

Women in International Law Interest Group

Note from the Co-Chairs

Dear WILIG Members,

We hope you all had a great holiday season. We enjoyed seeing many of you at the ASIL Midyear Meeting in Pittsburgh in November 2023. We hope you enjoyed the WILIG Coffee Networking Session.

Below, we announce the winner of this year's Prominent Woman in International Law Award; provide information on recent and upcoming WILIG activities; and request your thoughts and feedback on future activities.

We hope to see many of you at the ASIL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Please be on the lookout for information about WILIG's programming for the Annual Meeting.

2024 Prominent Woman in International Law Award



Please join us in congratulating Professor Karima Bennoune, our 2024 Prominent Woman in International Law. The award recognizes the work of women who use international law to advance women and women's rights, break through glass ceilings, and promote women and women's voices in the field. Professor Bennoune's work does all of this, and more!

Professor Bennoune is the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law at the University of Michigan. She specializes in public international law and international human rights law, including issues related to culture, extremism and terrorism, and women's human rights. Professor Bennoune served as the UN special rapporteur in the field of cultural rights from 2015 to 2021. She was also an appointed expert for the International Criminal Court in 2017 during the reparations phase of the groundbreaking case *The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi*, which concerned intentional destruction of cultural heritage sites in Mali. In September 2023, she addressed the UN Security Council about gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

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Women in International Law Interest Group

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Views contained in this publication are those of the authors in their personal capacity. The American Society of International Law and this Interest Group do not generally take positions on substantive issues, including those addressed in this periodical.



2024 Prominent Woman in International Law Award —continued from page 1

Many prominent international lawyers from around the world supported Professor Bennoune's nomination for this award, citing her "influential and truly groundbreaking work in the field of human rights and her indefatigable leadership in defending women's rights." They noted the timeliness of bestowing the award on Professor Bennoune this year, considering the global momentum gathering around a project she inspired to gain international legal recognition of the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan as gender apartheid. This work has not only charted an important legal path, it has made Professor Bennoune "a trusted ally of women's rights defenders in Afghanistan and Iran."

As UN Special Rapporteur, Professor Bennoune emphasized the equal rights of women to take part in cultural life without discrimination, receiving many accolades, including from Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson and Nigerian Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. As early as 1995, when she was still a junior lawyer, Professor Bennoune served as the legal advi-

sor for the Global Tribunal for Accountability for Violations of the Human Rights of Women, held during the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. Later, she led Amnesty International's successful lobby in support of the UN's adoption of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

In promoting women's rights, Professor Bennoune has done substantial fieldwork, risking her life and receiving death threats to uplift and promote women suffering persecution around the world. As one supporter wrote, "She has been a fearless pioneer treading on ground where many have self-censored, as in the case of her monograph, *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here*." As another stated, Professor Bennoune's work has given hope to millions for a better, more just future for women."

We cannot think of a more deserving recipient of WILIG's Prominent Woman in International Law, and hope you will all join us on April 5, 2024 at the WILIG Luncheon at the ASIL Annual Meeting where we will honor Professor Bennoune and present the award. ■

Call for Applications for WILIG Prominent Woman in International Law Luncheon Half-Price Tickets

This year, WILIG will offer the opportunity for up to 10 individuals to obtain half-price tickets to the WILIG Prominent Woman in International Law Luncheon to be held at the ASIL annual meeting on Friday, April 5, 2024 honoring Professor Bennoune. These tickets will be available on a first-come, first served basis. To apply, please send an email to wilig@asil.org expressing your interest in the luncheon and briefly stating why the reduced ticket price would be beneficial to you. We expect that most of the individuals applying will be students or junior lawyers without funding sources.

Call for Applications for WILIG Leadership Positions

WILIG has the following leadership positions open this year: (1) Co-Chair (Meg's term is ending); and (2) three Steering Committee members. Each position is for a three-year term. ASIL will be sending information about how to apply for the co-chair position soon.

