LL.M. in INTERNATIONAL & EUROPEAN LAW

Abstracts of Master's Theses – Academic Year 2023–2024

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ALBRECHT OLIVER-PAUL-JANOSCH

Solidarity between member states in the field of energy

This thesis analyses the principle of solidarity in primary law and its expressions in secondary law. The principle of solidarity in primary law will almost certainly become a more important tool for the EU in the future. The CJEU has accelerated this development when it gave the principle a powerful new direction in the OPAL judgement. The Court's interpretation has the potential to bring the European energy landscape closer together, while the Member States get a tool to reject the energy objectives of the Union at the same time. In secondary law, the Member States have shown great unity in the face of the gas crisis following the Russian invasion in Ukraine. By the swift response with the REPowerEU package, they managed to effectively mitigate the effects of the crisis and maintained unity, using language and tools heavily influenced by the notion of solidarity, complementing the existing energy framework.

ARGYROPOULOS DIMITRIOS

New threats to maritime security: cyberattacks & uncrewed vessels

This thesis examines two of the most recent and emerging threats that preoccupy the sector of the sea. These two threats are the cyber-attacks that take place against the maritime and naval sector and the use of uncrewed maritime vessels as weapons. The purpose of this very thesis is to examine how the aforementioned threats have evolved through the last decades and how could possibly the existing international law framework (including that of the law of the sea) be used, interpreted, adapted and developed, so that the world order could deal with these menaces.

BERTSIA CHARIKLEIA

Review of proportionality of EU acts [with a special focus on fundamental rights]

The main aim of the thesis is to examine and analyze how the principle of proportionality functions within the framework of EU law in order to balance the objectives of EU integration and the regulatory autonomy of Member States while ensuring the protection of fundamental rights. By exploring this interplay, the thesis seeks to understand the role of proportionality review of EU acts in maintaining the equilibrium between the supranational and national dimensions of governance within the EU and how it contributes to upholding the rule of law. While examining the jurisprudence of the CJEU and the bibliography, the thesis observes the dual aspect of the principle of proportionality as a judicial but also a legislative tool. Especially after the legally binding character of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the proportionality review has acquired a constitutional dimension in the jurisprudence of the CJEU, which also influenced the legislative process. What is more, building on the philosophical notion of the principle, the thesis explores how the CJEU shapes, through time and institutional alterations, the principle and how it applies in various areas of EU law. In my analysis, I try to observe the legal reasoning behind the CJEU's rationale, analysing concepts such as the separation of powers and the institutional balance within the EU and how admissibility issues have arisen in this regard. In particular, the

thesis heavily focuses on various tests (and their intensity) used by the CJEU and on the reasoning for its deviation from the classical three- (or two-)-step test set up by legal theory. Lastly, the thesis tries to examine possible alternatives to the judicial methodology of CJEU as a response to the emerging tension between the EU institutions and the Member States mainly regarding their right to regulate areas of shared competence and their limitations.

BOETTCHER FLORIAN

Biodiversity protection in the EU: legal framework, challenges and opportunities

This LL.M. thesis examines biodiversity protection in the EU, analyzing its legal framework, challenges, and opportunities. Part 1 addresses the EU's biodiversity legislation and its interaction with agricultural policy. Chapter A focuses on the old EU Nature Directives and the new EU Nature Restoration Regulation (2024/1991), presenting its governance framework and the new implementation tool of national restoration plans developed by Member States. Chapter B explores the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), its role in biodiversity loss, and its new instruments—enhanced conditionality, eco-schemes, and agri-environment-climate measures (AECM)—introduced in the CAP reform for 2023-2027. It also evaluates the interplay between CAP Strategic Plans and National Restoration Plans. This part is addressing the following research question: How does the EU legal framework for biodiversity protection operate in interaction with the EU Agricultural Policy (CAP)? Part 2 focuses on the enforcement of EU biodiversity laws. Chapter A examines private enforcement via national courts and preliminary references alongside public enforcement by the European Commission. Chapter B explores procedural pathways for private enforcement under the regime of the Aarhus Convention. This part addresses the research question: How can both public and private enforcement of EU legislation contribute to effectively achieving EU biodiversity protection objectives?

