

How and Why Do Double Standards Matter for International Law?

15-17 May 2025

Geneva, Switzerland

DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

8:00-8:30 – Registration (IHEID Petal 2, S8,
[Venue](#))

8:30-8:45 – Welcome Remarks

Nico Krisch, David Hughes, Patryk Labuda, Naz Modirzadeh and Dustin Lewis(S8)

8:45-10:15 – Panel 1: Great Power Competition, Exceptionalism, and Double Standards (S8)

Discussant: Sophie Eisentraut, Munich Security Conference, Germany

1. Federica D'Alessandra, British Academy Fellow, United Kingdom – Double Standards and Great Power Competition

2. Victor Kattan & Andrea Pelliconi, Nottingham University, United Kingdom – Get Used to Double Standards: Ukraine, Gaza, and the so-called Rules-Based Order

3. Congyan Cai, Fudan University, China – Double Standards in International Law as Means of Practicing Great Power Competition

4. Asaf Lubin, Indiana University, United States – Shades of Legal Nuance: A Functional Analysis of Intelligence Doubletalk

10:15-10:30 – Coffee Break

10:30–12:00 – Panel 2: Double Standards and (Perceived) ‘Existential’ Threats (S8)

Discussant: Alice Pirlot, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

1. Florence Shako, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Kenya – Double Standards in the Global Response to the Climate Change and Energy Crisis
 2. Eliana Cusato, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands – Injustice or Misfortune? Double Standards and ‘Climate Carnage’
 3. Dalia Palombo, Tilburg University, Netherlands – Protecting Corporate Property: Is Climate Change a Game Changer?
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12:00–14:00 – Lunch

14:00–15:30 – Panel 3A: Double Standards, Forced Migration & Technological Innovation (S1)

Discussant: Ana Srovin Coralli, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

1. Bríd Ní Ghráinne, Maynooth University, Ireland – Double Standards in Forced Migration Law
 2. Mariam Hiba Malik, International Committee of the Red Cross, Switzerland – Algorithmic Fairness or Automated Bias: How AI Asylum Systems Reinforce Double Standards in International Refugee Law
 3. Safaa Jaber, Hamid Bin Khalifa University, Qatar – Digital Technologies and Humanitarian Crisis
 4. Christopher Szabla, Durham University, United Kingdom – “Weaponized migration” and Prima Facie Protection on Europe’s Eastern Borders: The Geopolitical Frame and Double Standards
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14:00–15:30 – Panel 3B: Double Standards and International Legal Institutions (S12)

Discussant: Evelyne Schmid, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

1. Carl Emilio Lewis and Birte Annika Böök, TMC Asser Institute & Utrecht University, Netherlands – Intimations of Double Standards through the International Court of Justice
2. Lorenzo Gasbarri, University of Sant'Anna, Italy – Double Standards by Design: National and International Personnel in the Law of International Civil Service
3. Peter Tzeng, Foley Hoag LLP, United States – Presuming the Good Faith of States before International Courts and Tribunals
4. Shubham Jain, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom – Double Standards off the Playing Fields: Questioning Sport Governing Bodies through notions of Neutrality, Fairness, and Law

15:30–16:00 – Coffee Break

16:00–17:30 – Panel 4: Bias, Cognition and Structures of Double Standards (S8)

Discussant: Anne Saab, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

1. Marizia Marastoni, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland – Unveiling the Double Standards in International Legal Scholarship: Analysing Humanitarian Crisis through Cognitive Biases
2. Moshe Hirsch, Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel – Frame Analysis and the Double Standard in the Regulation of Digital Trade in the World Trade Organization
3. Ekaterina Yahyaoui, University of Galway, Ireland – The Function of the Principle of Equality as a Double Standard in International Human Rights Law: Legitimation of a Bias

17:30–17:45 – Coffee Break

High-Level Diplomatic Forum Part I

18:00–19:30 – Keynote Event (IHEID, A2)

Naz Modirzadeh, Harvard Law School, in conversation with (45 minutes each):
Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia

DAY 2: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

8:30–9:00 – Coffee

9:00–10:30 – Panel 5: Double Standards and Legal Argumentation (S12)