If you are interested in being considered for the Steering Committee, please send a short statement of interest and CV to wilig@asil.org by Friday, March 1, 2024.

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Call for Submissions for WILIG Scholarship Prize

WILIG seeks nominations for its third biennial Scholarship Prize which will be awarded in 2024 and formally presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting. **Submissions for the prize are due on May 30, 2024.**

The WILIG Scholarship Prize highlights and promotes excellence in international law scholarship involving women and girls, gender, and feminist approaches. It recognizes innovative contributions to international law scholarship that theorize or utilize a feminist lens or lenses, highlight, and seek to address topics disproportionately affecting women and girls, or consider the impact of international law or policy on gender more broadly. The WILIG Scholarship Prize Committee may award up to two prizes: one for book length monographs or edited volumes, and the other for individual articles or book chapters. Nominators may only nominate one book or article per cycle. Self-nominations are welcome. Submitted works will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **Appropriate Substance.** The work utilizes a feminist lens or lenses, addresses a topic that disproportionately affects women and girls, or considers the impact of international law or policy on gender more broadly.

2. **Innovative.** The work addresses topics not covered by previous scholars, highlights diverse perspectives on law and policy, uses new theoretical or methodological approaches, or applies theoretical or methodological approaches to topics in new ways.
3. **Learned.** The work demonstrates in-depth knowledge and expertise concerning a topic.
4. **Impactful.** The work has affected or has the potential to affect the way scholars and policy-makers view or address a particular topic or issue going forward.

To submit an article, chapter, or book published in the last three years for consideration, please send the relevant scholarly work, along with a cover letter describing why the work merits the award in light of the criteria above, to wilig@asil.org by May 30, 2024. If you are recommending a book, we suggest you obtain an electronic copy from the publisher. However, if you are unable to send a copy in electronic format, please contact Suhong Yang (sy510@georgetown.edu) so that we can make other arrangements.

Call for Applications for WILIG Leadership Positions —continued from page 2

Steering Committee members advise the co-chairs and participate actively in WILIG's programmatic initiatives, including, among others, the Mentoring Program, panels, Scholarship Prize, and Prominent Woman in International Law Award. Steering Committee members serve on subcommittees in support of one or more of these initiatives, attend

twice yearly Steering Committee meetings, and correspond over email with each other and the co-chairs. Serving on the Steering Committee is a wonderful way to learn more about and contribute to WILIG's and ASIL's missions, and to work with a great group of people. ■

WILIG Panel Activities

Expert Roundtable on Dusting off the Law Books on Gender Persecution: Intent to Discriminate

WILIG co-sponsored a Zoom Webinar event with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) on Friday, September 15, 2023, on the intent to discriminate element of gender persecution in the ICC Prosecutor's Policy on the Crime of Gender Persecution.

As with all forms of persecution, accountability for gender persecution requires recognition and understanding of the discrimination that underlies the crime. At this roundtable, experts examined the discriminatory intent element of gender persecution in the Rome Statute and discussed how a holistic understanding of the reasons why perpetrators commit persecutory acts can work toward elimination of discrimination and break cycles of violence. The speakers also unpacked the intent versus motive to commit crimes debate and how gender persecution may, and frequently does, intersect with and constitute multiple forms of persecution.

The panelists included:

- Milena Sterio (moderator), Charles R. Emrick Jr. – Calfee Halter & Griswold Professor of Law at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law & PILPG Managing Director;
- Lisa Davis, Special Adviser on Gender Persecution to the ICC Prosecutor & Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law;
- Kim Thuy Seelinger, Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor;
- Madeleine Rees, Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom;
- Shyamala Alagendra, SGBV Adviser, OHCHR, Sri Lanka, Accountability Project.

WILIG Career Roundtable: Breaking Barriers to Success in International Law Careers

WILIG held its annual career panel via zoom on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. It was co-sponsored by the Minorities in International Law Interest Group and the New Professionals Interest Group.

