Towards a Global History of International Law

A Workshop marking the publication of Bardo Fassbender / Anne Peters (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of International Law* (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2012)
Rechtskulturen Workshop
Towards a Global History of International Law

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Bardo Fassbender / Anne Peters (eds.),
The Oxford Handbook of the History of International Law
(Oxford University Press, Oxford 2012)

Convened by:
Anne Peters (Basel / Berlin), Bardo Fassbender (München),
Alexandra Kemmerer (Berlin)

Friday, February 1, 2013
Magnus-Haus, Am Kupfergraben 7, 10117 Berlin

Organized by:
Recht im Kontext / Rechtskulturen
Alexandra Kemmerer
Lucy Chebout, Kerstin von der Krone, Sylvi Paulick

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The Oxford Handbook of the History of International Law: A Step Forward on the Road Towards a Global History of International Law

The Oxford Handbook of the History of International Law, published in December 2012, aims at providing an authoritative and accessible overview of the origins of basic concepts and core issues of contemporary public international law. In form and in substance, it tries to break fresh ground by analyzing the modern history of international law in a global perspective, thereby overcoming the Eurocentrism of traditional scholarship on the subject. Pursuing both a global and an interdisciplinary approach, the Handbook brings together some sixty eminent scholars of international law, history and legal history from all parts of the world. Covering international legal developments from the 15th century until the end of World War II, the Handbook consists of sixty-five individual chapters, which are arranged in six parts. Following an introduction written by the editors, the book opens with an analysis of the principal “actors” in the history of international law, namely states, peoples and nations, international organizations and courts, and civil society actors. Part Two is devoted to a number of key themes of the history of international law, such as peace and war, territory and boundaries of states, trade, hegemony, religion, and the protection of the individual person. Part Three addresses the history of international law in the different regions of the world (Africa and Arabia, Asia, The Americas and the Caribbean, Europe), as well as “encounters” between non-European legal cultures (like those of China, Japan and India) and Europe, which had a lasting impact on the body of universal international law. Part Four examines certain forms of “interaction or imposition” in international law, such as diplomacy (as an example of interaction) or colonization and domination (as an example of an imposition of law). The classical juxtaposition of “the civilized” and “the uncivilized” is also critically studied in that part of the Handbook. Part Five is concerned with problems of the method and theory of history writing in international law, for instance the periodization of international law, or Eurocentrism in the traditional historiography of international law. The Handbook concludes with a Part Six, entitled “People in Portrait”, which explores the life and work of twenty prominent scholars and thinkers of international law, ranging from Muhammad al-Shaybani, a scholar of the 8th century, to Sir Hersch Lauterpacht, the British scholar and judge of the 20th century. The Handbook wants to provide historians with new perspectives on international law, and increase the historical and cultural awareness of scholars of international law.

As the editors of the Handbook remarked in their Introduction, to leave a well-worn path is exciting but always risky. It means meeting unforeseen obstacles. If one wants to shed light on developments, which had so far remained in darkness, one had better be prepared to encounter the unexpected and the not so easily understood. “In this sense, the present Handbook is a beginning only. It represents a first step towards a global history of international law. In the words of Robert Frost’s wonderful poem, we tried to take the road ‘less traveled by’, but we appreciate that we have only come so far.” Many histories of international law are still unwritten. Hopefully, the Handbook will encourage more interest in and inspire more intense research of those histories.
Program

10:00—10:30 Introductory Remarks
Christoph Möllers (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Alexandra Kemmerer (Recht im Kontext/RECHTSKULTUREN)
Merel Alstein (Oxford University Press)
Bardo Fassbender, Anne Peters (Editors)

10:30—12:30 Panel I: Encounters
Speakers: Stefan Kirmse (Berlin), Lydia Liu (New York), Lauri Mälksoo (Tartu),
Nahed Samour (Berlin)
Moderator: Andreas von Arnauld (Münster)

12:30—14:00 Lunch Break

14:00—16:00 Panel II: Themes
Speakers: Jane Burbank (New York), Will Hanley (Berlin), Rose Parfitt (Cairo),
Reut Paz (Tel Aviv, Helsinki), Wilfried Zoungrana (Erfurt)
Moderators: Daniel Högger (Basel) and Thore Neumann (Basel)

