

Megan Anne Donaldson

Chair in Public International Law, European University Institute

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EDUCATION

JSD, New York University School of Law, 2016, for *From Secret Diplomacy to Diplomatic Secrecy: Secrecy and Publicity in the International Legal Order c. 1919–1950* (examiners: Benedict Kingsbury (NYU), Martti Koskenniemi (Helsinki), Susan Pedersen (Columbia))

Provost's Global Research Initiative grant (to fund archival research in Europe), 2014

LLM (Legal Theory), New York University School of Law, 2010

Hauser Global Scholarship (full tuition and stipend for LLM)

LLB (Hons 1st); BA (History) (Hons 1st), University of Melbourne, 2006

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2026–	Chair in Public International Law, EUI
2022–2026	Associate Professor of Public International Law, UCL
2019–2022	Lecturer in Public International Law, UCL
2015–2019	Junior Research Fellow in History of International Law King's College, Cambridge / Lauterpacht Centre for International Law
Spring 2014	Visiting Associate Professor, teaching International Law S. J. Quinney School of Law, University of Utah
2011–2012	Research Fellow, NYU Institute for International Law and Justice Teaching Assistant in Advanced International Law, NYU School of Law
2008–2009	Associate to Justice KM Hayne, High Court of Australia
2007–2008	Articled Clerk, Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Allens Arthur Robinson

VISITING / EXPERT POSITIONS

2023–25	External expert, SSHRC-funded Working Group on Institutional Governance of Deep Seabed Mining (directed by Prof Neil Craik, Balsillie School)
Mar–June 2024	Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow, EUI

DOCTORAL SUPERVISION AND DOCTORAL / ECR TRAINING

Completed supervision and examinations

Anna Saunders, ‘Securing Invention: International Law and the History of Technology’ (UCL, first supervisor; completed 2025; Saunders now in permanent post at Australian National University).

Internal examiner for three other UCL dissertations and upgrade examiner for two further dissertations.

Current supervision

- Gal Cohen, ‘The Application of *Jus ad Bellum* Rules during Armed Conflicts’ (UCL, co-supervisor; due to complete 2026).
- Karel Brackeniers, ‘Passing the Bomb: Secrecy and US Nuclear Sharing at the Intersection of International and Constitutional Law’ (KU Leuven, member of supervisory committee).
- Eve Lister, on narratives and conceptualization of right to housing (UCL, second supervisor).

Doctoral and ECR training

- Speaker/commentator at training events for PhD and ECR scholars, including ‘Archival Research’ for University of Edinburgh International Legal Methods seminar (Nov 2025); commenting at EUI researcher-organized conference on ‘Oppression and Resistance in International Law’ (May 2024); teaching my work on ‘Ethiopia, Italy and the Archives of Selective Justice’ to Young Investigators Training Program, Università di Catania (Oct 2022); ‘Archival Research Methods for Lawyers’ at Graduate Institute, Geneva (May 2022).
- Organized intensive work-in-progress session for PhD and ECRs in conjunction with conference on *History, Politics, Law: Thinking through the International* for 13 PhD/ECR participants; work discussed there has now appeared in inter alia *Journal of the History of International Law* and *Law and History Review*.
- Co-convened Legal Histories beyond the State seminar with Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge Centre for History and Economics, drawing together lawyers, historians, political theorists and IR specialists (2017–2022).

TEACHING

UCL Faculty of Laws 2019–

Courses taught

- **LLM:** International Criminal Law (redesigned and then taught annually since 2019); Histories of International Law (designed and taught 2022–23); ICL-relevant specialist teaching into International Humanitarian Law and Gender, Law and the State modules; supervised 5–10 LLM dissertations annually from 2019.
- **LLB:** Public International Law (lectured 2019– ; convened annually 2021–); International Mooting (designed module for Jessup moot, ran 2022–24).
- **BA:** Principles of Public International Law (co-convened and lectured 2025–26, for interdisciplinary BA European & International Social & Political Studies).

Awards and recognition

- Won Faculty Education Award 2025, Highly Commended UCL-wide Provost's Education Award 2025 for innovation (both for International Mooting module).
- Won UCL-wide student choice award for Exceptional Feedback (2021); nominated for UCL-wide student choice awards for Inspiring Teaching (2021) and Exceptional Personal Tutoring (2020).
- Fellow of Higher Education Academy (2021).

University of Cambridge 2015–19

Teaching (during Junior Research Fellowship)

- **LLM:** selected lectures in International Law of Global Governance (2016–18); Law of Armed Conflict (2018–19); Use of Force and Peacekeeping (2018–19); supervised LLM dissertations.
- **MPhil:** supervised and examined dissertations in MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History (2016–19).
- **BA (History):** selected lectures and supervisions on tripos paper States between States: The History of International Political Thought from the Roman Empire to the Early Nineteenth Century (2016–17; 2018–19).

