

# Women in International Law Interest Group

## Note from the Co-Chairs

Dear WILIG Members,

In this newsletter, we share with you WILIG's successful activities at the ASIL Annual Meeting 2025, introduce the new WILIG Steering Committee members, celebrate exciting news and the achievements of WILIG members, and request your thoughts on future activities, especially WILIG webinars.

We would also like to extend special thanks from everyone in WILIG to Yvonne Dutton for her important contributions as WILIG Co-Chair from 2022-2025. While her term as Co-Chair has come to an end, she will continue to serve on WILIG's Steering Committee as past Co-Chair for a three-year term until 2028.

Also, please feel free to join the WILIG LinkedIn Page by scanning the QR code if you have not yet done so 😊



## WILIG ASIL Annual Meeting 2025 Activities

### WILIG Prominent Woman in International Law 2025

Viviana Krsticevic, Executive Director of the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), was the recipient of the 2025 Prominent Woman in International Law (PWIL) Award in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to gender justice and women's human rights through international law. WILIG Co-Chairs Valerie Oosterveld and Hannah Garry presented the PWIL statue to Viviana during the WILIG luncheon at the Annual Meeting, attended by over 100 WILIG members and supporters to celebrate Viviana's achievements and contributions to international law and gender justice.

Viviana was a very deserving recipient: for decades, she has been using international law to break through glass ceilings for women in international law, promote women and their voices in the field, and contribute substantively to advancing, researching, advocating for, and promoting women's human rights and gender justice.

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## Women in International Law Interest Group

### WILIG Officers

#### Co-Chairs

Valerie Oosterveld  
Hannah Garry

#### Secretary

Suhong Yang

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CEJIL is one of the most influential human rights organizations in the Americas, and Viviana has played a crucial role in advancing strategic litigation, policy advocacy, and capacity-building efforts to protect and promote human rights, particularly for women and marginalized communities. Under her leadership, CEJIL has successfully litigated cases before the Inter-American human rights system, leading to groundbreaking legal precedents that have expanded protections against gender-based violence and discrimination. She has also spearheaded regional and global initiatives aimed at strengthening legal frameworks for gender justice and ensuring that international legal mechanisms are accessible to those most in need.

Viviana has also been a strong advocate for gender parity in international institutions. As a founder and leader of the GQUAL campaign, she has played a critical role in challenging gender disparities in international tribunals and human rights bodies, pushing for increased representation of women in decision-making roles that shape international law and justice.

In addition to her leadership in civil society, Viviana is a member of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, where she plays a critical role in investigating and documenting serious human rights violations, particularly those affecting women and girls. Her work on this mission reflects her unwavering dedication to strengthening international legal mechanisms to protect human rights.

Viviana's impact extends beyond litigation and policy reform—her mentorship and leadership have inspired a new generation of human rights defenders and legal professionals, particularly young women, to pursue careers dedicated to justice and equality. She also writes, teaches, and speaks about a broad range of human rights issues which affect all genders, including women. Her scholarship in both English and Spanish is influential in the development of human rights law, and she is routinely invited to

share her views and expertise on the most cutting-edge issues.

In light of Viviana's tireless advocacy, strategic vision, and deep commitment to human rights, WILIG is delighted that she was this year's recipient of this prestigious award.



## WILIG Scholarship Prize 2025

The winner of the 2025 ASIL WILIG Scholarship Prize is Rebecca J. Cook (ed.), *Frontiers of Gender Equality: Transnational Legal Perspectives* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023). WILIG Co-Chairs Valerie Oosterveld and Hannah Garry presented the Prize certificate to Prof. Cook at the Annual Meeting, followed by a lively discussion with Prof. Cook of the book.

*Frontiers of Gender Equality* examines multiple legal dimensions of gender equality, demonstrating that the wrongs of discrimination can best be understood from the perspective of the discriminated, and that gender discrimination continues to persist and grow in new and different contexts, widening the gap between the principle of gender equality and its realization, particularly for subgroups of women and LGBTQI+ individuals. The book illustrates how gender discrimination continues to be normalized and camouflaged, and how it intersects with other axes of

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subordination, such as indigeneity, religion, and poverty. This is a truly substantive volume and a valuable addition to the literature on international women's human rights law.

