

The Use of Scholarship by International Courts

Date: 24 April 2025

Time: 15:30-17:00 CET

Location: In-person event at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN, Den Haag

Registration: This seminar is invite-only. Should you wish to join, please send an email with your name, affiliation and a few lines expressing your interest to f.bensadon@asser.nl.

Speakers:

- **Judge Iulia Motoc** – Judge at the International Criminal Court
- **Dr. Niccoló Ridi** – Associate Director, Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution and Lecturer in Public International Law, King's College London
- **Prof. Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou** – Professor in Human Rights Law and Associate Dean for Internationalisation, University of Liverpool

Overview:

What is the role of scholarship in the work of international judges? This question, which is at the heart of a [recent article](#) published by Dr. Niccoló Ridi and Prof. Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou, is almost existential for legal scholars. Many write with the premise that their work will influence the decisional practice of judges and shape the law in action, but this assumption is rarely tested empirically. In their article, Ridi and Dzehtsiarou are zooming in on the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and its relationship with scholarship. Both will be joining us to discuss their findings regarding the function of academic scholarship in the fabric of European human rights law (and beyond). Their views, which are building on an empirical assessment of citations to scholarship made by the judges of the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR in judgments and separate opinions, will be confronted with the lived experience of Judge Iulia Motoc, who was on the ECtHR bench and is now Judge at the International Criminal Court.

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Speaker bios



Prior to joining the International Criminal Court, **Judge Iulia Motoc** was a Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, a judge at the Constitutional Court of Romania, and Professor of International Law. Judge Motoc has also served as a UN Special Rapporteur for the Democratic Republic of Congo reporting crimes against humanity and war crimes, and is a member of the *Institut de Droit International*.



Dr Niccoló Ridi is Associate Director of the Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution, and Senior Lecturer in Public International Law at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. Dr Ridi joined King's College London in 2021 having previously worked at the University of Liverpool, the University of Copenhagen, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.



Prof. Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou is Professor in Human Rights Law and Associate Dean for Internationalisation of the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool. He joined University of Liverpool in 2015, having previously worked at the University of Surrey (UK), University College Dublin (Ireland) and Gomel State University (Belarus). He cooperates with international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations as an expert in international and European human rights law.