DIMAKOPOULOU EIRINI

International humanitarian law under pressure: protecting civilians in the era of AI warfare

This thesis examines the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern warfare, particularly focusing on Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS) and AI-Decision Support Systems (DSS). These technologies challenge International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which aims to protect civilians during armed conflicts. Through case studies and analysis of recent conflicts, including Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas, the research evaluates the compatibility of military AI with the core IHL principles of distinction, precautions, and proportionality, as well as the ethics of leaving decisions over the life-and-death of humans to an algorithm under the "Martens Clause". The thesis argues that while AI has the potential to enhance compliance with IHL by improving targeting precision and reducing collateral damage, little is being invested in research in this direction. Conversely, the risks associated with military AI are already present and significant. Without decisive action, the international community risks complicity in future humanitarian disasters. The thesis argues that regulating AI in warfare is an immediate necessity to safeguard civilians and uphold the principles of humanity in armed conflict.

DONKERS SIAN-TONNIE-MOLLY

The externalisation of EU borders" (how the EU limits effective access to international protection: externalisation, procedural convolution, and inadequate accountability

How the EU limits effective access to international protection: externalisation, procedural convolution, and inadequate accountability.

ELEZAI XHULIA

Compact on migration: legal nature, impact, perspectives

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, is a landmark document addressing international migration.

FRESSAS NIKOLAOS

The principle of solidarity in the area of fFreedom, security and justice

The dissertation examines the concept and the practical implementation of the principle of solidarity in the context of the EU Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. In particular, it aims at analyzing: a) how the principle should be perceived and applied effectively in the conduct of the common policy on the management of asylum and migratory flows and the protection of the Union's external borders; b) how the EU institutions and the Member States have responded in practice to the demands of solidarity. This dual research objective defines the structuring of the thesis in its two parts: The first one includes the attempt to interpret solidarity through a teleological approach, which delves into the reasons that render it necessary, its binding or not legal nature, the personal and material scope of obligations that may derive from it, as well as the ways the legal views about it are influenced by historical circumstances and by moral, political, economic and philosophical considerations. The second part concerns the legal measures that have been adopted on EU level to give a concrete effect to solidarity, explains the reasoning underlying their enactment and assesses their (lack of) effectiveness, especially with regard to the objective of a establishing a system of fair allocation of responsibilities among the Member States. Finally, it examines critically the absence of solidarity in the incentives and actions of the Member States, in particular since the early 2010s until nowadays, which have resulted in consistent violations of EU law, the inefficiency of the EU policy on asylum, migration and external border control and the jeopardy of fundamental rights' protection.

GALANAKIS NIKOLAOS

Human rights in Asia: towards a new regional system of human rights protection

This paper argues that a regional human rights system in Asia is indispensable for the protection of human rights in the region, and analyses the process of its realization. First, it presents the current international law avenues for human rights protection in Asia, and evaluates their efficiency. Then, it enumerates the former attempts for the crystallisation of human rights norms and the creation of regional mechanisms in Asia, drawing particular emphasis on the ASEAN human rights system, which is the most developed and significant one among the aforementioned attempts. Following that, it depicts the challenges faced in terms of the creation of a regional human rights system in Asia, arguing that these challenges can indeed be surpassed, and answers the question of why such a regional mechanism is so beneficial for the Asian region. Finally, it includes a comparative analysis between the currently established systems in other regions, indicating the lessons learned for Asia and it also responds to the question of whether an effective regional human rights mechanism in Asia is a feasible goal, by showing the prospect of such an objective, particularly focusing on some recent positive developments, that give hope regarding the future of the Asian human rights system.

GIANNAKOU NIKI

The protection and preservation of the marine environment in disputed maritime areas: "introducing" the concept of environmental jurisdiction

This dissertation aims to canvas the legal regime for exercising jurisdiction in undelimited maritime areas for environmental purposes. To this end, the dissertation "introduces" the concept of environmental jurisdiction, i.e. prescriptive and enforcement jurisdiction of whatever nature (criminal, civil, administrative) exercised with the purpose of protecting and preserving the marine environment.

GKAVOGIANNAKI DIMITRA-MARIA

Lawfare and international dispute settlement mechanisms

This thesis addresses the concept of lawfare in the realm of dispute settlement mechanisms. To this end, it examines the case of Ukraine against the Russian Federation and assesses the effectiveness of Ukraine's litigation efforts.

HRUSKOVA ADELA

The humanization of the ICJ case law

This dissertation focuses on the humanization of international law through the evolving jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It examines how the ICJ, traditionally state-centric, has increasingly incorporated human rights considerations into its decisions, reflecting a shift toward prioritizing individual protections alongside state obligations.

