options. Perhaps that includes attending networking events or career panels and setting up informational interviews with alumni, but most importantly give yourself a full picture of what is out there. So many employment opportunities arise out of connections, and you may want to cast a wide net to ultimately find what is right for you.