



CECS



Interplays of Integration

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN & EUI ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN LAW

3-4 December 2026, Florence

This workshop will explore the interplays of European integration and global ordering. In many debates about past and present, bygone Europe has featured as a domineering agent in the history of impassive others; while the contemporary European Union appears as a diligent exporter of norms with flickering geopolitical powers. Drawing together scholars with different geographical focal points and interest in both the past and the present, we seek to de-internalise these Eurocentric assumptions about the legal making of Europe and Europe's purported making of the world. Through concrete examples, this workshop will bring together scholars from different fields to collectively tell a story of how global practices of injustice and resistance have made, and can remake, the law of today.

Context

The past decade has seen the growth of a multidisciplinary field that examines how global histories of empires and colonialism have shaped European integration and EU law.¹ This dovetails with older approaches in the adjacent fields of international law scholarship concerned with North-South encounters past and present,² interdisciplinary interest in modes of decolonisation,³ and global history.⁴ This has raised new questions about how to explain the making of modern Europe through its historic interaction with the world, especially Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.⁵

Building on this scholarship, the workshop will explore the implications of a de-internalised perspective on the interplays of European integration and global ordering. This perspective places Europe's global entanglements in focus, shifting the site of inquiry outwards through global histories and towards legal politics of injustice and resistance across borders. This approach hopes to expand the geography and history of EU law, drawing out the threads that tie it into a broader fabric of global law and regional integration in different locations. As importantly, it also hopes to show what has been done, and can be done, to resist, reverse and remake law

¹ M.-T. Bitsch and G. Bossuat (eds), *L'Europe unie et l'Afrique* (Nomos Verlag 2004); G. Garavini, *After Empires* (OUP 2012); V. Dimier, *The Invention of a European Development Aid Bureaucracy* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014); P. Hansen and S. Jonsson, *Eurafrica* (Bloomsbury Academic 2014); K. K. Patel, *Project Europe* (CUP 2020); M. Brown, *The Seventh Member State* (HUP 2022); E. Marker, *Black France, White Europe* (Cornell UP 2022); H. Eklund (ed.), *Colonialism and the EU Legal Order* (CUP 2025).

² E.g. A. Becker Lorca, *Mestizo International Law* (CUP 2014).

³ E.g. G. K. Bhambra & J. Holmwood, *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory* (Polity Press 2021).

⁴ E.g. L. Benton, *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400–1900* (CUP 2002).

⁵ Reverberating Aimé Césaire's description of the boomerang effect of colonialism on the colonizer's society. A. Césaire, (introduction by R. D. G. Kelley), *Discourse on Colonialism; A Poetics of Anticolonialism* (Monthly Review Press, 2000, 1955).

differently. The sweep of this inquiry may be broad, but it's focus is sharp, directed at specific institutional and material case-studies.

How, then, do we address Eurocentrism when seeking answers to the questions posed by this workshop? In contemporary academic debates the concept of Eurocentrism is a salient foil, an effective way of signalling an interest in removing Europe from the centre of the analytical frame. This ambition appears to plunge those interested in evaluating the effects of European integration into a dilemma: how to study Europe without being blinded by Eurocentrism. The workshop will seek to turn this dilemma into a constructive mode of analysis, whereby the laws of European integration are an object of study, while explanations for their making and operation are sought beyond Europe, together with scholars for whom Europe is a case study rather than a field of inquiry.

Format

The workshop will be organised around five panels exploring key processes of interplay and their consequences: integration, distribution, sea, land, and violence. Participants will be assigned a panel according to their research interests and invited to write a short three-page text ahead of the workshop proceedings. These texts may capture, for example, an instance of interplay between the European and the global, or between regions, which may illustrate how global practices of injustice and resistance have made, and can remake, the law of today.

<u>Integration</u>	Winston Anderson	<i>President, Caribbean Court of Justice</i>
	Hanna Eklund	<i>University of Copenhagen</i>
	Idriss Fofana	<i>Harvard Law School</i>
	Patricia Ouma	<i>Leiden University</i>
<u>Distribution</u>	Arnulf Becker Lorca	<i>European University Institute</i>
	Deval Desai	<i>Edinburgh Law School</i>
	Emily Marker	<i>Rutgers University</i>
<u>Sea</u>	Claire Kilpatrick	<i>Queen's University Belfast</i>
	& Joanne Scott	<i>European University Institute</i>
	Vonintsoa Rafaly	<i>World Maritime University</i>
	Surabhi Ranganathan	<i>University of Cambridge (tbc)</i>
<u>Land</u>	Nadège Compaoré	<i>University of Toronto</i>
	Leticia Díez Sánchez	<i>Maastricht University</i>
	Vera Pavlou	<i>University of Glasgow</i>
	& Marc Steiert	<i>Max-Planck-Institut Frankfurt</i>
<u>Violence</u>	Fatima Ahdash	<i>Hamad Bin Khalifa University</i>
	Sebastian von Massow	<i>University of Copenhagen</i>
	Janine Silga	<i>Dublin City University</i>
	Lionel Zevounou	<i>L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales</i>