

Asser Doctoral Seminar Series on International Arms Control Law

Seminar One Arms Trade and Conventional Weapons 16-17 June 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on International Arms Control Law will provide a select number of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers with insights into the current and future issues raised by International Arms Control Law with perspectives from international law and related disciplines. At each seminar, academics and practitioners will deliver four expert lectures on the international legal framework of arms control, geo-political perspectives on arms control, institutional and procedural frameworks for control and disarmament, as well as emerging issues and trends. Additionally, the seminar provides an opportunity for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to discuss an aspect of their research related to International Arms Control to foster interdisciplinary exchange among peers in a low-stakes environment.

Topic of the Seminar

The first 2022 doctoral seminar features the topic of 'Arms Trade and Conventional Weapons'. Conventional weapons encompass a wide range of military equipment other than weapons of mass destruction. Conventional weapons, such as combat vehicles, small arms and light weapons, landmines and ammunition, are the most common type of armament globally and feature most often in conflict situations. Unlike weapons of mass destruction, no general international norms forbid the use of conventional weapons. Instead, international law focuses on regulating the arms trade and irresponsible transfers of weapons to conflicts where they are likely to exacerbate violence and human rights abuse, such as through the Arms Trade Treaty, multilateral arms embargoes and export control regimes. Geo-political tensions and stretched national resources repeatedly test the effectivity of these mechanisms, requiring actors to focus on new approaches to reducing the negative impact of conventional weapons.

Seminar Programme

Location: Asser Institute (Mancini Room)
Date: Thursday 16 – Friday 17 June 2022
Organizers: Professor Thilo Marauhn; Thea Coventry

The seminar will be structured around four lectures spread over two days on the topics of 1) Arms Control from a Geo-Political Perspective; 2) the Arms Trade Treaty; 3) Arms Export Controls; and 4) the Role of Civil Society in Conventional Arms Control and Disarmament. Following the lectures, participants will be able to present their research and/or engage in peer-to-peer discussions on conventional arms control. Participants in the seminar are also kindly invited to join, as part of the programme, a public lecture on the impact of the Ukraine conflict on conventional arms control, which will take place at the Asser Institute on 16 June at 18.00 in the Mandala Room. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Participation in the workshop is per invitation, extended to approximately 10 participants who are currently conducting research in arms control. Participants may be undertaking doctoral/postdoctoral research in legal, historical, political or theoretical fields. The event is organized in-person. Lunch for participants will be provided on both days. Please contact Thea Coventry (t.coventry@asser.nl) by 8 June to register, or for any questions.

Timeline

10 June 2022	Deadline for registration
16 to 17 June 2022	Doctoral Seminar

Preliminary Schedule

Day 1: Thursday 16 June 2022
 9.00 - 9.30 **Words of Welcome**
Opening and round of introductions

Morning Session 9.30 to 13.00	
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9.30-10.30 **Arms Control from a Geo-Political Perspective**
 Dr Matúš Halás (*Deputy Research Director, Institute of International Relations Prague*)

10.30-11.00 Discussion

11.00-11.30 Coffee/Tea Break

11.30-13.00 Participant presentations and roundtable discussions

13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session 14.00 to 16.30	
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14.00-15.00 **The Arms Trade Treaty**
 Professor Zeray Yihdego (*Professor of Public International Law, University of Aberdeen*)

15.00- 16.00 Discussion

16.00-16.30 Coffee/Tea Break

Evening Session 18.00 to 20.30	
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18.00-18.15 **Words of Welcome**
 Professor Thilo Marauhn (*Special Chair of Arms Control Law, Asser Institute*)

- 18.15-19.00 **Public Lecture: The Impact of the Ukraine Conflict on Conventional Arms Control**
Col (ret) Wolfgang Richter (*Senior Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs*)
- 19.00-19.45 Discussion
- 19.45-20.30 Reception

Day 2: Friday 17 June 2022

Morning Session 9.30 to 13.00

- 9.30-10.30 **Arms Export Controls**
Sabine Visser (*Policy Advisor, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.30-13.00 PhD Presentations and roundtable discussions
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session 14.00 to 16.00

- 14.00-15.00 **Conventional Arms Control and Disarmament: The Role of Civil Society Organizations**
Frank Slijper (*Policy Advisor, PAX*)
- 15.30-16.00 Discussion
- 16.00-18.00 Closing Drinks