



Call for Posters

The Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, in cooperation with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University of Brussels) and the Luxembourg National Research Fund, will be hosting an international conference titled [*A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Dispute Resolution in the Law of International Watercourses and the Law of the Sea*](#) in Luxembourg on 25-26 September 2017.

In conjunction with the conference panels, poster sessions will be held that are intended to offer PhD students and early career researchers the opportunity to display their work to the conference audience. Accepted posters will be shown in a central location at the conference venue and there will be an opportunity to present the posters during the coffee breaks.

The Conference Theme

Dispute settlement in the fields of fresh water and the law of the sea is currently undergoing a period of great change, bringing forward both challenges and opportunities. In the fresh water field there has been growing confusion surrounding the content and application of the principles of international water law since 1997, when the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UNWC) was concluded and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its landmark decision in the *Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros* case. Despite several ICJ decisions and arbitral awards rendered in the field, as well as regional agreements and non-binding rules developed by international associations, disagreement persists in the application of these principles to the resolution of an increasing number of fresh water disputes. At the same time, the ICJ is now facing an opportunity to clarify these issues in the most recent fresh water case submitted to it by Chile concerning its dispute with Bolivia over the Silala River. As for the law of the sea, the dispute settlement mechanisms of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) have been amply used over the past decades, resulting in a proliferation of cases submitted to international adjudication and arbitration. Moreover, 2016 saw the initiation of the first ever UNCLOS conciliation, which was instituted by East Timor in an effort to resolve its longstanding maritime boundary dispute with Australia. Despite this notable progress, the binding system of dispute resolution under UNCLOS is coming under increasing pressure as demonstrated by Russia and China's non-participation in proceedings brought against them in the *Arctic Sunrise* and *South China Sea* arbitrations, respectively.



Against this backdrop, the conference will bring together internationally renowned experts to evaluate the progress made thus far in these two distinct, yet related, fields and to discuss the potential for future developments. The first day will be dedicated to the resolution of international fresh water disputes, while the second day will focus on dispute settlement in the law of the sea. Each day will feature four panels that will address the most controversial and salient aspects of these two types of disputes and the methods, forums, and principles used in their resolution. The structure of the Conference is designed to compare and contrast how disputes concerning transboundary fresh water and the oceans are resolved and to draw conclusions and lessons from each system that may be applied to the other.

Application Procedure

Applicants are invited to submit written poster proposals in English. Posters will be reviewed by a selection committee. Up to ten posters will be selected with an even distribution of posters related to the law of international watercourses and the law of the sea. Joint submissions are possible, but if selected only one person may receive funding to attend the conference.

Selection criteria include:

- Originality of the work;
- Relevance to the conference theme;
- Geographic and gender diversity;
- Only one proposal per author will be considered

All poster proposals should include:

- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications;
- The author's contact details, including email address and phone number;
- Poster title;
- Abstract – a summary including main thesis or research objective, supporting arguments, and key findings (300-500 words)

Abstracts must be submitted by email to Marco Benatar (marco.benatar@mpi.lu) and Tamar Meshel (tamar.meshel@mpi.lu) by **20 June 2017**. Decisions will be communicated to the applicants by 1 July 2017. Travel (economy class) and accommodation costs of up to €500.00 per presenter will be covered by the conference organizers.