SERVICE TO FIELD

Journal editorial roles

- 2025– Editorial Board member, *Journal of Legal History*
- 2025– Executive Board member, *European Journal of International Law* (previously Scientific Advisory Board member 2020–25)
- 2024– Co-editor, *EJIL: The Podcast!*
- 2017–19 Associate Editor, *British Yearbook of International Law*

Regular reviewing for journals

- In law, e.g. *European Journal of International Law* (**EJIL Peer Review Prize 2020**), *Leiden Journal of International Law*, *British Yearbook of International Law*, *London Review of International Law*, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Cambridge International Law Journal*, *Current Legal Problems*.
- In history, e.g.: *Modern Intellectual History*, *Humanity*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Legal History*, *Journal of African History*.

Reviewing for publishers: book proposals and MSS in law and social sciences / humanities lists for OUP, CUP, Hart.

Reviewing for funders: projects and applications for Leverhulme Trust, London Arts and Humanities Partnership, Polish National Science Foundation.

SERVICE TO INSTITUTIONS

Research-related

- 2024– Member of Faculty Research Excellence Framework (**REF**) reading panel (assessing work of colleagues for inclusion in national research exercise); offering colleagues ad hoc peer review as requested.
- 2022– Faculty Jessup adviser (team were UK national champions in 2024, 2025).
- 2020–21 Deputy REF Lead (responsible inter alia for major report on Faculty’s research environment).
- 2020–21 REF Impact Case Study Lead (responsible for selecting, drafting and evidencing five cases of world-leading impact in the Faculty).

Education-related (UCL and beyond)

- 2025– Member of UCL Faculty working groups overseeing renewal of LLB Programme Structure; redesign of LLB Learning Objectives and Competencies.
- 2022– External examiner to University of Edinburgh on modules including LLB International Law, International Human Rights Law; LLM Fundamental Issues in International Law, History and Theory of International Law, Human Rights Law and Armed Conflict, Diplomatic Law, Making International Law.
- 2022–23 Membership of small UCL-wide Peer Change Group contributing to recasting of education principles.

LANGUAGES

French at ~C2 level; extensive archival work with French-language documents.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS (MONOGRAPH / EDITED VOLUMES)

Forthcoming / in progress

Publicity, Secrecy and the Making of the International Legal Order (under contract with OUP Global Governance series).

Published

Co-edited (and co-authored Introduction) (with Annabel Brett & Martti Koskenniemi), *History, Politics, Law: Thinking through the International* 1 (CUP, 2021).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

‘Boundaries and Conversations: Reflections on a New “New” Diplomatic History’ 7 *Diplomatica* 264–71 (2025) (invited response to manifesto on new diplomatic history).

‘Legal Innovation through a Biographical Lens’, 35 *European Journal of International Law* 259–78 (2024) (introduction to symposium co-edited with Neha Jain and Sarah Nouwen, drawing on Cassese papers in Historical Archives of the European Union).

‘The Figure of the Lawyer in Orford’s *International Law and the Politics of History*’ 36 *Temple International and Comparative Law Journal* 53 (2022) (invited contribution to symposium).

‘Peace, war, law: Teaching international law in contexts’ 18 *International Journal of Law in Context* 393 (2022) (invited contribution to symposium on ‘Contextual Legal Pedagogies’).

‘The League of Nations, Ethiopia and the Making of States’, 11 *Humanity* 6 (2020).

Won **early career scholar prize** for the best essay published in the journal in 2020.

‘The Survival of the Secret Treaty: Publicity, Secrecy and Legality in the International Order’, 111(3) *American Journal of International Law* 575 (2017).

Won **Francis Deák Prize** for best scholarship by a younger author.

‘Textual Settlements: The Sykes-Picot Agreement and Secret Treaty-Making’, 110 *AJIL Unbound* 127 (2016).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘The Adoption of Transparency Policies in Global Governance Institutions: Justifications, Effects, and Implications’, 9 *Annual Review of Law & Social Science* 119 (2013).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘Ersatz Normativity or Public Law in Global Governance: The Hard Case of International Prescriptions for National Infrastructure Regulation’, 14 *Chicago Journal of International Law* 1 (2013).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

Forthcoming / in progress

‘Gaze, Agency and International Society’ in *Diversity and Self-Determination in International Law*: collection of contributions to Lauterpacht Lectures 2025 (in memory of Karen Knop).

‘Global Administrative Law’ in Eyal Benvenisti & Dino Kritsiotis (eds), *Cambridge History of International Law*, vol XII (situating/critiquing GAL as one of a range of lenses on governance).

Published

‘Law, legal expertise and the peaceful settlement of disputes: Revisiting early League Council practice’ in Morten Rasmussen, Karin van Leeuwen & Haakon Ikononou (eds), *Cambridge Handbook on the League of Nations and International Law* (2026).

‘The Sykes–Picot Agreement’ in Chris Reus-Smit et al (eds), *Oxford Handbook of History and International Relations* 660–74 (OUP, 2023).

‘Ventriloquism in Geneva: The League of Nations as International Organisation’ in Brett, Donaldson & Koskeniemi (eds), *History, Politics, Law* 253 (CUP, 2021).