16:00—16:30 Coffee Break

16:30—18:00 Podium Discussion
Overcoming Eurocentrism: Global History and the History of International Law
Panelists: Sebastian Conrad (Berlin), Andreas Eckert (Berlin),
Anne-Charlotte Martineau (Leiden), Georg Nolte (Berlin), Thomas Skouteris (Cairo),
Wang Hui (Beijing, Stockholm)
Moderator: Alexandra Kemmerer (Berlin)

18:00—18:30 Concluding Remarks
Anne Peters (Basel, Berlin), Bardo Fassbender (München)

The following speakers are invited to reflect upon the book, to praise and criticize—against the backdrop of their own research questions and disciplinary approaches.
Participants

Andreas von Arnauld
Andreas von Arnauld is Professor of Public Law, International and European Law at the University of Münster (Westphalia). He studied Law in Hamburg and Bonn and holds a Doctor iuris from the University of Hamburg. Before taking up his current position in April 2012, he taught at the Freie Universität Berlin (Assistant Professor from 1999 to 2006) and at Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Bundeswehr in Hamburg (Professor from 2006 to 2012). His principal fields of research are international law (esp. law of peace and armed conflict, human rights law, dispute settlement), EU law, German and comparative constitutional law and legal theory (with a special focus on law and literature).

His books include Rechtssicherheit [Legal Certainty] (Mohr Siebeck, 2006), a textbook and a collection of cases on Public International Law (C.F. Müller, 2012), and, as an editor, Recht und Spielregeln [Law and the Rules of Games] (Mohr Siebeck, 2003), a commentary on the German legislation concerning European integration (Nomos, 2011, co-editor) and a handbook on the external dimensions of EU law (Nomos, 2013, forthcoming). He is co-editor of Die Friedens-Warte: Journal of International Peace and Organization.

Jane Burbank
Jane Burbank is Professor of History, Russian & Slavic Studies at New York University and Collegiate Professor at Harvard University. She studied Russian and Soviet Studies and received her Ph.D. in History from Harvard University in 1981. She taught at Harvard University, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Michigan, before joining New York University in 2002. She has been a Visiting Professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris; the École Normale Supérieure de Cachan; and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. In her first monograph, Intelligentsia and Revolution: Russian Views of Bolshevism, 1917—1922, Burbank explored the interpretations of the Bolshevist revolution produced by Russian intellectuals—from anarchists to nationalists—during the revolution and civil war. Russian Peasants Go to Court: Legal Culture in the Countryside, 1905—1917, based on both statistical analysis and case studies, revealed, contrary to entrenched opinion, that Russian peasants used their local courts extensively and voluntarily. From the 1990s, Burbank has worked on several collective projects concerning the Russian Empire. One of her co-edited volumes, Russian Empire: Space, People, Power 1700—1930, brings together the work of a team of scholars working in Russia, Ukraine, the United States and Great Britain. Burbank’s most recent book, co-written with Frederick Cooper, Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference, won the World History Association’s Book Prize for 2011. She is now working on a monograph about imperial law and sovereignty in the province of Kazan (today’s Tatarstan) from 1870 to 1917.

Sebastian Conrad
Sebastian Conrad holds the chair of Modern History at the Freie Universität Berlin. Before moving to Berlin in 2010, he taught for three years at the European University Institute in Florence. His work focuses on modern European and Japanese history, but has

**Andreas Eckert**
Andreas Eckert is Professor of African History at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He has been Visiting Professor at Indiana University (Bloomington), Harvard University, the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (Paris) and Fellow at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Study (FRIAS). His research and writing focuses on the history of Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries, on the history of colonialism, and the history of global labour. He is the author of numerous books and articles, between 2005 and 2011 he served as editor of the *Journal of African History* (published by Cambridge University Press) and he is currently preparing a general history of Africa since 1850. Since October 2009, he has been directing the International Research Institute on “Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History”, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Science and Research. He is also Chairman of the German Association of Social Historians and of the Forum Transregional Studies.

