



Gender & Private International Law (GaP) - A transdisciplinary workshop May 6-7, 2021

We are excited to announce that the Gender & Private International Law workshop will take place on May 6-7, 2021! Over the past two years we have worked to create a transdisciplinary field of study at the intersection of feminist and gender studies and private international law. [This project](#) was born out of a sense of scholarly and political urgency in the face of a growing opposition to women's and LGBTI rights in a rapidly shifting world and the fact that unlike many other legal fields, private international law ("PIL") is often isolated from gender justice questions ([some exceptions here](#), [here](#) & [here](#); see also the [the report on a recent panel on women & PIL](#)).

In the fall of 2019, we organized [a series of transdisciplinary events](#) to this end at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. Our kick-off event in October, convened by the former MPI fellow [Ivana Isailović](#) (UvA) & [Roxana Banu](#) (Queen's Mary University) brought together a diverse group of scholars from both PIL and gender studies (see [our report](#)). We also put together a series of reading groups convened by Ivana Isailović & Ralf Michaels. Participants read canonical texts in feminist political theory, intersectionality and queer studies, and PIL materials, and tried to understand what they can teach us about PIL rules, and its underlying representations of the world, and how PIL can also contribute to feminist and gender studies thought. Following the success of these events, we had planned to hold a transdisciplinary workshop in May 2020, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop is now taking place online on May 6-7.

The two-day workshop will consist of discussion groups covering the pressing topics of transnational surrogacy, the interaction between Western and Islamic family law, and the transnational regulation of queer families. We are delighted that [Cyra Choudhury \(Florida International University\)](#), [Rosario Espinosa Calabuig \(Valencia\)](#), [Susanne Gössl \(Bonn/Kiel\)](#), [Vanja Hamzić \(SOAS London\)](#), [Elisabeth Holzleithner \(Vienna\)](#), and [Nadima Yassari \(MPI Hamburg\)](#) have agreed to be the convenors! They will be joined by a stellar group of established and emerging scholars working on feminist and gender studies issues and PIL.

This is not a traditional workshop or conference. Our goal is not to give answers, but rather to open up a space for meaningful scholarly exploration and for critical analysis through the examination of materials from both gender studies and PIL. Central to the project is to better understand, through cross-teaching, how PIL interacts with society and theory, and how it affects in a complex way power relations, reproducing or subverting asymmetries based on gender, race or class.

How to join us for the event? Like in our previous events, we hope to give a platform to emergent scholars representing a diversity of backgrounds and voices. If you would like to join us in May, please send us a couple of paragraphs explaining how your research fits our project and how you would like to contribute to the event. Please let us know also if you want to participate as one of the **'discussants'**, who will be expected to actively participate in different discussions, or as one of the **'engaged listeners'** who will be invited to attend the workshop, but will take a less active part in the discussions.



Please send us your applications **by April 2, 2021** at gender@mpipriv.de, and we will get back to you **by mid April**.

If you have any general questions concerning the project, please write to us at gender@mpipriv.de.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop!

Ivana Isailović & Ralf Michaels