(with Surabhi Ranganathan) ‘Accountability’ in Jan Klabbbers (ed), *Cambridge Companion to the Law of International Organizations* 50 (CUP, 2021).

‘The Boundaries of Peacemaking: British Imperial Encounters, c.1700–1900’ in Marc Weller, Mark Retter & Andrea Varga (eds), *International Law and Peace Settlements* 86 (CUP, 2021).

(with Benedict Kingsbury & Rodrigo Vallejo) ‘Global Administrative Law and Deliberative Democracy’ in Anne Orford & Florian Hoffmann (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Theory of International Law* 526 (OUP, 2016).

(with Cheryl Saunders) ‘Values in Australian Constitutionalism’ in Cheryl Saunders, Dennis Davis & Alan Richter (eds), *An Inquiry into the Existence of Global Values: Through the Lens of Comparative Constitutional Law* 15 (Hart, 2015).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘The Global Governance of Public Law’ in Neil Walker, Cormac Mac Amhlaigh & Claudio Michelon (eds), *After Public Law* 264 (OUP, 2013).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘Roles of Law in the Regulatory States of the South’ in Navroz K. Dubash & Bronwen Morgan (eds), *The Rise of the Regulatory State of the South* 256 (OUP, 2013).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘Power and the Public: The Nature and Effects of Formal Transparency Policies in Global Governance Institutions’ in Anne Peters & Andrea Bianchi (eds), *Transparency in Public International Law* 502 (CUP, 2013) (related text appears in P10).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘From Bilateralism to Publicness in International Law’ in Ulrich Fastenrath et al (eds), *From Bilateralism to Community Interest: Essays in Honour of Judge Bruno Simma* 79 (OUP, 2011).

REFERENCE WORKS

‘Ethiopian War Crimes Tribunal’ in *Max Planck Encyclopaedia of International Procedural Law* (Mar 2022) (drawing on archival research; findings also in ‘Ethiopia, Italy and the Archives of Selective Justice’, *Opinio Juris* symposium on UN War Crimes Commission, 5 May 2022).

(with Benedict Kingsbury) ‘Global Administrative Law’, *Max Planck Encyclopaedia of International Law* (2011).

CROSS-SECTION OF RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (last three years)

8–9 Dec 2025: ‘Armaments, Publics and the Spaces of Vulnerability’ at conference on ‘Spatial Imaginations of Europe, 1870s–2020s: Ideas, Politics, Economics and Law’, University of Copenhagen.

1–2 Dec 2025: Invited commentator, book manuscript workshop on *The Global History of the Establishment of the Permanent Court of International Justice, 1919–1922*, University of Copenhagen.

19 Nov 2025: Invited panelist, ‘Who Governs when the World’s Falling Apart?’, Melland Schill Roundtable, Manchester International Law Centre.

26–27 June 2025: Invited panelist, ‘Planning and Publics: On Sustaining Shared Futurities in a Planetary Era’, NYU London.

26 May 2025: Invited panelist, ‘Critique of Critical Critique’ (on work of Martti Koskenniemi), SOAS London.

22–24 May 2025: ‘Transfers in Time: History, Law and the Self in Twentieth-Century Diplomatic Manuals’, New Diplomatic History Annual Conference, Aix-en-Provence.

Invited to contribute perspective from history of international law to interdisciplinary symposium on ‘Provincializing “New” Diplomatic History’.

14 May 2025: Commentator, EJIL–JIEL symposium on ‘Great Power Competition and International Law’.

13–14 Mar 2025: ‘Gaze, Agency and International Society’ in Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lecture series dedicated to Karen Knop.

28 Feb 2025: ‘Theory and Practice from the Archive’ at J. C. Smith Workshop 2025 (on the work of Andrea Bianchi), University of Nottingham.

12 Nov 2024: Invited commentator on multiple papers at author workshop, *Cambridge History of International Law: Oceania, c. 1500–1920*, King’s College London.

21 June 2024: Invited panelist, roundtable on ‘New Directions in the History of Secrecy’, Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States annual conference, Southampton.

10 May 2024: ‘Negotiating Extradition’, Cambridge Historical International Relations Conference.

6 March 2024: Invited panelist, roundtable on Priyasha Saksena, *Sovereignty, International Law, and the Princely States of Colonial South Asia*.

17 Jan 2024: Invited panelist, ‘Where is Intellectual History Now: A Conversation about Location in the History of Legal Thought’, Institute for Historical Research seminar on History of Political Ideas.

16 Oct 2023: ‘The Craft of Custom: Revisiting the Corfu Crisis’, History of Law and Global Order Seminar, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge.

30 Aug 2023: ‘Revisiting *United States Diplomatic and Consular Staff in Tehran*’, invited contribution to forum on ‘Law as a Way to Fairness or Fairness as a Way to Escape the Law’, European Society of International Law Annual Conference.

6 Feb 2023: ‘Afterlives of François de Callières: Secrecy, Espionage and the Twentieth-Century Law of Diplomatic Relations’, Political Thought and Intellectual History seminar, University of Cambridge.