KAPOPOULOU-NTYPONT KONSTANTINA

Responsible behavior of states in the context of outer space and cyberspace activities: A legal appraisal

This thesis critically examines the evolving norms that govern state actions in the strategically significant domains of outer space and cyberspace. The study addresses the inadequacies of current international legal frameworks and underscores the necessity for developing clear, enforceable norms to ensure global security and sustainable development. The notion of "responsible behavior" is contextualized within international forums, emphasizing its importance for maintaining international peace and security. It further explores the legal nature of the concept of responsible behavior by investigating how soft law and hard law provisions interact to regulate state conduct effectively. The analysis provides insight into the relationship between lawful and responsible conduct, questioning whether responsible behavior extends beyond mere lawfulness and if it is incorporated into it, to discern whether the concept is redundant or if it offers a unique framework that complements existing legal norms. Furthermore, the thesis examines what accountability mechanisms could be developed in response to irresponsible actions and considers the potential conflicts arising from their non-binding nature. The study emphasizes that a clearer understanding of responsible behavior and the establishment of effective non – legally binding norms are crucial for addressing the challenges in outer space and cyberspace.

KARATSALOS GEORGIOS

National legislation and practices obstructing the preliminary reference dialogue between the EU and national courts

Despite the great importance of legal remedies, which arrive after direct actions before the Union Courts, the most important and original aspect of EU redress, the cornerstone of the EU judicial system, is the procedure for referring questions to the Court of Justice of the European

Union (CJEU), of Article 267 of the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The preliminary reference procedure has been of seminal importance for the development of EU law; the national court seeks a ruling from the CJEU whether the particular EU provision had direct effect, and the CJEU thereby develops the concept. Article 267 has been the mechanism through which national courts and the CJEU have engaged in discourse on the appropriate reach of EU law when it conflicts with national legal norms. But this conversation, this dialogue, isn't always unhindered. Both national legislation and practices may impede the preliminary reference procedure. A key factor contributing to the proper functioning of the preliminary reference procedure under Article 267 TFEU and the uniform interpretation of EU law is State liability for infringements of EU law caused by the decisions of national courts of last instance. This liability serves as a safeguard to ensure that national courts uphold their obligations to interpret and apply EU law correctly, thereby promoting legal consistency across the Member States. State liability for infringements of EU law caused by the decisions of national courts is directly linked to the functioning of the preliminary reference procedure under Article 267 TFEU. National courts, especially those of last instance, are obliged to refer questions of EU law to the CJEU when they face uncertainties about its interpretation. If national courts fail to make a reference and subsequently make a ruling contrary to EU law, the Member State may be held liable for the consequences of that misapplication. This creates a strong incentive for national courts to ensure their decisions align with EU law, as failure could lead to financial and legal consequences for the state. Furthermore, state liability ensures uniformity in the application of EU law across the Union. Holding Member States accountable for errors in judicial decisions minimizes the risk of divergent interpretations of EU law and contributes to a cohesive legal framework in the EU. In turn, this strengthens the legal certainty that individuals can rely on across all Member States, fostering the proper functioning of the EU legal order.

KARIPSIADI ELISAVET

International custom before the CJEU

This dissertation addresses the interaction between customary international law (CIL) and the EU legal order, focusing especially on the application of international custom by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Through a binary approach, pertaining to the indirect and direct effect of CIL before the Court, this study assesses not only the level of its integration in the EU legal order, but also the CJEU's nature as both an international and quasi-domestic Court. By analysing key cases, we delve into the substantive rules of custom invoked as well as the jurisdictional limits to the interplay of international and EU law. The study highlights the CJEU's balancing exercise between 'openness' and 'autonomy', ultimately identifying a degree of awkwardness on its approach.

KOKKINOU VALERIA-ANNA

Self-defence against non-State entities with control of a territory

This thesis examines how international law's right of self-defence applies when non-State actors (NSAs) holding territorial control, such as Hamas or the Houthis, launch armed attacks. It contrasts a "restrictive" view with an "expansive" one that recognizes a State's inherent right to defend itself against independent NSAs. Drawing on Article 51 of the UN Charter and key ICJ rulings, it investigates whether post–9/11 State practice has broadened self-defence to encompass NSAs. Central themes include how the "unwilling or unable" doctrine permits cross-border defence against NSAs in a State that cannot or will not act, as well as debates over "anticipatory self-defence" against imminent threats, even where NSAs effectively govern territory.

Contemporary examples, such as Israel's conflict with Hamas, highlight unresolved questions of attribution, proportionality, and the threshold for armed attacks. Ultimately, the rise of NSAs with significant territorial control has complicated - and arguably expanded - States' invocation of the right of self-defence under international law.

