

**Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on  
International Arms Control Law**

**Seminar Five  
Historical Insights into Arms Control Law**

**14-15 December 2023**

CONCEPT NOTE

**Background**

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

**Topic of the Seminar**

The [International Arms Control Hub](#) is organising the fifth arms control law seminar focused on historical insights into arms control law. Early career researchers are invited to attend the seminar which offers the opportunity to receive guidance from experience researchers in the field as well as to discuss their research with a network of arms control scholars.

**Revisiting the historical context**

Largely, arms control law has been perceived as a fairly recent branch of international law. While this is true in principle, there are precedents which deserve to be discussed in light of current challenges. In contrast to earlier seminars, we will invite doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to prepare with reading of specific texts featuring around three major topics:

- Post-war arms control law
- *Ius in bello* and arms control law
- Institutional settings of the League of Nations and the United Nations

The first topic explored will be post-war arms control law. We will analyse and critically review the imposition of restrictions on armaments upon parties to an armed conflict who lost the war. Apart from getting acquainted with pertinent historical instruments, we will contextualize these, and we will reflect upon their effectiveness. The second topic addresses the links between *ius in bello* and arms control law by focusing on the interface between laws of war and the elimination of certain categories of weapons. Outlawing chemical weapons, and failures to outlaw them earlier, will be at the centre of our considerations. Finally, we will address and compare institutional settings of the League of Nations and the United Nations, as well as pertinent provisions in the Covenant and the Charter. Registered participants will receive reading to be completed and should be prepared to discuss these with senior academics at the workshop.

### **Roundtable discussion**

In addition, and as is our well-established practice, participants will engage in a roundtable discussion about their own research topics, guided by Asser Institute researchers. During the roundtable session, the participating doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers have the **option** to give individual 15-minute formal presentations on their research.

Participation in the workshop is extended to approximately 10 doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers who are currently conducting research in arms control, whether from legal, historical, political or theoretical perspectives. Please email Alexandra Pinto Damas LL.M. ([a.damas@asser.nl](mailto:a.damas@asser.nl)) to **apply for the event by Monday 27 November 2023**, including your position, university affiliation and area of research. Participants wishing to present their research should additionally submit a short abstract on their presentation topic by email to Alexandra by Friday 8 December 2023. Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

A limited number of travel grants is available. Attendance is in-person only.

### **Organizational details**

**Location:** Asser Institute (Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN The Hague)

**Date:** Thursday 14 December to Friday 15 December

**Organizer:** Professor Thilo Marauhn

### **Timeline**

<b>27 November 2023</b>	Deadline for registration
<b>08 December 2023</b>	Submission of abstracts for roundtable (optional)
<b>14-15 December 2023</b>	<b>Historical Insights Doctoral Seminar</b>

## Provisional programme

### **Day 1: Thursday 14 December**

- 12:30 – 12:45      Registration
- 12:45 – 13:15      **Opening and round of introductions**
- 13:15 – 14:30      **Revisiting the historical context:** Post-war arms control law  
*Thilo Marauhn (Professor of International Law, Asser Institute; Justus Liebig University Giessen)*
- 14:30 – 15:00      Coffee/Tea Break
- 15:00 – 16:15      **Researcher roundtable**  
Doctoral and postdoctoral researcher presentations
- 16:15 – 16:45      Coffee/tea break
- 16:45 – 18:00      **Revisiting the historical context:** Institutional settings of the League of Nations and the United Nations  
*Thilo Marauhn (Professor of International Law, Asser Institute; Justus Liebig University Giessen)*
- 18:00                Networking drinks

### **Day 2: Friday 15 December**

- 9:30 – 10:45      **Researcher roundtable**  
Doctoral and postdoctoral researcher presentations
- 10:45 – 11:15      Coffee/tea break
- 11:15 – 12:45      **Revisiting the historical context:** *Ius in bello* and arms control law  
*Guest speaker (tba)*
- 12:45 – 13:45      Lunch
- 13:45 – 15:00      **Researcher roundtable**  
Doctoral and postdoctoral researcher presentations