**Bardo Fassbender**
Bardo Fassbender is Professor of International Law at the Bundeswehr University in Munich. He studied Law, History and Political Science at the University of Bonn (Germany) and holds an LL.M. from Yale Law School and a Doctor iuris from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He was a Ford Foundation Senior Fellow in Public International Law at Yale University and a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. Before joining the Bundeswehr University, he taught in Berlin, Sankt Gallen and Munich (Ludwig Maximilians University). As of April 2013, he will hold the chair in International Law, European Law and Public Law at the University of Sankt Gallen.


Will Hanley

Will Hanley is Assistant Professor of History at Florida State University and Rechtskulturen Fellow 2012—13. He studied at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Toronto, and Oxford before taking his doctorate in history at Princeton (2007). He is completing work on a book about the emergence of nationality as a social and legal category in Alexandria, Egypt between 1880 and 1914. During the 2012—13 academic year, as a Rechtskulturen Fellow in Berlin, he is working on the broader institutional history of justice in Egypt between 1875 and 1950. He serves as Associate Editor (Book Reviews, Non-Americas) of the Law and History Review. He is also developing a digital tool (called Prosop) to help historians to collect and organize large volumes of demographic data.


Daniel Högger

Daniel Högger is PhD candidate and works as a Research and Teaching Assistant to the Chair of International Law at the University of Basel. He holds a degree (lic. phil./MA) in Political Science, International Law and History from the University of Zurich (Switzerland), and an additional degree (MA with distinction) in International Studies (International Political Economy) from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom).

He is Assistant Editor of the Oxford Handbook of the History of International Law and of Conflict of Interest in Global, Public and Corporate Governance (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012), edited by Anne Peters and Lukas Handschin. His research interests are in history of international law and international relations as well as in the interrelationship between international law and politics.

Alexandra Kemmerer

Alexandra Kemmerer is Academic Coordinator of the Research Network Recht im Kontext and its program Rechtskulturen: Confrontations beyond Comparison at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She is a member of the Frankfurt Bar and has been a Research Fellow at the University of Würzburg, Faculty of Law (Jean Monnet Chair for European Law), a law clerk with the European Commission’s Delegation to the United Nations, New York, and a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the section “Law, Politics, Institutions” at the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig. She has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence, and visits regularly at the University of Michigan Law School. Her research interests
include international law, European public law, constitutional theory, comparative constitutional law, context(s) of law, and the media theory and communicative praxis of law. Currently, her research concentrates on transnational citizenship in Europe and on the history of European and International Law as a history of ideas, with a particular interest in interrelations between biography, doctrine and theory.


**Stefan Kirmse**

Stefan B. Kirmse is RECHTSKULTUREN Fellow 2012—13 and works at the intersection of History and Social Anthropology. His current research project combines an investigation of legal reform in late imperial Russia with an analysis of rule over a heterogeneous Empire. It not only discusses the making of a modern court system but also explores ordinary people’s use of the new courts. By focusing on multiethnic regions of the Empire, it examines the ways in which new legislation created a plural legal order in which state courts existed alongside village, religious, and native legal forums. Thus, the project discusses both law-making and legal practice in terms of interacting legal cultures.

Stefan Kirmse recently edited the volume *One Law for All? Western Models and Local Practices in (Post-Imperial Contexts* (Frankfurt and New York: Campus, 2012), in which legal reforms and practices are discussed in a comparative global perspective. Exploring cases from Russia, Latin America, Africa and East Asia, the volume tracks the ways in which lawmakers and ordinary people talk about and actively use the law, thereby telling a story of contested European hegemony, local assertions, and multiple legal borrowings.

**Lydia Liu**

Lydia Liu is Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Director of Graduate Studies in the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University. Professor Liu received her PhD from Harvard (1990). Before joining Columbia in 2006, she was the Helmut F. Stern Professor in Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan (2002–2006) and the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Berkeley. She was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1997–1998) and was a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2004–2005). Among her many activities in 2009—2010, Professor Liu founded a new Tsinghua-Columbia Center for Translingual and Transcultural Studies (CTTS) at Tsinghua University in Beijing to promote international collaboration and interdisciplinary research.
Professor Liu’s research has focused on cross-cultural exchange in recent history; the movement of words, theories, and artifacts across national boundaries; and the evolution of writing, textuality, and technology. Her recent publications include *The Freudian Robot: Digital Media and the Future of the Unconscious* (University of Chicago Press, 2010) and together with Rebecca Karl and Dorothy Ko *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory* (Columbia University Press, 2013, forthcoming).