LILITSI EVRIDIKI

EUNAVFOR Operation 'ASPIDES' in the Red Sea under International law: A law of the sea analy

The present thesis explores the legality of the measures that States can take within the framework of the EUNAVFOR Operation ASPIDES, in accordance with International Law and given the purely defensive nature of the operation. In particular, the author examines the applicability of certain legal bases under International Law, with an emphasis on the international law of the sea, which could justify the activity of States against the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, granting them the power to take the appropriate legal measures in order to restore the maritime security in the Red Sea and ensure the protection of the freedom of navigation.

LIRO MATHIS JOHANN

The 'Next Generation EU' mechanism: issues of constitutionality and conditionality

This dissertation outlines the compatibility of the borrowing of the European Union under the Next Generation EU mechanism with the Treaties' public finance rules, as well as the legal implications of economic and rule of law conditionality attached to the distribution of those funds.

LIZIER REBECCA

Disability rights in the European Union

This thesis explores disability rights in the EU. Disability rights are ensured by laws that prevent discrimination and promote equal treatment. In this field, these kinds of laws were implemented only after the 70s, given that in these years, there was a shift in the perception of disability rights from a medical condition to a human rights perspective. This phenomenon was at first on the national level, and there were developments at the international level, the most significant being the UNCRPD. At the EU level, the development of disability rights started after the treaty reforms in the 90s. To implement disability rights, it is necessary to integrate them into society, given that they are usually excluded. This thesis investigates ways in which people with disabilities are integrated into the EU. The first thought amalgamation allows to have a general view of the integration process of people with disabilities in the EU. Firstly it investigates the development of disability rights. Then, it investigates the different sectors. Lastly, it investigates examples of stricto sensus inverse integration. It emerges that the EU is active in multiple sectors in an inhomogeneous way, if not with hard laws, with soft laws, and especially recommendations. The second is through compensation. Essentially, it investigates the role of the EU in creating compensation methods, firstly to reduce prejudices, then to integrate them into the working force, and lastly to integrate them into the legal system as full members of society. It emerges that the EU is active in the first two stages; however is lacking in the integration as a full member of society. Integrating people with disabilities is crucial not only for avoiding discrimination against a minority in the EU but also for allowing the EU to be more inclusive, which also has economic benefits. Moreover, the EU has to further work on the framework to integrate people with disability also to ensure better integration of Ukraine into the EU due to the high level of people with disabilities caused by the armed conflict and, in general, integrating refuge this are challenges that the EU will face.

MARINAKI ASPASIA

Continuation of wWar by other means? Tracing the concept of lawfare

This dissertation examines lawfare as the strategic use of law as a weapon of war through the lens of the armed conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Lawfare is categorized in three distinct groups. Instrumental lawfare involves using international legal institutions for political and diplomatic goals, exemplified by the Palestinian Authority's (PA) actions against Israel. Battlefield lawfare is the manipulation of the law of armed conflict to gain military advantage, as seen in the use of human shields by Hamas and Russia. Litigation lawfare is the use of international courts to achieve strategic aims, demonstrated by Ukraine's cases against Russia at various international forums. The study also explores the limits of lawfare, noting its politicization and impact on human rights organizations, which can be accused of using lawfare for political reasons. The dissertation also discusses the judicialization of politics within the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice. It further addresses double standards in international law, where powerful States may not face the same scrutiny as smaller ones. The conclusion considers how lawfare will continue to shape future wars and that while it can empower weaker States, its misuse can undermine international law.

MICHAILOVITS ALEXANDRA

The right of entry and residence for third-country nationals who are family members of EU citizens

Citizenship invariably involves the protection of the rights of a person both in his own country and abroad. While EU citizenship is not viewed as equated to nationality, it increasingly embraces elements that were traditionally considered linked with nationality, such as entry, residence, and protection rights. Within the European Union, such protection also extends to family members of EU citizens, including third-country nationals, particularly when EU citizens avail themselves of their free movement rights. This thesis, therefore, endeavors to analyze in depth the rights of entry and residence for TCN family members of EU citizens, which are secondary and derivative from the status of the EU citizen. It will also describe the various categories of non-EU nationals who are granted these rights, including spouses, partners in a durable relationship, children, and other dependents, examining how they fit within the legal framework. The paper principally focuses on the legal framework controlling these rights and the restrictions and limitations imposed by EU law and the national laws of the Member States. It examines the opportunities available to such persons and the challenges they face, as well as the legal mechanisms designed to balance individual rights with the sovereignty of the Member States. The motivation for this research is family unity and the protection of family rights, which are fundamental to guaranteeing the free movement of EU citizens. A comprehensive understanding of the processes through which non-EU national family members can secure and maintain residency rights is crucial for safeguarding the rights of EU citizens, whether they choose to move within the Union or remain in their home state. This perspective highlights the supranational nature of the EU, where citizens have rights and obligations across Member States, contributing to a shared legal order. The protection of the right of abode for EU citizens and their families, both in their state of nationality and across the wider Union, is thus an important part of EU law. The legal landscape of such rights has evolved over time, particularly with the introduction of Directive 2004/38/EC, which sets conditions for TCN family members to join and reside with EU citizens in different Member States. This thesis will adopt the methodologies of legal interpretation, focusing on key legislation, landmark CJEU rulings, and the European Commission's 2023 Guidelines on the Free Movement Directive, while also placing these developments in the

broader context of EU citizenship law, including the protection afforded by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the consequences of major developments such as the loss of EU citizenship.

MITROPOULOS ANGELOS

BBNJ TREATY and its effects on Greece and the EU

This dissertation explores the BBNJ Treaty's implications, particularly for Greece and the European Union (EU). Greece, with its extensive maritime interests and significant economic reliance on the sea through shipping, fisheries, and tourism, has a profound stake in the governance of international waters. The EU, as a collective entity with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and maritime security, also stands to be greatly affected by the BBNJ Treaty. The agreement presents both opportunities and challenges, balancing the conservation of marine biodiversity with the sustainable exploitation of ocean resources.

MITROPOULOU VASILIKI

Climate-induced displacement in the 21st century.

The author initially examines all the existing proposals for a definition of "climate refugees" or "environmental migrants", as well as what a concise and legally sound definition should look like. Moreover, the paper lists the current international, regional and national frameworks for the protection of people displaced due to climate-related events and, lastly, lists the proposed solutions to address the protection gap in the current legal frameworks and attempts to propose an opinion on what a tailored framework should encompass.

NATALIS HENRIKE

Prosecuting gender-based persecution of Yazidi women and girls by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

This master's thesis examines how the crimes committed by ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) against Yazidi women and girls in 2014 can be prosecuted as gender-based persecution under Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute. It argues that these crimes, including mass abductions, sexual enslavement, rape, and forced marriage, were systematic and targeted acts not only against an ethnic but also a gender-defined group. The study adopts a feminist legal perspective and emphasizes the importance of intersectionality in international criminal law, highlighting how overlapping identities—gender, religion, ethnicity—contributed to the persecution. The thesis explores the legal basis for individual criminal responsibility, admissibility, and jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, even in situations where neither Iraq nor Syria is a member of the Rome Statute. It calls for stronger recognition and prosecution of gender-based persecution to establish legal precedent and international standards for justice and deterrence. The author further stresses the symbolic power of such trials for victims and the global community.

PAPADOPOULOU-VASILAROU ILEKTRA

Contactless control and immigration: moving beyond the ECHR paradigm

This dissertation examines how the protection of human rights must adapt to new challenges in the migration domain. The principal aim is to propose a new framework to address state responsibility beyond the ECHR. Key concepts include functional jurisdiction, which links states and individuals through their policies and activities, and contactless control criteria, which assign responsibility for human rights violations without physical presence. The study is divided

into four chapters: the concept of jurisdiction under ECHR, the functional jurisdiction model, substantive protections under ECHR, and the substantive protections under the Remote-Control Criteria.

PAPASTERGIOU AIKATERINI

Free movement of workers within the EU and social security coordination

The study analyses the legal framework in the European Union, on the right of EU citizens to move freely and to work in another EU country and the social security coordination, especially under EC Regulation No 883/2004 and EC Regulation No 492/2011. It also and presents significant cases in the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) reflecting the interpretation by the Court of the relevant legislation. Finally, it aims to elaborate on how the EU manages differences between various social security related issues, under the aim of an integrated social security scheme among its Member States.

POLITIKOU DAFNI-KONSTANTINA

Multilateralism v. unilateralism in the context of outer space activities: issues for Space law

This thesis examines the growing complexity of space law against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving outer space environment, marked by unprecedented technological advances and shifting geopolitical interests. It centers on the tension between multilateralism—where States collaborate through treaties, institutions, and consensus-based decisions—and unilateralism, which privileges national and sometimes private commercial priorities. Part I traces the historical development of space law, detailing how Cold War–era treaties under United Nations auspices created a cooperative legal framework, exemplified by the International Space Station. Part II explores the subsequent rise of unilateralism from the 2000s onward, revealing how new national laws, soft law instruments, and private-sector initiatives can either reinforce or undermine multilateral norms. Ultimately, the thesis calls for a balanced approach, suggesting that sustainable and peaceful space governance requires both the innovative potential of unilateral measures and the guiding principles and inclusivity of multilateral regulation, all situated within the wider context of public international law.

