



Speaker Program

October 2-3, 2025
Western University

Location: Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Keynote Speaker



Payam Akhavan, LLB (Osgoode) LLM SJD (Harvard), LLD *Honoris Causa* (Law Society of Ontario) OOnt FRSC, is the inaugural holder of the Massey Chair in Human Rights. Professor Akhavan is also Senior Fellow at Massey College, former Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, Associate Member of the *Institut de droit international*, and the former Special Advisor on Genocide to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Additionally, he is Barrister at Twenty Essex Street Chambers in London, UK: <https://www.twentyessex.com/people/payam-akhavan/>. He was previously Full Professor at McGill University Faculty of Law (2005-20), Distinguished Visitor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, with other appointments at Yale Law School, Leiden University, Oxford University, Université Paris Nanterre, and Sciences Po École de Droit.

Panelists



Cecilia M. Bailliet is Professor Dr. jur., Director of the Masters Program in International Law. She is the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity. She supported the creation of an International Solidarity Map: Solidarity Actions Around The World. She is Co-Chair of the Latin America Interest Group of the American Society of International Law. She received her Doctorate in law from the University of Oslo in Norway. Bailliet has published extensively on transnational and cross-disciplinary issues within international law including general public international law, human rights, refugee law, constitutional law, counter-terrorism, gender/women's rights, solidarity, and peace. She has contributed lectures to the UN AudioVisual Library of International Law. Bailliet's authored and edited books include: Research Handbook on International Solidarity and the Law (Edward Elgar 2024), The Construction of the Customary Law of Peace: Latin America and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Edward Elgar 2021); The Research Handbook on International Law and Peace (Edward Elgar 2019), Promoting Peace Through International Law (OUP 2015).



Margaret M. deGuzman is Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for International Law and Public Policy at Temple University Beasley School of Law. She also serves as a judge of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, where she currently sits on the Trial Chamber in The Prosecutor v. Félicien Kabuga. Professor deGuzman's research focuses on international criminal law, international humanitarian law, human rights, and transitional justice. Her scholarship examines how international criminal law shapes – and is shaped by – the broader global legal order. In addition to her work in international law, she teaches a course on Mindful Lawyering, which explores how mindfulness practices can support ethical, client-centered, and resilient legal practice.



Kimberly Prost (virtual speaker) - Judge as of 11 March 2018, for a term of nine years. Prior to her election as judge of the ICC, **Judge Prost** served as Chef de Cabinet for the President of the International Criminal Court for a two-year term. Before joining the Court, she was appointed in 2010 as the first Ombudsperson for the Security Council Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. In July 2006, after election by the United Nations General Assembly, she was appointed to sit as an *ad litem* judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on a multi-accused trial (*Popovic et al*) related to events at Srebrenica and Zepa. Earlier in her career, Judge Prost worked for the Canadian Department of Justice for 18 years appearing before all levels of the Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court. For 7 years she served as Director of the International Assistance Group which is responsible for extradition and mutual legal assistance matters for Canada. She participated in negotiating over 40 extradition/mutual legal assistance treaties and was a member of the Canadian delegation for negotiating the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* and related documents, as well as the *UN Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption*. Judge Prost also held managerial positions with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime delivering a range of programs for States on international cooperation, money laundering and asset forfeiture, counter terrorism, implementation of the Rome Statute, and combating organized crime and corruption. Judge Prost graduated as a gold medalist from the University of Manitoba Law School.



Kerry Buck is a Canadian diplomat; she was the Permanent Representative and Ambassador to NATO from 2015 until 2019. Buck joined Global Affairs Canada in 1991. Buck is a Senior Fellow at University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.



Norman Farrell has worked tirelessly to bring justice to victims of mass atrocities across the world – prosecuting genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and domestic terrorism cases at international tribunals.

He has served in prominent positions including chief prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, deputy prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and senior prosecution counsel at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He also was legal advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and Ethiopia and a delegate in Sarajevo. Prior to his international work, he was crown counsel at the Crown Law Office-Criminal in Toronto.

