



Australian and New Zealand  
**Society of International Law**

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law  
Canberra, 2 – 4 July 2020

**International Law in the Third Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
A Tool for Challenge or Appeasement?**

*Call for papers and panel proposals: Deadline 15 February 2020*

What is the function of international law in 2020 and beyond? Does it serve to *challenge* states, international institutions and non-state actors as society appears to be moving into a more authoritarian age? Does it constrain the behaviour of actors domestically and on the international stage, and does it challenge the development of norms that depart from the liberal rules-based order that has characterised the development of international law from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century onwards? Or does international law function to *appease* powerful international or domestic actors? The word ‘appease’ has its origin in the Latin *ad pais* or ‘at peace’; a noble aim for any system of law. But does international law today pacify, placate, assuage or satisfy the demands of states, institutions, protestors and society more generally; to appease in its modern incarnation? Does appeasement put at risk security, the environment and the very foundations of the international legal system? The relationship between challenge and appeasement is as old as international law itself and has been described and critiqued in numerous philosophies and approaches to international law. Today, across many fields – including the environment, trade, human rights, security – the tension between challenge and appeasement is profound and, arguably, destabilising.

The Organising Committee for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference invite paper submissions and themed panel proposals on any area of public and private international law relevant to the conference theme including, but not limited to:

- How ideas of appeasement and challenge might relate to some of the most significant international law issues of our time including *inter alia* climate change, the Anthropocene, terrorism, AI and mass migration.
- The role international law plays in an age of rising authoritarianism.
- How ideas about what it means to challenge or to appease in the context of international law have changed over time.
- How we might think of significant international law instruments or moments in history through the lens of appeasement or challenge, (for example, 2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Friendly Relations Declaration).
- The theories or normative frameworks that might guide our thinking about international law as a tool of appeasement or challenge and the limitations of using this frame.
- What the frame of appeasement and challenge tells us about the current trends in the international legal system, including the decline of trust in international institutions and instruments.

In the tradition of ANZSIL Conferences, the Conference Organising Committee also invites and welcomes proposals on international law topics not connected to the conference theme.

The Organising Committee also welcomes the submission of Panel proposals, including from ANZSIL Interest Groups.



### **Submission of Paper Proposals**

Those proposing papers for presentation at the Conference should submit a single Word document comprised of:

- An abstract of no more than 250 words (papers with abstracts in excess of 250 words will not be considered) and
- A biographical note of no more than 200 words (for inclusion in the electronic Conference program). and
- A one page curriculum vitae.

The information requested above should be provided in a single Word document entitled “ANZSIL Conference 2020 Paper Proposal: [Your Name] [Title of Paper]”. Please submit your paper proposal using the application form on the ANZSIL website.

### **Submission of Panel Proposals**

Submissions for well-constructed panels relevant to the conference theme are strongly encouraged. Those proposing panels for presentation at the Conference should submit:

- A synopsis of no more than 250 words, explaining the rationale and theme of the panel; and
- Three or four paper proposals, including in each case the information requested above (250-word abstract, 200-word biographical note and one-page curriculum vitae).

The information requested above should be provided in a single Word document entitled “ANZSIL Conference 2020 Panel Proposal: [Your Name] [Title of Proposed Panel]”. Please submit your panel proposal using the application form on the ANZSIL website.

### **Process and Dates**

The closing date for proposals is **15 February 2020**. The Conference Organising Committee will endeavour to inform applicants of the outcome of their proposals by early March 2020. All presenters will be required to register for the Conference by early May to be included in the final Conference program. Further information about the Conference, including program and registration details, will be available on the ANZSIL website at [anzsil.org.au/events](http://anzsil.org.au/events).