Lauri Mälksoo
Lauri Mälksoo is Professor of International Law at the University of Tartu in Estonia, the country’s national university. He has been educated in Law at Tartu (LL.B. 1998), Georgetown (LL.M. 1999) and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (PhD 2002). From 2003—2006, he was the Estonian member in the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights (a predecessor of today’s Fundamental Rights Agency). From 2002 onwards, he advised, on a part-time basis, the Estonian Chancellor of Justice (ombudsman combined with constitutional control functions). He has published mostly on the history and theory of international law and was the first Estonian to receive an individual grant from the European Research Council (2009—2014) for research on Russia’s understanding of public international law and human rights law. He has been Board Member of the European Society of International Law since 2008 and organized the Society’s 4th Research Forum in Tallinn in 2011.

Anne-Charlotte Martineau
Anne-Charlotte Martineau is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University. She holds a LL.M. in Public International Law from University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (2004) and an LL.M. in Legal Theory from University Paris X Nanterre (2005). Her PhD focuses on the “fragmentation of international law”, which she is writing under the supervision of both Martti Koskenniemi and Emmanuelle Jouannet. Between 2000 and 2003, she worked as a legal officer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Croatia and as a protection officer for the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Guinea.

Her areas of interests include the history of international law, legal theory (including critical legal theory), general international law, and refugee law/immigration policies. She is the author of several publications, including an article on history of the fragmentation debate in the Leiden *Journal of International Law* and a book on the various hybrid courts (edition Pédone).

Christoph Möllers
Christoph Möllers is a Professor of Public Law and Jurisprudence at the Faculty of Law at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He was a Fellow at the NYU School of Law and is permanent Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Professor Möllers is a judge-elect at the Superior Administrative Court in Berlin. His main interests include theory and comparison of the separation of powers, democratic theory in public law, theory of norms, and administrative regulation.
Thore Neumann

Thore Neumann is PhD candidate and works as Research and Teaching Assistant to the Chair of Public International Law, Prof. Dr. Anne Peters, LL.M., at the Faculty of Law of the University of Basel. He has studied Law at Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, and at the University of Oxford.


In 2012, Thore Neumann joined the Swiss team of case reporters for Oxford University Press’ International Law in Domestic Courts Database.

Georg Nolte


Rose Parfitt

Rose Parfitt is currently an Assistant Professor of International Law at the American University in Cairo, and as of June 2013 will be a McKenzie Research Fellow at Melbourne Law School’s Institute for International Law and the Humanities (IILAH). She is interested in the relationship between international legal history, theory and material inequality, focusing in particular on the concept of international personality. She obtained her doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) in 2011, with a thesis entitled Ethiopia and the Incorporation of the Disciplinary ‘Other’: A Bakhtinian Approach to International Personality. Her post-doctoral project, “We will give you another law and another king”: Fascism, Empire and International Community, to be undertaken at IILAH, will challenge the taken-for-granted opposition between fascism and its supposed nemesis, international law.


**Reut Paz**

Reut Paz holds a PhD (2009) in International Law and Politics. She has conducted her research on the *Jewish question* within the international legal framework at the University of Helsinki, Bar Ilan University (Israel) and at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Reut Paz taught International Law at the Haim Striks School of Law at the College of Management—Academic Studies in Rishon LeZion (Israel) and at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and remains an affiliated research fellow at the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Helsinki.

Her recent book, *A Gateway Between a Distance God and a Cruel World: The Contribution of Jewish-German International Lawyers to International Law* (Brill, 2013), is a collective biographical study of four scholars (Erich Kaufmann, Hans Kelsen, Hersch Lauterpacht and Hans J. Morgenthau) that investigates how Jewish identity and intellectual ties to Judaic civilization in the German speaking and legal context influenced international law. This book relies on several biblical constitutive metaphors in order to argue that these mainly *secular* Jewish-German lawyers inherited, inter alia, a particular Jewish legal approach that *made* their understanding of the law as a means to reach God.