Through his work, he has fought against impunity and worked to hold the highest civilian and military leaders to account and in doing so, he contributed to bringing justice to hundreds of thousands of victims and survivors of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. He returned to Canada in 2022. In his new role as senior legal advisor in the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crime section of the Department of Justice, he is bringing a wealth of international experience home to serve Canadians. His contributions to the development of international criminal law have left an indelible mark and will continue to impact and assist in bringing justice to victims of serious international crimes in the years to come.



Christopher Waters, LSM, is Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor. He was Dean of the Faculty from 2015-2021 and has been the co-editor of the Canadian Bar Review since 2015. Dr. Waters has field experience with international organizations and is currently the Scholar-in-Residence with the Office of the Judge Advocate General. His academic interests include international humanitarian law, the use of force, international legal history, and the role of cities in international law. Dr Waters is the author of several books, and his articles have appeared in journals such as the Canadian Yearbook of International Law and the American Journal of International Law.



Frank Schumacher is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Program in International Relations at the University of Western Ontario. He previously taught in Germany and the United States; he has also held visiting professorships in Europe and North America, most recently as Roosevelt Visiting Professor in the Netherlands.

Professor Schumacher specializes in international and global history with a focus on the role of the United States in world affairs, the history of empires and colonialism, and the global history of genocide and mass violence. He has published widely on histories of the American Empire, colonial mass violence, the role of culture in international relations, and Cold War propaganda. He is currently co-editing three books, on Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. globalization projects, and the state of democracy in the Atlantic world.



Lina Brand Correa is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University (Toronto). She completed her PhD at the University of Leeds and her master's at the University of Edinburgh. She is a board member of the International Society for Ecological Economics. Her research uses an ecological economics and degrowth lens and focuses primarily on energy and wellbeing issues, and their intersection. She is interested in exploring topics all along the "energy chain", from "EROI" or energy return on (energy) investment on the energy supply side, to "energy poverty" on the energy demand side, and many other topics in between. Lina is a proponent of energy transformations (rather than simply reforms or transitions), given the dangers of the rebound effect (whereby advances in energy efficiency result in greater energy use due to reductions in cost, such that any possible energy savings are undone before they are realized), the necessity for reductions in overall levels of energy use (particularly in the Global North), and the injustices embedded in an extremely unequal energy landscape. She is leading a SSHRC-funded research project entitled "Floors and Ceilings: Minimum and Maximum Household Energy Uses for Just Climate Action in Canada with a Focus on Ontario".



Akola Thompson is a writer and researcher rooted in Black-Indigenous Caribbean feminism, bridging activism and scholarship to advance gender equality. She is the current Managing Director of Tamùkke Feminists, a queer-led LBT+ collective in Guyana driving intersectional initiatives in sexual health and reproductive justice. A 2023 recipient of The Commonwealth Youth Award for Gender Equality, Akola has led impactful projects on LBT+ sex education, GBV+ guide app creation, and policy reform. She holds an MSc in Sustainable Development from the University of Sussex and is currently pursuing a PhD in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Western University (Environment & Sustainability). Her research explores the intersections of reproductive justice, extractivism, and environmental harm.



Sheena Wilson is a professor of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta, co-founder & director of the international Petrocultures Research Group, and research lead on *Just Powers*. Her research interests involve an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach to studying how the extractivist world-view that has contributed to climate change through the exploitation of land and resources, likewise allows for the exploitation of gendered, classed and racialized bodies, and the erasure of knowledge held by those bodies. Given that mobilizing against climate change can be overwhelming, she argues for a focus on *power shift*—literally in terms of energy transition, and figuratively in terms of social justice—as a means to anchor feminist and decolonial political movements striving for climate justice. A commitment to feminism and decolonization as method and praxis, as well as object of study, informs her current research projects: 1) the first is a SSHRC-funded project called *Feminist Energy Futures: Power Shift and Environmental Social Justice* (SSHRC) co-led by Dr. Sourayan Mookerjea; the other two are Canada First Research Excellence (CEFREF)-funded Energy Humanities projects she leads as part of the larger Future Energy Systems project at the U of A, called 2) *Speculative Energy Futures* co-led by Dr. Natalie Loveless and 3) *iDoc* co-led by Dr. Sourayan Mookerjea. Wilson's publication highlights include *Petrocultures: Oil, Politics, Cultures* w/ Adam Carlson and Imre Szeman (MQUP, 2017); "Gendering Oil: Tracing Western Petrosexual Relations" (2014); and *Sighting Oil* w/Andrew Pendakis (2012). Her monograph in process is called *Deep Energy Literacy: Toward Feminist Energy Futures*



Dara Vador is a Canadian artist and writer working in various media, including sculpture, AI, photography, and installation. Her projects explore the shifting role of images in contemporary culture. In her words, "I think a lot about making pictures during a moment when there are too many pictures."



