International Law: Courts and Context

Joint Summer School:
iCourts (Copenhagen) and PluriCourts (Oslo)
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The Centre of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts) and PluriCourts (Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order) are hosting a high-level summer school for PhD students working on international courts in their social and political context. We particularly welcome students who are writing up a PhD thesis that involves a strong focus on methodology.

The set-up

The iCourts/PluriCourts PhD summer school is based on the principle of participant contributions to the knowledge community. This means that students who sign up for the summer school are expected to contribute to discussions and to participate in the exercises that are part of the learning program. As you learn more through active participation and cooperation, the summer school requires that you are willing to present your work and to share your intellectual curiosity with others by asking questions and giving comments to other participants.

What was the most valuable part of the course?

"Exchanging and confronting the thoughts from my thesis with people from different backgrounds."

The host

iCourts is based at the Faculty of Law of the University of Copenhagen. It is committed to providing a creative research community which studies the role and function of international courts in a changing global society.

iCourts' research is problem-driven, focusing on salient theoretical and practical issues of importance not only for an effective international judiciary but also for the development of democratic politics under contemporary globalization.

But above all, our goal is to enhance our knowledge of international courts through empirically based descriptive studies of their institutionalization, autonomization, and legitimacy.

PluriCourts studies the legitimacy of international courts and tribunals (ICs) from legal, political science and philosophical perspectives.

To address these questions, PluriCourts focuses on five sectors of international law: Human Rights, Trade, Criminal Law, Investment, and Environment.
The venue

Founded in 1479, the University of Copenhagen is among the oldest universities in Northern Europe. The Faculty of Law was among the four original faculties and today employs approx. 75 members of academic staff and some 60 PhD students. About 4,500 students are enrolled in the legal programmes.

In 2017 the Faculty of Law moved to South Campus in completely new buildings with excellent teaching facilities, green outdoor areas, canteens and cafes.

The University of Copenhagen is a member of two international alliances of high-ranking universities: the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) and the League of European Research Universities (LERU).

The participants

The program will admit up to 24 PhD students, in the early stages of their research. To be admitted to the program, students must be enrolled in a PhD program.

Students must submit a research project as part of the application, since the key focus of the summer program is to help students improve their research projects.

Students should expect to significantly refine and change their doctoral project in light of the feedback given during the summer school, thus the optimal time to participate in this program is after a student has an approved project and after they have surveyed the relevant literature. The students may have begun research, but it is better to participate before any serious writing up of findings has occurred.

"The format was perfect. There was a perfect degree of work and participation. The social events were fantastic."

The program structure

Mornings — Faculty teach a session that is related to their own research interests. They present some of their own work and discuss methodological issues related to researching a specified topic. Students will have assigned readings (approximately 100 pages) that they prepare in advance.

Afternoon sessions — Small groups of students (5-6) will be grouped based on similarity or complementarity of topics. This group of students will meet every afternoon with a faculty member to work on methodological issues related to their own projects. In order for participants to get diversified input to their work, faculty members will rotate between groups.

Evenings — There will be an informal welcome and closing dinner with faculty, where students will get a chance to talk more informally with faculty members and other students. Most evenings will involve homework — doing readings for the next morning’s session, and preparing assignments for the afternoon session.

A detailed program will be sent to all accepted students.
The Faculty

All faculty of the iCourts/PluriCourts Summer School are experienced and leading researchers from Europe and the United States.

The researchers you will meet in the 2018 Ph.D. Summer School include:

- Professor Mikael Rask Madsen, iCourts, University of Copenhagen, DK.
- Professor Larry Helfer, Duke University School of Law, US.
- Professor Karen Alter, Political Science and Law Northwestern University, US.
- Professor Cesare Romano, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, US.
- Dr. Karen McAuliffe, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Dr. Shai Dothan, iCourts, University of Copenhagen, DK.
- Dr. Mikkel Jarle Christensen, iCourts, University of Copenhagen, DK.

Scholarships

iCourts will offer 3 scholarships to be awarded with regard to the quality of the projects. The grants will cover travel and accommodation during the conference. If you wish to apply for an iCourts grant, please send an email to icourts_ss_grant@jur.ku.dk indicating your motivation for participation and enclosing a budget and proceed to register as below.

ECTS:
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Time:
June 18 - 22 2018 at 9:00 - 18:00

Place:
University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law iCourts Njalsgade 76 2300 Copenhagen S

Participation and expenses: The course costs 250 Euros/1826 DKK, which covers food, drinks, and dinners during the Summer School. The participants carry out expenses relating to travel and accommodation.

Deadline for submission:
2 April 2018.

Please use this registration form: