

CALL FOR PAPERS

Legal Resilience in an Era of Hybrid Threats

8–10 April 2019, Exeter, United Kingdom

<http://www.legalresilience.co.uk/>

Conference theme

Over the last decade, we have witnessed the emergence of a more antagonistic international system characterized by increased competition among major powers. With the advent of a more confrontational era, international law has emerged as a major battleground for legitimacy and strategic communication.

Lawyers have struggled to find the appropriate terminology and analytical perspective to address this development. NATO and the EU and have embraced the notion of hybrid warfare to describe the threats their member States are facing. The concept also informs thinking at the national level. However, the notion of hybrid warfare, together with the rival concepts of gray zone conflict and lawfare, lack precision and are both under- and over-inclusive. Moreover, different institutions use these concepts in different ways. The legal community is thus facing a situation where key organizations and political leaders have adopted a language that does not translate well into legal categories and vice versa.

The concept of legal resilience has the potential to overcome some of these institutional and terminological differences. This is so because legal resilience emphasizes the resistance of legal systems to change and their capacity to adapt in response to disturbances. This shift in focus should enable stakeholders to concentrate on how the law copes with a range of challenges, whether they emanate from hybrid warfare, gray zone conflict or lawfare. The legal resilience perspective therefore should offer a common framework of analysis and a common set of objectives to guide efforts in safeguarding the rule-based international order.

Against this background, the conference aims to better understand the different elements and features of legal resilience; clarify the relationship between legal resilience, hybrid warfare, hybrid threats, gray zone conflict and lawfare; and explore the utility of legal resilience as an analytical and policy framework for countering the legal challenges arising in current international affairs.

Call for papers

The Exeter Centre for International Law and its conference partners, the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Lieber Institute for Law and Land Warfare of the United States Military Academy, are delighted to invite proposals for papers to be presented at the conference. Proposals addressing the following questions and themes are particularly welcome, as are interdisciplinary, theoretical and case-study based approaches:

- What is legal resilience? What is its potential as an analytical concept and as a policy framework? What are its potential shortcomings? What are the key elements of legal resilience and what does it mean for a legal system to be resilient? How do we measure legal resilience?
- How can the international legal system be rendered more resilient in the light of contemporary threats and challenges to the rule of law? What role can legal resilience play in strengthening a rules-based international order?
- What legal challenges do gray zone conflict, hybrid threats and hybrid warfare present to individual States, international organizations and the international legal system, and how should we categorize these challenges? What contemporary or historical incidents and case-studies best illustrate the legal dynamics involved? What specific challenges do influence operations and other indirect forms of intervention or aggression present?
- Are there alternative perspectives that better explain the instrumentalization of law in international relations? What is the explanatory potential of lawfare in this context? How does it relate to the legal dynamics of gray zone conflict, hybrid threats and hybrid warfare?
- How should States and international organizations respond to the legal challenges presented by gray zone conflict, hybrid threats, hybrid warfare and lawfare? What is

counter-lawfare and what legal and ethical questions does it raise? How could the concept of legal resilience be operationalized in this context?

Submission and selection of papers

Proposals for papers should be submitted electronically by the end of **30 November 2018** to ecil@exeter.ac.uk. Proposals should contain the name and contact details of the author, the title of the paper to be presented and an abstract not exceeding 600 words. Authors should also attach a brief CV. All papers to be presented should be original work and not have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Proposals and papers must be in English. We aim to inform authors of the outcome of their submissions by 14 December 2018.

Publication of papers

A selection of the conference papers will be published as an edited volume with an academic publisher. Acceptance of a paper for presentation at the conference does not automatically imply its selection for publication. Papers selected for publication will be subject to a separate process of peer review.

Administrative arrangements

The conference will take place at the Streatham Campus of the University of Exeter. All conference participants, including speakers, are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Accommodation on campus will be arranged for speakers on request. Further information and travel directions are available at <http://www.legalresilience.co.uk/>.

Where possible, the conference organizers kindly invite speakers to cover their own travel expenses. However, limited funding is available to assist those speakers who are not in a position to do so.

Please direct any queries regarding the conference and the call for papers to ecil@exeter.ac.uk.