Felipe Quintanilla is Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies at Western University, where his research and teaching cover a wide range of topics and genres, including the Salvadoran Post Civil memory and oral history; gender and sexuality in contemporary Latin American cinema and literature; U.S. Latin@ representation in popular media; and Spanish-English translation. His creative works have been included in several print anthologies as well as in various online publications. Born in Mexico City to a Mexican mother and a Salvadoran father, Dr. Quintanilla emigrated to Canada at the age of ten, and he received his Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from Western University in 2012.

Friday, October 3, 2025

Panelists



Peter Jones is Full Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is also Executive Director of the Ottawa Dialogue, a university-based organization which runs Track 1.5 and Track Two dialogues around the world. He is the author of *Track Two Diplomacy: In Theory and Practice*, Stanford University Press, and numerous articles on Track Two and Backchannel diplomacy. He holds a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College, London and an MA in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada. Prior to joining academe, he spent 14 years in the Canadian civil service. He worked in the Foreign Affairs Department (now called "Global Affairs Canada") on issues relating the multilateral arms control and on Middle East security, and in the Privy Council Office on National Security and Intelligence issues. He also spent four years as a Project Leader at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).



Dr. Bessma Momani is Associate Vice-President, International and Full Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. She is also a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and non-resident fellow at the Arab Gulf States' Institute in Washington, DC, and a Fulbright Scholar. She is a Governor on the board of the International Development Research Centre, and an Advisor on the Board of the Canadian International Council.

She was Assistant Vice-President, Research and International in the Office of Research in 2022-2023 and in 2021, interim Associate Vice-President, Interdisciplinary and Sponsored Research 2021-2022, Assistant Vice-President, International Relations in 2020, Fellow of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation from 2015-2018, non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and at the Stimson Center in Washington, DC, and was a visiting scholar at Georgetown University's Mortara Center.

She has worked as a consultant to the International Monetary Fund, both in the communications office and the Independent Evaluation Office. From 2018-2022 she served as a member of the National Security Transparency Advisory Group at Public Safety Canada.



Dr. Mariateresa Garrido is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Law at UPEACE and the University for Peace's Doctoral Committee Coordinator. She is an international lawyer and holds both a Master's and a Doctorate degree from UPEACE.

Her main research area is related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and the protection of journalists in Latin America, but she is also researching the interaction between human rights and Information and Communication Technologies. She uses mixed methodologies and legal research to explore linkages between the law, journalism, and new technologies. She also holds two Master's Degrees; one from UPEACE in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes and one from the Central University of Venezuela in Public International Law.



Leah West is a legal expert specializing in national security law, co-author of *National Security Law* (2021) and co-editor of *Stress Tested: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Canadian National Security* (2021). She has published extensively on national security, cyber operations, and the law of armed conflict. Leah regularly advises Canadian government agencies on national security law and policy and is a frequent media commentator. She has testified before Canadian and European legislative bodies and serves on editorial boards of key national security journals.

Leah is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, co-leading a military AI ethics program, and served on the 2024 Research Council for a public inquiry into foreign interference in Canadian elections. She practices law with Friedman Mansour LLP and has appeared before major Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court. Leah previously worked for the Department of Justice's National Security Litigation and Advisory Branch and clerked for a Federal Court Justice. Before law, she served 10 years as a Canadian Armed Forces armored officer, including deployment to Afghanistan.

Academically, Leah holds a Doctorate of Juridical Science from the University of Toronto, focusing on legal issues around state intelligence agencies and online conduct, and has received several prestigious fellowships and scholarships. She also holds a Master of Laws, a Master's in intelligence studies, a JD, and an honors BA in politics.



