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6th PIL Early Career Researchers' Conference Call for Papers

The **6th PIL Early Career Researchers' Conference** will take place on **9 and 10 April 2027** at **Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich**. We are delighted to have **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz-Peter Mansel (University of Cologne)** as our keynote speaker. The theme of the conference is

Crises in PIL – Crises of PIL

We are living in an age of *polycrisis*: war and environmental destruction are forcing thousands upon thousands to flee; growing social inequality and the concentration of economic power are undermining social cohesion; political polarization and the rise of renationalization threaten the project of European integration and international cooperation. At our conference, we aim to explore the implications of these crises for private international law (PIL). What new questions do the political, social, economic, and ecological crises of our time raise for PIL? How does PIL contribute to crisis management, or, conversely, to the exacerbation of crises? And might the discipline of PIL itself be in crisis?

We welcome contributions on conflict-of-laws and international civil procedural law at the national, European, and international levels. The following topics are merely suggestive – there are no limits to creativity when choosing a theme!

Fundamentals of PIL (history, methodology, comparative law, etc.)

The fundamentals of PIL should be re-examined in light of the polycrisis: What lessons can be drawn from PIL's role during past crises? To what extent do crises shape the methodology of PIL? What insights can comparative law offer? And what risks are posed by labelling developments as a 'crisis' in legal policy debates?

- **States, constitutional crises and PIL:** What was the role of PIL during the Nazi regime? In times of extremism and dictatorship, does PIL become a political instrument pawn or even obsolete? What protection mechanisms are needed in such contexts? How does PIL respond to war and violations of international law, and what impact do these events have on the development and application of PIL?
- **PIL and colonialism:** To what extent are colonial ways of thinking embedded in the history and contemporary practice of PIL? Are there forms of modern colonialism within PIL? How should the increasing use of overriding mandatory provisions with extraterritorial effect be assessed in this context? To what extent does this trend undermine the principle that such rules should remain the exception, not the rule, in PIL?
- **The crisis of PIL in Europe: Is Intra-European PIL losing its relevance?** With ongoing harmonization through EU legislation, the future role of intra-European PIL is increasingly questioned. Many recent EU legal acts, such as the GDPR or the AI Act, have a broad territorial scope. What does this mean for questions of applicable law? How does this development affect the significance and function of PIL within Europe?

- **The shift toward International Civil Procedural Law?** What are the implications for PIL if international jurisdiction is increasingly used as a filter to align *forum* and *ius*?

International Family and Succession Law

As areas of law deeply rooted in societal, cultural, and historical foundations, international family and succession law face mounting challenges - challenges intensified by the current *polycrisis* and raising urgent questions about the application and evolution of these areas of PIL.

- **Migration Law and PIL:** How can migration law and PIL collaborate to protect the rights and interests of refugees? How can PIL support successful integration without disregarding cultural diversity? How can PIL address the application of foreign law that leads to undesirable outcomes, such as discrimination?
- **Temporary residences:** Can a place be considered a person's habitual residence if they are staying without the intention of settling, due to flight or displacement? Is international law on the protection of adults equipped to handle demographic changes, such as involuntary relocations due to care needs?
- **The best interests of the child in times of crisis:** How do courts and authorities apply the principle of the best interests of the child during crises? Are differences in its application across migration and family law contexts justified, or should they be harmonized?
- **Changing forms of relationships:** How can PIL respond to the 'crisis' of marriage and the growing diversity of alternative forms of partnerships? How can it ensure the cross-border recognition of marriages and civil partnerships while safeguarding the rights of couples across different legal systems?

International Contract and Commercial Law

Cross-border contractual relationships and global value chains are profoundly affected by geopolitical crises and other global challenges. At the same time, multinational corporations themselves contribute to legal and PIL crises.

- **Party autonomy as a central concept in international contract law?** Is the current, largely unrestricted primacy of party autonomy in international contract law still appropriate? Should it be reined in to better account for sustainability concerns, such as those arising in supply chain law?
- **Disruption of global supply chains:** How do disruptions to international supply chains affect their treatment under conflict-of-laws rules? What legal consequences arise from recent disruptions, such as those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, tariffs, or sanctions? Is the current conflict-of-laws framework adequate for regulating global supply chains, or does it require reform?
- **Conflicting standards in Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG):** How does PIL respond to conflicting ESG standards, such as those between the EU's CSDDD and the "ESG backlash" in the United States? Can and should PIL play a role in addressing the climate crisis, despite opposing political currents?
- **Threats to data security and personal rights:** Can PIL ensure accountability for globally operating companies that violate personal rights and data protection? Conversely, what

mechanisms can PIL employ to counter the abusive use of economic power, such as through so-called SLAPPs by large corporations against journalists and activists?

- **Legal enforcement against global players:** How effective is private enforcement as an alternative to public enforcement? What role does PIL play in enforcing consumer protection laws or holding online platforms liable for antitrust violations?

International Civil Procedural Law and Arbitration

International civil procedural law and arbitration are under increasing pressure during times of crisis, especially when geopolitical uncertainties affect legal systems. If these two areas fail to adapt to the crisis, the effective enforcement of law across borders is at risk.

- **Enforcement of rights during the times of crisis?** Can cross-border collective redress successfully pool the claims of different legal entities that would not be pursued individually ('rational apathy')? How is international jurisdiction determined in cross-border class actions? What other procedural issues arise? What impact do current litigation funding mechanisms have, and is reform needed in this regard?
- **Disruptive events and interim relief:** Is cross-border interim relief, particularly under the Brussels Ia Regulation, adequate for today's crises? Are the provisions of the Hague Convention on Child Abduction sufficient to ensure the timely return of children in practice? What new types of proceedings could ensure uniform interim legal protection across Europe?
- **Access to justice:** How can effective access to courts be ensured during crises, especially in the protection of human rights and the environment? What new challenges arise from the resurgence of the *forum non conveniens* doctrine? What potential and risks do general or specific *forum necessitatis* provisions present?
- **Arbitration in crisis:** Both the CJEU and national courts are increasingly imposing restrictions on arbitration, for example, in sports arbitration (CJEU, Case C-600/23 – FIFA; the Pechstein case) or in investment arbitration (CJEU, Case C-284/16 – Achmea). What are the implications of these developments for the future of international arbitration? How should international arbitration adapt to these evolving legal and political realities?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We welcome submissions for **plenary presentations** of **approximately 20 minutes**. The written versions of these presentations will be published in an edited volume following the conference.

In addition, we will host **parallel sessions with short presentations (5–10 minutes)**, designed for interactive discussion in smaller groups. We also welcome abstracts for such short presentations, including work in progress. Please note: short presentations will **not** be included in the edited volume.

The conference language is **German**; however, we also welcome warmly presentations in **English**. Submissions must be sent by **27 September 2026** to IPR-nachwuchstagung@jura.uni-muenchen.de and should include the following:

- An anonymised **abstract** (**max. 800 words including footnotes**) in **PDF format**
- A short **cover letter**, included directly in the email, stating your **name, address** and **institutional affiliation**
- Preferred presentation format: **plenary presentation** and/or **short presentation**

The selection of speakers will be announced by the **end of October**. Further information is available on our [website](#). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by [email](#).

We look forward to receiving many exciting and thought-provoking contributions!

CONFERENCE TEAM

Nina Benz | Biset Sena Güneş | Torsten Kindt | Peter Moser | Christopher Reibetanz

Alix Schulz | Bianca Scraback | Antonia Sommerfeld | Charlotte Wendland