RISKAKIS PANAGIOTIS

Striking a balance between privacy and freedom of expression: contemporary challenges in the digital sphere

In my thesis, I examine the challenges in balancing privacy and freedom of expression on the Internet, primarily with regards to the newly emerged human right to be forgotten. In essence, true information that has been initially published lawfully, may later on prejudice individuals' reputation and privacy by remaining available online in perpetuity. What restrictions can International Courts impose on freedom of expression as a freedom opposed to the right to privacy, and under which criteria? Do the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights resolve such cases in a similar manner, or do they demonstrate significant discrepancies in their judicial balance? Does freedom of expression undergo all the more excessive censorship nowadays? My dissertation purports to examine this fundamental, topical and interesting conflict between these two human rights, as reflected in the international jurisprudence of the two aforementioned Courts.

SCHWARZ DELIA-ELISA-SABINE

Readmission agreements between the European Union and third countries

This thesis examines the EU's readmission agreements, using a binary framework to analyse their legal basis, evolution and structure. The first part examines these agreements in the context of the EU's external policies, focusing on their impact and the shift towards greater informality in recent decades. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the significance of readmission agreements for the EU's external policies. The second part looks at readmission agreements as a means for the EU to externalise migration control and addresses the risks and challenges involved. A case study illustrates their impact on the EU legal order. The thesis argues that the EU is using readmission cooperation to externalise migration control, raising fundamental rights concerns and undermining its credibility as a rule of law actor in the international community. The increasing prioritisation of internal security over legal norms is also highlighted.

SDRALI KALYPSO-SOFIA

The obligation to Search and Rescue under International and European law: reconceptualising the notion of "place of safety" in view of the principle of solidarity and gender considerations

The aim of this Thesis is to explore the limits of the EU's application of the solidarity principle in SAR operations conducted by both public and private vessels in order to ensure the disembarkation at a place of safety, as articulated in the EU New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Further, it aims to redefine the notion of place of safety through the use of different canons of interpretation including systemic integration, to safeguard the protection of femininities. In the first section the regulatory framework of SAR is presented, focusing on the obligations deriving from it under EU and Public International law. The principle of solidarity in the context of such operations is explored in the second part of this paper. Specifically, a reconceptualization of the place of safety is pursued using solidarity as an interpretative tool in the relationship between Member States (MS), third countries, civil society and individuals. Additionally, its practical application between States and NGOs will be discussed, leading to questioning the existence of the principle beyond disembarkation, as a means of ensuring a place of safety for the displaced. The EU agreements with Libya and Turkey will be also taken into scrutiny. Finally, a reconceptualization of the notion of 'place of safety' through gender considerations is proposed. The aim is to redefine safe places in light of EU's human rights obligations and protection of femininities and substantiate why disembarkation in allegedly safe third countries constitute indirect breaches of the non-refoulement principle driving from a gender perspective.

STAMATOPOULOU VASILIKI

The legality of confiscation of profits of frozen Russian assets under International Law

The present dissertation evaluates the legality of confiscation of public Russian assets under International Law, with particular focus on the confiscation of the assets of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR). First, it assesses the applicability of the doctrine of sovereign immunity in the confiscation of assets of central banks. Second, it evaluates the legality of collective countermeasures and assesses whether their substantive requirements are met in the present case.

STAMOULIS DIMITRIOS

Reviewing the legality of the sovereign base areas in Cyprus in light of the right to self-determination & the process of decolonization

Cyprus officially gained its independence from the United Kingdom on 16 August 1960, following the signing of the Treaty of Establishment. As a condition for its independence, the Republic

of Cyprus was obligated to cede parts of its territory to the British for the creation of the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). While the legal status of the SBAs has been questioned, there has not been a formal challenge to their presence by the Republic of Cyprus. Nevertheless, in the aftermath of the 2019 Chagos Advisory Opinion, there have been increased discussions on if and how Cyprus could bring this issue before the International Court of Justice. The Court's ruling on the Advisory Opinion offered new insights on the evolving principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, and the process of decolonization, providing a set of legal tools that Cyprus could use to challenge the legal status of the SBAs. This study analyzes the implications of the Chagos Advisory Opinion, in addition to other ICJ jurisprudence, UN Resolutions, and state practice in evaluating the legality of the SBAs. The research concludes that the evolution of various principles of international law, topped with the Chagos Advisory Opinion, strengthens a hypothetical case against the SBAs, although the applicability to Cyprus is far more complex given the unique historical, political, and legal circumstances.