This roundtable conversation featured accomplished professionals across the international law sphere, including in academia, government, international organizations, and law firms. They discussed their career paths and offered professional advice and insights for women interested in pursuing careers in international law. The panel also discussed women's unique barriers and opportunities in international legal careers. The conversation was followed by a Q&A session with participants.

The panelists included:

- Betsy Apple, Global Climate Legal Defense Network & Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs;
- Sophia Durand, Enviva;
- Lauren N. Hughes (moderator), Georgetown University Law Center, Clinical Teaching Fellow;
- Emily Kimball, U.S. Embassy in The Hague;
- Jaya Ramji Nogales, Temple University, Beasley School of Law, I. Herman Stern Professor of Law.

Panel on Women as Perpetrators in Atrocity Law

WILIG held a Zoom Webinar event on Women as Perpetrators in Atrocity Law on Monday, December 4, 2023.

This panel explored how atrocity law treats women suspected and convicted of perpetrating atrocity crimes, including under international criminal law,

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WILIG Midyear Meeting Event

“Coffee Connection, & Conversation” Session

During the ASIL 2023 Midyear Meeting in Pittsburgh, WILIG hosted a 90-minute networking session on Friday, November 10. Around 20 WILIG members joined us over coffee and pastries for conversations dedicated to fostering connections between seasoned professionals and rising international lawyers and scholars while gaining insights into WILIG’s programming and initiatives. We hope you will all join us at future WILIG coffee networking sessions.



WILIG Panel Activities —continued from page 4

with a focus on the distortions and stereotyping that arise in these cases. Our panelists examined the issue through historic and contemporary lenses, using case studies to surface legal, political, and sociological aspects of the topic.

The panelists included:

- Kiyala Jean Chrysostome, International Centre of Nonviolence, Faculty of Management Sciences in Durban University of Technology in South Africa;
- Jessica Trisko Darden, Security and Foreign Policy Initiative at William & Mary’s Global Research Institute;

- Mark Drumbly (moderator), Washington and Lee University School of Law, Class of 1975 Alumni Professor of Law;
- Solange Mouthaan, University of Warwick Law School, Associate Professor of Law;
- Izabela Steflja, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University, Assistant Professor.

Recordings of panel events can be viewed on the WILIG website at <https://www.asil.org/community/women-international-law>. ■

WILIG Mentoring Programs

Mentoring Program

2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the WILIG Mentoring Program. WILIG has supported the professional development of more than 800 mentees with over 85 mentors across the globe, in Africa, Asia, North America, Europe, and Latin America. Mentoring is taking place mostly virtually, with about three to four mentees for every mentor. Mentors and mentees meet online approximately once a month during the academic year to discuss topics of mutual interest and engage in activities designed to help junior women enter and be successful in the field of international law.

The 2023-24 Mentoring Program started in October 2023 and will run until summer 2024. For more information about the mentoring program, please contact our Mentoring Program Coordinator, Lucia Solano, at wiligmentorship@asil.org.

Summer Scholarship Mentoring Program

WILIG launched a Junior/Senior Summer Scholarship mentoring program in May 2023. The program seeks to assist younger academics and women interested in entering academia to secure mentoring and support as they pursue academic careers. In summer 2023, WILIG matched seven junior scholars with senior scholars who served as mentors. The matched pairs met several times during the summer remotely or in person, to provide feedback on a scholarly project. As a capstone to the program, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, WILIG hosted a virtual meeting for the junior scholars to answer their questions about “Going on the Academic Job Market.” In November, two of the mentees, Charlotte Perez and Suhong Yang, presented their summer work at the ASIL 2023 Midyear Meeting.

