



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Call for Papers

Ukraine and the Post-Liberal International Order after the *Zeitenwende*

University of Zurich, Faculty of Law ; Institute for International and Foreign
Constitutional Law

15-16 June 2023 ; Zürich, Switzerland

The war in Ukraine is widely seen as a turning point in international affairs. In addition to disrupting the lives of millions of Ukrainians, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has had direct and indirect impacts on people, states, and the global legal order. While the war has been met with unprecedented 'Western' solidarity, including in the form of extensive sanctions, their downstream effects on food and energy security have produced backlash from many non-Western states, which continue to trade with Russia. Although some nominally non-aligned governments, notably India and China, have warned against President Putin's nuclear sabre-rattling, some states also point to Western double standards in violating the non-intervention norm, hesitate to impose coercive measures against Russia, and advocate reform of multilateral institutions, for instance the UN Security Council. In short, there is a sense that the 'Ukraine moment' may produce a fundamental re-alignment of the global order. In the words of the German chancellor, it may constitute a *Zeitenwende*.

Against this backdrop, this conference examines how different states, regional actors and non-state actors have used and abused international law in responding to the war in Ukraine. Several master narratives have emerged to describe the ongoing changes. Russia propagates a story of a civilizational clash, pitting the 'West' against the 'Rest', whereas some Western leaders invoke the trope of 'democracies' versus 'autocracies'. Meanwhile, analysts focus on voting patterns in the UN General Assembly to extrapolate support for Ukraine and Russia, employing equally broad strokes narratives about the 'West', 'Global South' or 'Non-Alignment'. Moving beyond assumptions, generalisations, and master narratives, this conference aims to analyse how state, regional and non-state actors have responded to the war in different areas of international law, for instance on the prohibition of force, unilateral and multilateral sanctions, food and energy security, accountability for serious crimes and human rights violations, migration governance, nuclear proliferation, climate change and environmental protection. In addressing these questions, the conference is an opportunity to consider questions, such as: to what extent the war in Ukraine is a transformational moment for the legal order? Will post-2022 reforms help decentralize global governance in selected areas of international law or, conversely, resurrect multilateralism? What new and old cross-regional and intra-regional alliances are likely to form?

We are pleased to confirm that Prof. Heike Krieger, Free University Berlin, will deliver the keynote speech.

Application procedure:

Please send your abstracts, max. 500 words, and a brief, max. 200 word bio explaining your expertise, by **16 April 2023**, to patryk.labuda@uzh.ch and elif.askin@rwi.uzh.ch.

We aim to inform selected speakers by 25 April 2023. Submissions are welcome from scholars of international law and international relations, as well as practitioners, working on or for different regional, state and non-state actors, eg from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, African Union, European Union, Latin American states, League of Arab States, China, Brazil or India. Non-Western perspectives are encouraged.

We have a moderate budget for air travel and accommodation, but we kindly request applicants to use – if applicable – their own funding to allow us to invite more people and foster a diversity of perspectives. This will be a hybrid conference, with a majority of speakers in-person and selected participants delivering online presentations. Please indicate in your submission whether you are applying for funding, online participation, or would like to be considered for both. We aim to explore options for a post-conference publication.

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