Sylvain Vité is Senior Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He is currently Head of the Legal Department of the ICRC's Regional Delegation for the US and Canada. In the past, he has held various positions both at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva and delegations. He has worked as a Field Delegate in Colombia, as well as Operational Legal Coordinator in Myanmar.

Sylvain Vité has also worked as a Legal Adviser and Program Manager in various non-governmental organizations and has been a lecturer and researcher in academic circles, including the University of Geneva and Bilkent University in Ankara.

Sylvain Vité holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Geneva, a Master in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, a Master of Laws from the American University/Washington College of Law, and a Ph.D in International Law from the University of Geneva.

He has published academic books and articles on international humanitarian law, international human rights law and the privileges and immunities of international organisations. He has also contributed to the ICRC's updated Commentary on the Geneva Conventions of 1949.



Lena Moore is a Research Affiliate with the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. Her research examines how imaginations and predictions about the future of US warfare, and the future of humanity itself, function politically, especially during times of major technologized geopolitical change. She has a monograph on the subject forthcoming with Stanford University Press, tentatively titled *Posthuman Empire*, and has worked in research capacities for Veterans For Peace in New York City, and with Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps at Cambridge. Lena holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies, an MSc from Royal Holloway, University of London, and a BA from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.



Ken Watkin, OMM, CD, KC served for 33 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, including four years (2006-2010) as the Judge Advocate General. Ken has written extensively on State self-defence, international humanitarian law and human rights law issues related to armed conflict. He is the author of *Fighting at the Legal Boundaries: Controlling the Use of Force in Contemporary Conflict* (OUP, 2016), which was awarded the 2017 Francis Lieber Prize by American Society of International Law as “an exceptional published work in the field of armed conflict”. Ken is also a co-author of *The Law in War: A Concise Overview* (Routledge, 2nd ed. 2023), and has also written over 70 articles, commentaries, and book reviews.

While serving in the military he advised the 1993 joint civilian/military Board of Inquiry investigating the Canadian Airborne Battlegroup in Somalia and was Government legal counsel representing Lieutenant-General (Ret’d) Dallaire and his military assistant in respect of inquiries and investigations arising from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. This included appearing as counsel in 2004 before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In 2010 upon retirement from the military he was appointed as a Foreign Observer to the Israeli Independent Commission investigating the 31 May 2010 Gaza blockade incident, and he subsequently served as the Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Law at the United States Naval War College (2011-2012)

Ken has worked as a consultant with the United Nations in Nigeria and for the Canadian government. He was a member of the Editorial Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross project to update the 1949 Geneva Convention (III) on Prisoners of War Commentary published in 2020. His recent work has concentrated on the international law governing espionage, sabotage and treacherous conduct during contemporary shadow conflict and hybrid warfare.

WAFAR Program Team



Theme Leader **Ryan Liss** (Western Law) examines the relationship between law and interstate peace, through the interdisciplinary lens of law, political theory, history, and philosophy. His areas of research include international law, particularly, international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law, and criminal law. Additionally, he brings to the *Exploring Possibilities for Peace* theme practical expertise gained through his work as a human rights advocate and as a lawyer with several international tribunals.

Liss' work has received recognition from the American Society of International Law, the Trudeau Foundation, SSHRC, and other organizations. Currently, he serves as the Co-director of Western Law's Public and Private International Law Research Group, where he and Co-Director Valerie Oosterveld provide a platform for scholarly inquiry into international human rights law, international trade law, private international law, international labour law, international criminal law, and more.



Western Fellow **Valerie Oosterveld** (Western Law) holds the Western Research Chair in International Criminal Justice. She is also the Acting Director of Western's Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction. Her work on gender issues in international criminal justice has been widely cited by scholars, as well as international courts and tribunals. She also researches in the field of outer space law, including its intersection with international criminal and humanitarian law, and is a faculty member of Western's Institute for Earth and Space Exploration.

In addition to her scholarly expertise, Oosterveld brings extensive experience gained in multilateral negotiation of international treaties and resolutions through her service in government. As well, she is often invited by international organizations, governments, and civil society organizations to serve as an invited expert with respect to gender-related projects. Recently, Oosterveld was consulted on the drafting of the International Criminal Court Office of the Prosecutor's groundbreaking Policy on the *Crime of Gender Persecution* (2022), as well as other policies.