This new initiative could not have happened without the support of our many generous and talented senior women scholars who shared their time and expertise with the junior scholars who participated in the program. WILIG would like to express its sincere gratitude to the mentors: Catherine O’Rourke, Kathleen Claussen, Jocelyn Getgen, Meg deGuzman, Cymie Payne, Diane

Orentlicher, and Nienke Grossman. Their contributions to the development of junior scholars and their willingness to support WILIG is much appreciated.

WILIG will host this program every two years. We look forward to organizing the second Scholarship Mentoring Program to be held during Summer 2025.

Member Spotlight

We are happy to add a member spotlight section to our Newsletter to showcase WILIG members’ professional achievements. Please let us know if you have a professional update you would like us to include in future newsletters, whether it be a new book/article, promotion, job, award, or other accomplishment.



Anne Trebilcock

University of Göttingen; former Legal Adviser at the International Labour Organization

Anne Trebilcock co-edited a book “Social Justice and the World of Work (Bloomsbury 2023)” with Brian

Langille of the University of Toronto. It includes 30 forward-looking essays, some by ASIL members, and a dedication to Francis Maupain. In July 2023, Anne moderated a panel at the ILO’s Research for Decent Work Conference and a launch event co-sponsored by the Graduate Institute, the Swiss Government, and the Thinking Ahead on Societal Change Platform in Geneva. For the video of that event, “Social Justice and the Future of the ILO”, see <https://vimeo.com/844852978>.



Shea Esterling

Senior lecturer, University of Canterbury, Faculty of Law (New Zealand)

Dr. Shea Esterling has published a book “Indigenous Cultural Property and International Law: Restitution,

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Rights and Wrongs (Routledge, 2023)”. The book examines the restitution of cultural property to Indigenous Peoples in human rights law, in particular under Article 11 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, offering a detailed analysis of the opportunities and constraints of international law as a tool of resistance and social transformation for marginalized groups. With its interdisciplinary approach to the field, this book will appeal to scholars and students in the fields of law, politics, anthropology and indigenous studies in canvassing themes related to colonialism, essentialism, indigeneity and non-state actors among others.



Chimène Keitner

*Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law,
University of California Davis School of Law*

Professor Keitner has joined as an author of the 8th edition of Aspen’s International Law casebook, with Allen Weiner (Stanford) and Duncan Hollis (Temple). The newly published edition, which includes access to sample syllabi and a comprehensive Teacher’s Manual, includes a broader range of authors and perspectives on core topics in international law and U.S. foreign relations law.



Rebecca Cook

*Professor of Law Emerita, Faculty of Law,
University of Toronto*

Frontiers of Gender Equality-Transnational Legal Perspectives, Rebecca Cook ed. has been published in Bert Lockwood’s Human Rights series of the University of Pennsylvania Press. The purpose of the volume is to explore how theories of gender equality can inform doctrine and the practice of gender equality law in various international, regional and national human rights and constitutional forums. The book is divided into three sections: I. Understanding Gender Inequality and Equality, II. Advancing Gender

Equality through Human Rights Treaties, III. Looking Back to Move Forward. The book’s Introduction and a course syllabus based on the volume are available at: <https://frontiersofgenderequality.ca/>.



Marta Treviño-Leyva

*American University Washington College
of Law*

Marta Treviño-Leyva was recently appointed Assistant Director for the Kovler Project Against Torture and Impact Litigation at the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at AU-WCL. In this pivotal role, she is excited to contribute to the Center’s vital work addressing the global torture challenge. The Kovler Project plays a crucial role in advancing impactful litigation strategies to combat torture and promote human rights globally. Marta is eager to lead initiatives that make a tangible difference and contribute to the broader mission of the Center, reinforcing our commitment to the principles of international law and human rights. ■

Request for Thoughts and Feedback

If you are running an event that may be of interest to WILIG’s membership, please contact Suhong Yang at sy510@georgetown.edu and we will share information about it with our members and in our next newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Meg deGuzman (deguzman@temple.edu) &
Yvonne Dutton (ydutton@iupui.edu) (Co-Chairs)
Suhong Yang (Secretary)