STATHAS FOIVOS

Exploring investor's protection in investor-state arbitration, focusing on the pharmaceutical industry

This thesis analyzes the safeguards provided by state investor-state arbitration to pharmaceutical corporations. The thesis delineates both jurisdictional and substantive legal concerns that have arisen and may still arise. The section on pharmaceutical patent and marketing authorization protection by European and American regulatory bodies focuses on whether the costs of investing, developing, and obtaining marketing applications, along with pharmaceutical patents and marketing authorization, qualify as investments. This thesis classifies the attributes of longevity, value, risk-taking, and involvement in state growth of the pharmaceutical patent, market authorization and the associated R &D and administrative costs as investments. This is an essential conclusion of efforts to safeguard the drug development process and ensure patient access to novel therapies. Experts have viewed issues such as the cancellation of marketing authorizations and pharmaceutical patents as either indirect expropriation or a breach of fair and equitable treatment at the substantive provisions level. The essential aspect is the mandatory licensing of pharmaceutical products to protect public health. The thesis proposes restricting the acceptance of unfounded appeals to public health that unjustly impede innovation and intellectual property rights for drugs.

STATHOULOPOULOU THEOFANI

The extraterritorial jurisdiction of states under the ECHR: the way forward

The main axis of the dissertation is developed around the question of whether the current, well-established models of jurisdiction suffice to secure the effective protection of human rights. Simultaneously, it investigates whether a functional model, based on the special relationship formed between the individuals and state, could correspond more adequately to the contemporary challenges and to the different types of cases brought before the ECtHR. Adducing some of the significant -and quite often contested- cases of the ECtHR, the survey tries to indicate the inconsistencies and legal uncertainties that have been generated by the Court's jurisprudence throughout the years. Building on this premise, it reassesses some of the cases, via the filter of the functional model proposed, so as to illustrate its contribution to a more solid and coherent framework.

STAVRIDOU AIKATERINI

The prohibition of torture as a jus cogens norm: identification, legal consequences and contemporary challenges

The specific LL.M. Thesis concerns the prohibition of torture as a jus cogens norm. Its aim is to identify torture as a norm of jus cogens, distinguishing it from other forms of ill-treatment. Further, it examines the legal consequences of the recognition of torture as a jus cogens norm, as well as the enforcement mechanisms both at an international and european level. In the final chapter, focus is given on certain challenges in the contemporary legal world.

STRAUTA LUCIJA

The EU Digital Single Market and digital and cross-border uses of copyrighted content

This paper researches the goals of the Digital Single Market Strategy and how it addresses the conflicting interests of users or consumers and rightholders regarding the accessibility of digital content in the Digital Single Market. While the Digital Single Market and consumers would benefit from free cross-border access to digital content, the main obstacles stem from copyright territoriality, which is inherent to its application and enforcement. Nevertheless, in specific industries rightholders prefer territoriality while a pan-European license is seen as a threat to industry practices for financing the creation of work. Chapter 1 of this paper analyses how the Digital Single Market Strategy approaches digital content and the EU legal provisions of e-commerce to protect the interests and rights of consumers. Moreover, it also researches the legal concepts existing in the EU copyright legislation that facilitates cross-border access to copyrighted content. Chapter II covers copyright protection and enforcement in the EU, as well as the interests of rightholders regarding digital content. It addresses the conditions that contribute to the fragmentation of copyrighted digital content, like music or the audiovisual industry, and hinders the cross-border access and use of digital content stemming both from legislation and freedom of contract.

STRUCK TAMARA

The principles of equal treatment and mutual recognition regulating the cross-border movement of students in the EU

This thesis analysis the interplay between the principles of equal treatment and mutual recognition in the regulation of the cross-border movement of students in the EU. Therefore, I will address the question of whether the EU legislation on student mobility contributes to the equality of students in the EU. I will analyse student mobility within the two distinct frameworks of free movement of persons; from rights granted to workers (the economic dimension) in Part A to rights linked to EU citizenship (social dimension) in Part B. In the first chapters of each part I will introduce into the legal framework, examining its legal basis and continue with the specific applicability of the principles of mutual recognition and equal treatment within the framework. The analysis will then turn to the case law of ECJ on students' rights to access to higher education and maintenance grants while studying in another Member State. Particular attention will be paid to its implications for the shifting competences in the field of education. I will therefore divide the case law into two categories: The first concerns the free movement of economically active persons and their family members, and the second addressing the rights of economically inactive persons. In addition, these chapters will review the interplay between the principles of equal treatment and mutual recognition in overcoming obstacles to student mobility. Finally, the two main parts will conclude with a critical discussion of the implications of student mobility, focusing in particular on the impact of equality between students. The discussion will situate

