

# THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

**Miodrag Jovanović, Veronica Rodriguez-Blanco & Mortimer Sellers**

*Tuesday 9 July, 19.00-20.30, HS 10*

Jurisprudence has up until recently largely neglected international law as a subject of philosophizing. The panel discussion on *The Nature of International Law* will critically assess some of the key arguments from Miodrag Jovanović's recent book (Cambridge, 2019), which tries to offset the aforementioned deficiency, by providing a comprehensive explanatory account of international law. The panel shall address some of the following issues:

- Can the explanatory elucidation be provided within the prototype theory of concepts, which is directed toward determining typical features constitutive of the nature of international law;
- How context-sensitiveness of typical features of law – normativity, institutionalization, coercive guaranteeing, and justice-aptness – is reflected at the international level;
- Is fragmentation indeed the unique feature of international law, or it is possible to claim that international institutional actors, particularly adjudicative ones, largely perceive themselves as officials of a unified legal order.



**Miodrag A. Jovanović** is Full Professor of Jurisprudence, at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. He also teaches at the Legal Methods module of the European Master in Legal Theory, at the Goethe University, Frankfurt. He is a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the 2016 Brandon Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (Cambridge). His internationally published books include: *Constitutionalizing Secession in Federalized States: A Procedural Approach* (Eleven International Publishing, 2007); *Collective Rights – A Legal Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); *Unpacking Normativity –*

*Conceptual, Normative and Descriptive Issues* (co-edited with Kenneth Einar Himma and Bojan Spaić) (Hart Publishing, 2018) and *The Nature of International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).



**Veronica Rodriguez-Blanco** is Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy (Jurisprudence) at the University of Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy, UK. She studied law and legal philosophy at Oxford University (MJur) and the University of Cambridge (PhD). She is the author of numerous articles, co-editor of *Dignity in the Legal and Political Philosophy of Ronald Dworkin* (OUP, 2018), *Reasons and Intentions in Law and Practical Agency* (Cambridge: CUP, 2015) and has written the monograph *Law and Authority Under the Guise of the Good* (Oxford: Hart, 2014, paperback 2017). She has been awarded

fellowships and grants from the British Academy, the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation, the European University Institute (Fernand Braudel Fellow), FAPERJ, Cambridge Overseas Trust and the British Council. She is co-editor of the journal *Jurisprudence: An International Journal of Legal and Political Thought*.



**Mortimer N. S. Sellers** is Regents Professor of the University System of Maryland. He is also Director of the Baltimore Center for International and Comparative Law (CICL) and President of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (IVR). He has written and edited twelve books and numerous articles. He is the editor (with David Gerber) of the CUP book series ASCL Studies in Comparative Law and (with Mark Agrast) of the CUP book series ASIL Studies in International Legal Theory. With Stephan Kirste he is editor of *The IVR Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*.

Professor Sellers has been The H.L.A. Hart Fellow in Jurisprudence at University College, Oxford, and a visiting professor at the Lauterpacht Research Centre of Cambridge University, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Georgetown University, and the Hague Academy of International Law. He was a Rhodes Scholar and Frank Knox Fellow at Oxford University and Resident Tutor in Law at Harvard College.

Moderator: **Bojan Spaić**, Assistant Professor of Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade