

## **ASIL DRIG PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE IN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (2025)**

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### **Winner Announcement**

The Dispute Resolution Interest Group (DRIG) of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) is pleased to announce that the winner of the third edition of the DRIG Prize for Best Article in International Dispute Resolution is Dr **Fabian Eichberger** for his article “Informal Communications to the International Court of Justice in Cases of Non-appearance”, which was published in *The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals*, Volume 22, 2023.

In his article, Dr Eichberger addresses the increased non-appearance of respondent States before the International Court of Justice and openness of the Court to accepting informal communications from non-appearing States. The paper examines the implications of the Court’s practice to date, highlighting key issues of procedural fairness and impacts for the Court’s legitimacy. Through a careful and sophisticated analysis, including a detailed engagement with ICJ cases, Dr Eichberger concludes that the Court should take a more formal approach to informal communications.

The Prize consists of a certificate of recognition, a complimentary registration for the 2025 ASIL Annual Meeting, a complimentary one-year membership in the Society, and a complimentary one-year subscription to the Jus Mundi international law and arbitration search engine. The winner of the Prize was announced at the 2025 ASIL Annual Meeting.

### **The Selection Process**

The Selection Committee for the third edition of the Prize was chaired by **Esmé Shirlow** (Australian National University) and comprised the following members from both academia and practice: **Julian Arato** (University of Michigan), **Tom Ginsburg** (University of Chicago), **Sebastián Green Martínez** (Uría Menéndez), **Natalie Morris-Sharma** (Attorney-General’s Chambers, Singapore), **Sabina Sacco** (Sabina Sacco Arbitration LLC), **Priyanka Shetty** (AZB & Partners), **Amer Tabbara** (University of Birmingham), and **Philippa Webb** (University of Oxford).

The ASIL DRIG received 34 articles by the deadline indicated in the call for submissions.

The Selection Committee assessed all the eligible papers in accordance with the following process:

- In a first round of review, papers were distributed amongst members of the Selection Committee, who reviewed and ranked them according to the following criteria: a) depth of research; b) sophistication of analysis; c) originality; d) quality of writing; and e) potential impact on the field of international dispute resolution. When receiving the papers for review, Selection Committee members were asked to indicate whether there was any circumstance that would prevent them from exercising independent judgment over a particular paper or author.
- The Chair of the Selection Committee reviewed all papers and, primarily based on the rankings submitted by the Selection Committee members, shortlisted the 5 best papers.
- In a second round of review, each member of the Selection Committee reviewed and ranked the 5 shortlisted papers according to the same evaluation criteria.
- The decision regarding the winner of the Prize was taken by the Chair of the Selection Committee and DRIG Co-Chairs Belén María Ibañez and Nikhil Gore, based on the votes received from the Selection Committee members and the Chair and Co-Chairs’ own votes.

The Selection Committee would like to emphasize the excellent quality and diversity of the papers received, covering a great variety of areas of international dispute resolution. The Selection Committee is grateful to all authors for having submitted their papers and congratulates the Prize winner Dr **Fabian Eichberger** for his outstanding article!

Dr Esmé Shirlow  
Chair of the Selection Committee  
April 2025