**Anne Peters**

Anne Peters is Professor of International Law and Constitutional Law at the University of Basel, a position she has held since 2001, and Dean of Research of the Law Faculty. She is a member of the Council of Europe’s Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) in respect of Germany. She served as the president of the European Society of International Law from 2010—2012. Currently, she is a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2012—13).

Born in Berlin in 1964, Anne Peters studied at the universities of Würzburg, Lausanne, Freiburg, and Harvard. Her research activities cover the field of general public international law, especially its constitutionalization, European constitutional law, constitutional theory and constitutional comparison, and national and international human rights. She regularly teaches international law, international and European human rights law, international humanitarian law/international criminal law, the law of international organizations, EU law, comparative constitutional law and constitutional theory, and Swiss constitutional law.

Nahed Samour

Thomas Skouteris
Thomas Skouteris is Associate Professor in the Department of Law at The American University in Cairo and Director of AUC’s Ibrahim Shihata Memorial LL.M. Program in International and Comparative Law. Before he joined AUC in 2008 he was teaching at the Faculty of Law of Leiden University in the Netherlands, where he also acted as Academic Coordinator of the LL.M. Program in International Law. Thomas Skouteris obtained his degree in law from Democritus University of Thrace. He completed his LL.M. degree in International Law (cum laude) at the University of Leiden in 1995 and his PhD in 2000. In 1996, he became research fellow at the T.M.C. Asser Institute (The Hague), and from 1997—1999 he served as Senior Fellow at the European Law Research Center.

Professor Skouteris has served in various other posts, such as Secretary General of the European Society of International Law (2004—2011), General Editor of the Leiden Journal of International Law (since 1995), Chair of the Foundation for New Research in International Law, Founding Member of the European Society of International Law, and Visiting Professor at the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Wang Hui
Wang Hui is Changjiang Professor of Literature and History at Tsinghua University in Beijing and Director of Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. From 1996—2007, he was editor of Dushi, the most famous intellectual journal in China, and launched a series of important discussions and debates. His main fields are Chinese intellectual history, Chinese literature and political theory. Among his publications, The Rise of Modern Chinese Thought (4 volumes) is considered one of the major achievements in this field in the last decade. His works have been translated into different languages including Politics of Imagining Asia (Harvard University Press, 2011), The End of Revolution: China and Limits of Modernity (Verso, 2009), China’s New Order (Harvard University Press, 2003).
Wilfried Zoungrana

Wilfried Zoungrana from Burkina Faso (West Africa) has completed his master’s degree in Public Policy at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Erfurt in September 2012. He was then granted a scholarship by the University of Erfurt to pursue his PhD Colonizing Lakatos: Appraising Progress in the Postcolonial Research Programme on Terrorism in International Relations at the Faculty of Economics, Law, and Social Sciences. His dissertation is supervised by Prof. Hoffmann, Franz Haniel Chair of Public Policy and Director of the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. In November 2012 Wilfried Zoungrana presented at the Annual Conference of the African Law Association at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on Mutual Inclusion: Postcolonialism and the History of International Law.
Contact

RECHTSKULTUREN: Confrontations Beyond Comparison
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
Wallotstr. 19
14193 Berlin
www.rechtskulturen.de
rechtskulturen@trafo-berlin.de
Historians of international law, be they lawyers or historians, did not explicitly turn to global perspectives. The protagonists of the blooming field of global history (or world history, or transnational history), in turn, did not show much interest in the law, be it as a normative concept or a material practice.  


The study of International Relations is growing rapidly all over the world. IR students in Western universities are an increasingly multicultural lot, drawn from many different parts of the world. Second, global IR calls for IR to be more authentically grounded in world history, rather than Western history and in the ideas, institutions, intellectual perspectives and practices of both Western and non-Western societies. Bringing the Rest in does not mean simply using the non-Western world as a testing ground to revalidate existing IR theories after a few adjustments and extensions. Global IR must be a two-way process.

International Monetary Fund Global Governance Epistemic Community Master Narrative Asymmetrical Development. These keywords were added by machine and not by the authors. This process is experimental and the keywords may be updated as the learning algorithm improves. Cite this chapter as: Herren M. (2014) Introduction: Towards a Global History of International Organization. In: Herren M. (eds) Networking the International System. Transcultural Research Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context.