

CURRICULUM VITAE – DR. WIM ZIMMERMANN

PERSONALIA

Wim F.E. Zimmermann
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EMPLOYMENT

11/2022 – Present

Postdoctoral Researcher

Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

My research approaches international law from an interdisciplinary perspective, making use of insights from the fields of sociology, international relations, (legal and social) philosophy, (social) psychology, and history.

Teaching and supervision:

- International Law and International Relations Theory
- Public International Law and Case Studies
- International Dispute Settlement
- International Dimensions of Law: Principles and Methods (in German and English)
- ICRC Jean-Pictet Competition coach
- Supervisor (PhD) theses

01/2026 – 04/2026

Visiting Researcher, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law

02/2025 – 03/2025

Visiting Researcher, Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law

09/2018 – 10/2022

Lecturer International Law

University of Amsterdam

Tutorials in public international law (bachelor), supervising theses, co-supervision Jessup International Law Moot Court.

09/2017 – 10/2022

PhD Researcher

University of Amsterdam

Title: Beyond Indeterminacy: On Reputation and Interpretation in International Law

Supervision: Prof. Dr. J.E. Nijman and Prof. Dr. I. Venzke

PhD defended on 21 February 2023

A forthcoming monograph based on the PhD thesis is under contract with Cambridge University Press

02/2022 – 08/2022

Academic Coordinator PhD Education Programme

University of Amsterdam

Coordinating and compiling (together with the PhD Programme Director) the PhD education programme at the Amsterdam Law School.

01/2020 – 03/2020

Visiting Researcher, Georgetown University Law Center

05/2016 – 05/2017

Legal Officer, Public Prosecution Service

Centre for International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Amsterdam

As a legal officer at the centre for international legal assistance within the Public Prosecution Service, I primarily handled surrender and extradition cases. The Amsterdam office is the central prosecutorial authority for surrender cases in the Netherlands.

06/2015 – 04/2016

Trainee / Research assistant

T.M.C. Asser Instituut

Inter-university research centre for international and European law. Conducted and supported research in public international law and legal theory.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Member of the Coordinating Committee of the European Society of International Law Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law (2024 – present)

EDUCATION

2013-2014

LLM International and European Law: Public International Law

University of Amsterdam

Average grade: 8,6/10

Distinction: cum laude (top 5%)

Thesis: 'The Role of International Law in the Crimean Crisis:

Indeterminacy as a Strategy to Avoid Reputational Damage' (grade 9/10)

2011-2013

LLB Law

University of Amsterdam

Extra courses in Intelligence Studies (8 ECTS)

2010-2013

BSc Sociology

University of Amsterdam

Extra courses in Philosophy (30 ECTS)

2008-2013

BSc Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning

University of Amsterdam

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

Monographs

Interpretation as Reputation Management: On the Social Life of International Law (Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press, 2026)

Journal Articles

‘Self-Presentation in International Law: On Reputation and Interpretation’, 26 *German Law Journal* (2025)

Book Chapters

‘The Law of Treaties’ (Forthcoming) in B.F.W. Wernaart (ed.), *The Routledge Companion to International Law and Responsible Business* (Routledge)

Primary research projects

The Limits of International Lawyering within Government: Legal Advisers and International Crimes

This project focusses on the specific role that government legal advisers have in advising on international law and state violence, and explores ways of thinking about the responsibility for such legal advice in light of the particular institutional context(s) within which these lawyers operate. Publications in preparation:

- Monograph: ‘The Limits of International Lawyering within Government: Legal Advisers and International Crimes’
- Article: ‘From Cold Language Games to the Heat of Battle: Government Legal Advisers and State Violence’ (currently under review)
- Book Chapter: ‘Rethinking the Role of Legal Advisers in State Violence’ (in preparation) in H.P. Aust & H. Krieger (eds.), *Reconstructing International Law* (Oxford University Press)
- Article: ‘International Law as Enabler of State Violence’

Self-Presentation in International Law

This project springs from my PhD research and explores how actors present themselves to others through their engagements with international law, and what implications this has for the practice of international law. Publications in preparation:

- Article: ‘On Virtue and Vanity in International Law: The Making of Self-determination in the General Assembly 1945-1960’

Other publications in preparation:

- Article: ‘Three Responses to Indeterminacy in International Law’
- Article: ‘On Judicial Discretion and Positivist Performances: General Principles of Law between Consent and Justice’

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- 12/09/2025 European Society of International Law Annual Conference, Agora ‘Rethinking the Laws of War’
Paper/Presentation: From Cold Language Games to the Heat of Battle: Rethinking the Role of Legal Advisors
- 29/11/2024 Sigmund Freud University Vienna, Research Forum
Paper: Legal Advisors and International Crimes: The Limits of Lawyering within Government
- 4/9/2024 European Society of International Law Annual Conference, Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law

- Presentation/paper: Reputation beyond compliance
9/7/2024 ICON•S Annual Conference, IE University
- Presentation: The Limits of International Lawyering within Government
11/3/2024 Universität der Bundeswehr München, Research Forum
- Paper: Interpretation as Reputation Management: On Self-presentation in International Law
31/8/2023 European Society of International Law Annual Conference, Interest Group History of International Law
- Presentation/paper: On virtue and vanity in international law: the making of self-determination in the General Assembly 1945-1960
31/1/2023 Department colloquium, University of Salzburg
- 30/9/2020 Opening Talk PhD Education Programme, Amsterdam Law School
- 29/11/2019 Workshop with Anne Orford, T.M.C. Asser Instituut
Presentation: Reflexivity and the identity of the international lawyer
- 18/09/2019 PhD Workshop on Sociology of Law with Antoine Vauchez, University of Amsterdam
Presentation: Interpretation as reputation management
- 29/11/2018 Workshop with Martti Koskenniemi, T.M.C. Asser Instituut
Presentation: Reputation and the social practice of interpretation in international law
- 7/6/2018 Annual PhD Workshop, Amsterdam Law School
Presentation: The practice of interpretation in international law
- 30/4/2018, Research Seminar, Amsterdam Centre for International Law
Presentation: Reputation and the Dynamics of Interpretation in International Law
- 23/11/2017 Masterclass by Wojciech Sadurski, University of Amsterdam
Presentation: Reputation and the Dynamics of Interpretation in International Law

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- ESIL Annual Conference, Agora 'Interdisciplinarity and the (Re)construction of International Law' (with the Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law), 2025
- ESIL Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law Pre-Conference Workshop, 2025
- Expert Workshop: 'Institutional Capture of International Organizations', 2025
- Expert Workshop: 'General Principles of Law Beyond State Recognition: Adjusting to the 21st Century', 2025
- Austrian Public International Law Day 2024 (Österreichischer Völkerrechtstag), acquired funding: 26.500 euro

AWARDS, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law Residence grant (2025)
- Förderverein zur wissenschaftlichen Forschung (2023) funding for research project: The Limits of International Lawyering within Government, 3000 euro
- Amsterdam University Fund Travel Grant (2020), 900 euro

LANGUAGES

Native proficiency in Dutch, fluent in English, fluent in German, elementary proficiency in French