The Selection Committee - Irini Papanicolopulu (SOAS), Kate Parlett (Twenty Essex, UK), Jaya Ramji-Nogales (Temple), Susana SáCouto (American University), and Valerie Oosterveld (WILIG Co-Chair) - considered a strong list of nominated publications for the Prize. The Committee unanimously agreed that *Frontiers of Gender Equality* stood out for its breadth and depth, significant intellectual contribution, and effectiveness at identifying both challenges and solutions. The Committee members deemed it well-written, well-argued, well-supported, and well-integrated. They praised its multidisciplinary nature, and its combination of theory, doctrine, and practice. The Committee felt that this volume is particularly important and relevant in today's geopolitical climate.

Warm congratulations to Prof. Cook and the authors of *Frontiers of Gender Equality*! A huge thank you to the Selection Committee for reading and considering all of the submissions for the WILIG Scholarship Prize, and to WILIG Steering Committee member Andrea Prasow for her superb assistance in facilitating the selection process.



## WILIG Coffee and Conversations

WILIG serves as a platform for mentorship, growth, and advocacy, empowering women who are making their mark in international law and guiding aspiring professionals. WILIG had successfully hosted coffee sessions at ASIL Annual Meetings and Midyear Meetings.

WILIG's Coffee and Conversation at the 2025 Annual Meeting left a lasting impression. The room was alive with animated discussions and meaningful connections among a diverse gathering of about 70 women from various backgrounds and experiences. It was a powerful display of camaraderie and shared purpose, highlighting the vital role of community in building connections among women in international law and enriching our collective understanding. Thank you to WILIG's Christiana Essie Sagay for organizing and promoting these gatherings! ■



## New WILIG Steering Committee Members

Please join us in welcoming six wonderful women to the WILIG Steering Committee, including two academics - Diane Marie Amann (Professor at University of Georgia School of Law) and Elena Baylis (Professor at University of Pittsburgh Law School), one law firm senior associate - Iulia Padeanu Mellon (Foley Hoag, Washington DC), one International Organization lawyer - Charlotte Perez (The Hague), one government attorney - Cynthia Frey (US Department of Justice), and one NGO executive director - Elise Keppler (Global Justice Center, New York).

We look forward to working with all the new and continuing Steering Committee members!





## Member Spotlight

The member spotlight section showcases WILIG members' professional achievements. All are welcome to submit professional updates you would like us to feature in future newsletters, whether it be a new book/article, promotion, job, award, or other accomplishment!



**Ramona Vijayarasa, Professor,  
Faculty of Law, University of  
Technology Sydney**

International women's rights scholar, Dr Ramona Vijayarasa, recently promoted to Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney has published '**Misdirected by the daddy quota: A comparative study of paid parental leave across twenty-one Asian nations**' in the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, accompanied by a piece for think-tank The Lowy Institute, **Getting Dads to Care**.



**Penelope Ridings, Member,  
International Law Commission**

The Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law has published an article by Dr Penelope Ridings entitled 'Women and the International Law Commission: Knocking at the Door of Gender Diversity' which is available open access: [Here](#). It addresses the fact that in the 75 years of its existence, there have only been eleven women members of the International Law Commission. In a forthcoming article, she will examine 'Women in WTO Dispute Settlement: The Role of Individuals as Catalysts for Gender Inclusion' to be published in *Reckoning and Renewal: The World Trade Organization and Its Dispute Settlement System at 30. Essays in Honour of Valerie Hughes* (Nicolas Lamp, ed., forthcoming 2025).



**Jasmine Moussa, Legal Advisor to  
Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Dr. Jasmine Moussa, PhD (Cantab), Legal Advisor to Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, was appointed to the Permanent Court of Arbitration on 24 December 2024.



**Shaoxuan Xu, LL.M., New York  
University School of Law**

Shaoxuan Xu, LL.M. (NYU Law), was recently admitted to the Ph.D. program in Law at Fudan University Law School. She plans to return to China to commence her doctoral studies in September 2025. Her research will concentrate on jurisprudence, with a specific focus on the international legal regulation of transnational data governance.

Additionally, Shaoxuan secured an internship position with the New York Supreme Court, Civil Term. She looks forward to these opportunities for academic research and practical legal experience.