Bipasha Baruah (Gender Studies) is a Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Women's Issues (2012-2022), who specializes in interdisciplinary research, with a focus on gender, economy, and environment, and development. As an applied interdisciplinary social scientist, Baruah has undertaken research projects all over the world in which she seeks to understand complex social, economic, and environmental problems. Currently, Baruah is exploring the linkage between climate change and conflict, and the possibility of gender equity and inclusion in green or low-carbon economies.

As a Western Fellow with the *Exploring Possibilities for Peace* research theme, Baruah will examine the topic of interstate conflict through an intersectional, environmental, and economic lens. Additionally, Baruah will also explore efforts to promote peace in climate and environmental conflicts, post-civil-war contexts, and in movements for separate statehood and sovereignty.



John T. Holmes brings years of experience working with war-affected countries. Throughout his career as a diplomat, Holmes served as Canada's Ambassador to nine countries, including Iraq, Timor Leste, Philippines, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Holmes has held many leadership positions, where he participated in decision-making on issues relating to interstate conflict, international courts, and peacebuilding. Holmes served as Canada's Legal Advisor on the United Nations Security Council and the International Court, and chaired negotiations on the *Agenda for War-Affected Children* (2000).



Masud Husain served as Canada's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and as Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Co-operation. A recognized expert in peace and conflict in the Middle East, Husain has held many leadership roles at Global Affairs Canada, include the role of Director General and Deputy Legal Advisor. Husain has extensive knowledge and experience in issues relating to geographical and environmental disputes, transnational organized crime, and peace and security.



Sabine Nölke has had over 30 years of experience as a leading voice in matters of international peace and security, armed conflict, non-proliferation and disarmament, human rights, terrorism, and international and transnational crime.

She has provided legal and policy advice to the Government of Canada on issues ranging from international humanitarian law, to reparations, to genocide, and the threat and use of weapons of mass destruction, including serving as co-counsel for Canada before the International Court of Justice, on Legality of the Use of Force (Serbia v. Canada et al.). She has served as Director of the United Nations, Human Rights, and Economic Law division (2007) and as Canada's Ambassador to the Netherlands (2015-2019).



Dr. Uzma Rashid currently serves as Associate Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the United Nations Mandated University for Peace, Costa Rica, in particular managing the Gender and Peacebuilding, and Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies Masters programs. Prior to joining UPeace, she worked as Chair at the Department of Sociology, and Associate Dean for Research of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan. Dr. Rashid has done her PhD as a Fulbright scholar from the interdisciplinary Language, Literacy, and Culture program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA, and has extensive teaching and research experience in a variety of contexts. Her current research interests lie at the intersections of gender, sexuality, religion, race, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status, in particular focusing on intersectionality and inclusivity in peacebuilding efforts. (Source: [KAICIID](#))



Pascal Michelberger is a recent PhD graduate of Western University's program in Comparative Literature (Department of Languages and Cultures). In his research, located at the intersection of literary studies, legal studies, and history, he highlights the ways in which the examination of fictional and non-fictional sources with the tools of scholarship rooted in the humanities can offer meaningful perspectives on conflict, peace, and the rule of law.

He is especially interested in the adequacy of legal investigations and trials for the purpose of addressing systematic human rights violations, establishing the truth about past events, and normalizing relationships between conflict parties. He has worked extensively on fictional approaches to the legal prosecution of Third Reich crimes in (West) Germany, the Spanish Civil War, and the Spanish transition to democracy after the Franco dictatorship. For his doctoral research at Western University, he was awarded an Ontario Trillium Scholarship.



Dr. Ola Osman earned her Ph.D. in Politics and International Studies from the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge Scholar, and her Master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford as a Clarendon Scholar. Additionally, she was named an Honorary Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Scholar. Dr. Osman's interdisciplinary scholarship bridges International Relations and Black Studies, with a focus on Afro-pessimism. Her research investigates how the legacies of transatlantic slavery have shaped ethnic identities and hierarchies in sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to the proliferation of armed conflicts in the post-Cold War era. Building on her Ph.D. research, her next project examines why ex-combatant women took up arms during the Liberian war, their dual roles as perpetrators and victims of militarized violence, and their reintegration into society two decades later.

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