the legal developments of student mobility within the broader political and social context. The thesis traces the development of free movement of students through almost 70 years of European law. The core provisions on free movement and equal treatment of economically active persons have been renumbered with several Treaty amendments, while their content has remained unchanged. To be precise, the articles are introduced with the current numbering and then used by the exact historic numbering to the relevant cases discussed.

THEODOROPOULOU IOANNA

The road to the European Union through legal migration

This paper explores the context of legal migration to the European Union. Starting with the historical trajectory of migration flows towards the European Union, it examines the ways through which migrants can legally reside in the European Union for family, work or academic purposes. The following analysis does not include the case of third-country nationals, who enter, in the first place, the European Union as refugees or asylum seekers, as well as migrants who entered the EU territory illegally and were subsequently regularized. The thesis mainly provides an overview of key EU Directives that establish legal pathways for migration towards the European Union. The first chapter examines the first steps for a fragmented legal framework developed during the initial stages of the EU's migration policy. It includes the Family Reunification Directive and the Long-term Residence Directive, adopted to address Member States' needs to integrate mi-grants already present from earlier migratory flows. The second section of this chapter addresses the framework designed to attract workers, students and researchers, responding to the EU's emerging labor demands and anticipated demographic challenges, as outlined in Commission and Council documents. The second chapter reflects on the EU's sustained efforts to attract migrants for labor purposes, which is the primary objective in the evolution of legal migration policies. It includes an analysis of the revised EU Blue Card Directive and the Directive on a single procedure for work and residence permit. Additionally, the chapter provides an overview of the complementary frame-work established under the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, emphasizing on the improvements to the Single Permit Directive as long as new proposals -included in Recommendations and proposals for new Directives- for strengthening the existing legal migration acquis. It should be noted that this paper does not aim to examine the implementation of the afore-mentioned Directives in specific Member States. Instead, it provides a comprehensive overview of the direction and objectives of European migration policy and identifies key challenges and improvements. For this purpose the thesis outlines the evolution of the European Union's legal frame-work on migration and explores whether a balance is struck between achieving the Union's objectives while ensuring the sustainable mobility of third-country nationals who use legal channels to the European Union.

TSAKIRI DIMITRA

Human rights at the ballot box: peace treaties and electoral arrangements in International law

The paper discusses the complex relationship between human rights, peace treaties, and electoral arrangements within an international legal framework using the case study Kovacevic v. Bosnia and Herzegovina. This paper argues that the international legal norm and the peace agreement of countries in post-conflict situations shape the form taken by electoral processes and opens up the roles they play in guaranteeing respect for the principles of human rights. The particular case of Kovacevic v. Bosnia and Herzegovina provides the opportunity to review in detail challenges and successes in the application of international law for the protection of electoral integrity. In this regard, the research aims to contribute to a better understanding of

how international law nurtures democratic governance and political stability in post-conflict regions by taking into consideration this case.

TSILIVAKOU ANASTASIA-VASILIKI

Examining the interplay between the GDPR and NIS 2 Directive in shaping a secure European digital landscape

The digital revolution has brought rapid changes, but also significant risks like cyberattacks, data breaches and identity theft, making data protection and cybersecurity critical concerns. In the EU, key regulations like the GDPR and NIS 2 Directive address these issues by requiring organizations to implement technical and organizational safeguards. However, the overlap between these frameworks often creates ambiguities in their application. Therefore, this research explores how GDPR's data protection principles and rules align with NIS 2's cybersecurity measures to foster digital security. It also examines challenges, including regulatory limitations, market competition and the difficulties faced by SMEs in achieving compliance. By analyzing these frameworks and identifying areas for improvement, this thesis highlights the importance of adapting regulations to keep pace with evolving threats, ensuring trust, innovation and effective protection of personal data in the digital age.

ZARA MARIA

Fundamental rights protection in the asylum procedures

The conduct of a comparative assessment between the currently applicable and the recently adopted EU legislative framework on asylum (Pact on Migration and Asylum), as implemented and supplemented by jurisprudential considerations of the European Court of Justice, for the purpose of asserting and critically evaluating the standard of fundamental rights protection offered by the EU legislator to applicants for international protection.