**Jenna Dolecek, Investigations  
Consultant with Justice Rapid  
Response**

Jenna Dolecek, Investigations Consultant with JRR, was recently the speaker at her alma mater, Wichita State University's, UN Dinner, on May 3. She also spoke at OSINTCon on May 24 in a session titled "Bringing Bad Guys to Justice: OSINT in International Criminal Investigations". Finally, she was also recently elected as an Executive Committee Officer for the Lieber Society.

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### Valerie Oosterveld, Professor, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law

Dr Valerie Oosterveld has co-authored, with Darryl Robinson, Sergey Vasiliev, and Elies van Sliedregt, the 5th edition

of **Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure** (Cambridge University Press, 2024) 624 pp. She has also published “Civilian Protection, Gender, and Geneva Convention IV: Has Interpretation Filled the Gaps?” in Jelena Pejic and Margaret Kotlik (eds.), **Civilian Protection in Armed Conflict** (Oxford University Press, 2025) 267-286; “Canada’s Support for and Utilization of International Courts and Tribunals as Tools of International Criminal Justice” in Kirsten Van Houten and Alex Neve (eds.), **Hand in Hand? Canada at the Human Rights and Peacebuilding Nexus** (Springer, 2024) 171-192; and “The Special Court for Sierra Leone”, in Pedro Caeiro, Sabine Gless, and Valsamis Mitsilegas, (eds.), **Elgar Encyclopaedia of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice** (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024) 511-520.



### Hannah Garry, Clinical Professor of Law, USC Gould School of Law

In April 2025, Professor **Hannah Garry**, WILIG co-chair and member of ASIL’s Executive Council, returned to USC Gould School of Law to lead

the next chapter of its **International Human Rights Clinic** which she founded in 2011, and launch the brand-new Justice and Accountability Initiative (JAI) as its inaugural faculty director. Hannah will carry forward the Clinic’s mission at USC to train the next generation of advocates through engagement in lawyering for prevention and justice for atrocities, gender justice, refugee rights and fair trial protections, locally and globally. Further, through the JAI, Hannah will launch a platform for institutional growth in the

Clinic’s impact areas by leveraging the interdisciplinary expertise of stellar faculty across campus dedicated to human rights. JAI will expand educational opportunities for students while engaging faculty in impactful scholarship and projects that apply critical approaches to existing international legal frameworks as well as progressive development of the law for advancing human rights in response to current global crises.



### Suhong Yang, Global Academic Fellow, The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Dr Suhong Yang joined the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in July 2024, following her service as Judicial

Fellow at the International Court of Justice. Suhong recently published “**Legitimacy of International and Hybrid Criminal Tribunals: Political, Normative, Economic, and Sociological Perspectives**”, in 53 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY. She has also co-authored an article with Dr Shuai Guo, “Selection Process of Judges and Members at International Courts and Tribunals: In Search of Efficient Transparency”, which is forthcoming in the Journal of International Dispute Settlement. In Spring 2025, Suhong lectured at HKU Department of Politics and Public Administration where she taught the course “Law, Politics, and the International System” for HKU Master of International and Public Affairs Program. In Fall 2025, she will teach tutorials in Law of Contract at HKU Faculty of Law. Suhong is also organizing a conference, “International Criminal Justice in the Contemporary Asia-Pacific Region”, which will take place at HKU in September 2025. This event will be a key activity to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the HKU Centre for Comparative and Public Law where Suhong serves as Research Manager. ■



## Requests for Thoughts and Feedback

We would like to hear from you!

What would you like to see WILIG do this year and beyond?

Would you like to co-sponsor an event with WILIG involving women and international law at your law school, law firm, NGO, international organization or elsewhere? If so, please reach out to Valerie or Hannah (emails below).

Would you like to propose ideas for WILIG webinars? We plan to organize 3 to 4 webinars in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. If you have any proposal, please feel free to email Valerie.

If you are running an event that may be of interest to WILIG's membership, please contact Suhong and we will share information about it with our members if appropriate.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Valerie Oosterveld ([vooster@uwo.ca](mailto:vooster@uwo.ca)) and Hannah Garry ([HGarry@law.usc.edu](mailto:HGarry@law.usc.edu)) (Co-Chairs)

Suhong Yang ([sy510@georgetown.edu](mailto:sy510@georgetown.edu)) (Secretary)