



Summer Programme

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World

Confirmed Speaker:

Dr Niels van Willigen, lecturer of international relations in the Department of Political Science at Leiden University

Lecture

International Law and the Use of Force

The use of force in the relations between states is highly restricted. Since 1945 there is a legal obligation for states to refrain from using violence to settle disputes. This rule is not always respected, to put it mildly. International political events and processes regularly involve the use of force. Under certain circumstances the use of force in international relations is allowed. This lecture covers both the lawful and unlawful use of force in international politics. Specific focus will be on the legal restrictions regarding the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction. An example of a question that will be addressed is: why is there a clear prohibition on the use of chemical weapons and biological weapons, but not on the use of nuclear weapons? These and other questions are addressed in an interactive session with ample room for discussion.



Biography

Dr Niels van Willigen is a lecturer of international relations in the Department of Political Science at Leiden University, the Netherlands. As of January 2015 he is also the Department's Director of Studies. From 1996 to 2001 Dr Van Willigen studied history at Leiden University. Having completed his studies in 2001, he did research on the 'European Security and Defense Identity' as a part of NATO's research fellowship program. From 2002 to 2007 he has worked as a PhD-candidate in the Department of Political Science of Leiden University. Since 2007 he works as a lecturer of international relations. Since 2011 Dr Van Willigen is also a senior analyst in the Peace & Security Section of the Global Governance Institute in Brussels.

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