Discussant: Patryk Labuda, Central European University, Austria

1. Nico Krisch, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland – Double Standards and their Limits in International Law
 2. Chimène Keitner, University of California Davis School of Law, United States – In Search of Principled Constraints on Internal and External Reason-Giving in International Law
 3. Yussef Al Tamimi, Central European University, Austria – Practices of Mourning in International Law
 4. Alejandro Chehtman, University Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina, Combatant Privilege of Guerrilla Groups, Private Military Security Companies, and Foreign Fighters: A Case of Double Standards?
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10:30–11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 – Panel 6: The Rhetoric, Performance & Weaponization of Double Standards (S12)

Discussant: David Hughes, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Canada

1. Timothy Waters, Indiana University, United States – Ambiguous Tools: International Law's Strategic Deployment of Hypocritical Method
2. Olga Magomedova, Russian Academy of Foreign Trade, Russia – Context Creating: Unrevealed Mission of Whataboutism
3. Niccolò Ridi, Kings College London, United Kingdom – Three Views of a Secret: The Structural Embedding of Double Standards in International Law
4. Tommaso Soave, Central European University, Austria – The Theatrics of Legal Argument: Foreground and Background Discourses in International Law

12:30–13:45 – Lunch

High-Level Diplomatic Forum Part II (Chatham House Rule)

13:45–15:30 – Diplomatic Panel 1: Double Standards in Global Trade & Climate (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Rm. 444)

Moderator: Joost Pauwelyn, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

1. Martins Paparinskis, Chair of International Law Commission
2. Amb. Vilawan Mangklatanakul, Former Thai Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna
3. Aashish Chandorkar, Indian Mission to the World Trade Organization
4. Gabrielle Marceau, Honorary Professor, University of Geneva; Former Senior Counsellor, World Trade Organization

15:30–16:00 – Coffee Break

16:00–17:45 – Diplomatic Panel 2: Double Standards in Human Rights, Humanitarian & Criminal Law (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Rm. 444)

Moderator: John Packer, University of Ottawa, Canada

1. Dima Asfour, Deputy Representative, Palestine Mission to the United Nations
 2. Amb. Dino Patti Djalal, Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Chairman, Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia
 3. Amb. Tormod C. Endresen, Permanent Representative, Norwegian Mission to the United Nations
 4. Cordula Droege, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division of the ICRC, Switzerland
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19:00 – Conference Dinner (Workshop participants only, location to be announced)

DAY 3: SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

8:30–9:00 – Coffee

9:00–10:30 – Panel 7A: Conflict, Accountability, and Double Standards (S12)

Discussant: Dustin Lewis, Harvard Law School, United States

1. Alka Pradhan, Attorney, United States – “Separate and Unequal”: The Military Commissions of Guantanamo Bay
 2. Katharina Stein, Max Planck Institute in Freiburg, Germany – Lawfare and the Fragility of the Jus ad Bellum / Jus in Bello-Divide
 3. Yahli Shereshevsky, University of Haifa, Israel – Equality of Belligerents and Double Standards in Armed Conflicts
 4. Hendrik Simon, Peace and Research Institute, Germany – Justifying War: Scandalizing Violence. A Modern Genealogy of a Central Double Standard in the History of International Law
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9:00–10:30 – Panel 7B: Trade, Sanctions, Unequal Application of International Economic Law (S11)

Discussant: Thomas Schultz, University of Geneva, Switzerland

1. Iryna Bogdanova, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg & Luigi Lonardo, University College Cork, Ireland– Unilateral Economic Sanctions: Is it Really 'the West versus the Rest'?
 2. James Devaney, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom – Unilateral Sanctions, Double Standards and the Undermining of the International Rule of Law
 3. Alexandr Svetlicinii and Xueji Su, University of Macao, China – International Trade Governance of Dual-Use Items: Towards a Dualist Plurilateral Solution
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10:30–11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00–12:15 – Roundtable Discussion (S12)

Moderator: Nico Krisch, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

1. Rapporteur: Alejandro Chehtman, University Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina
 2. Ardi Imseis, Queen's University, Canada
 3. Katia Papagianni, Director, Mediation Support and Policy, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
 4. Anna Dolidze, Member of Parliament, Former Deputy Minister of Defence, Georgia
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12.15–12:30 – Closing Remarks

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