

Activities report for JULY 2021 – December 2022:

ICON-S Israeli Chapter

Chapter Co-Chairs: **Prof. Gila Stopler** (School of Law, College of Law and Business)

Prof. Yaniv Roznai (Harry Radzyner Law School, Reichman University)

Blog Manager and Icon-S-Essays editor: **Shani Schnitzer** (Ph.D. candidate, Tel-Aviv University)

Chapter Secretary: **Noa Kwartaz-Avraham** (Ph.D. candidate, Tel-Aviv University)

Overview

In the past 18 months, ICON-S-IL has continued to strengthen its position as a significant and influential player in the Israeli public law arena. Throughout 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual conference was divided into a series of ad-hoc events, held online. In the second half of 2022, with the decrease in COVID-19 regulation and in line with last year's objectives, we were able to hold our annual conference, as well as other events, in-person. From July 2021 to December 2022 two main events took place:

On November 2nd, 2021, an online conference marking the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year took place via zoom. The conference was composed of two academic sessions, dedicated to the Israeli constitutional crisis of the past three years and to the legal and social aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first session, Prof. **Barak Medina**, rector of the Hebrew University, delivered a lecture on Israeli constitutional law in 2021. In the second session, a panel discussion titled: 'Un Vaccinated: The Choice and its Costs' took place. The panel was chaired by Dr. **Tamar Hostovsky-Brandes** (Ono Academic College), and discussants included **Talia Agmon** (legal advisor of the Israeli Ministry of Health), Dr. **Netta Barak-Corren** (the Hebrew University), Prof. **Aeyal Gross** (Tel Aviv University) and Prof. **Yuval Feldman** (Bar Ilan University). In addition, during the conference, the ICON-S-IL prize for an outstanding paper written by a young scholar for 2020 was granted, as will be detailed below.

On June 12th, 2022, the 7th ICON-S-IL annual conference took place at the College of Law and Business. Reflecting Israel's political crisis of the past three years, the conference was held under the general theme of 'Israeli Public Law in Times of Political Polarization'. The main panel of the conference was dedicated to debating this issue and, included a diverse panel of speakers: Prof. **Moshe Cohen-Eliya** (College of Law and Business) and Prof. **Suzie Navot** (Israel Democracy Institute), who served as moderators, Dr. **Assaf Malach**, Head of the Civic Studies Committee at the Israeli Ministry of Education, Prof. **Yifat Bitton**, President of Achva Academic College, a legal academic and activist; and Dr. **Hassan Jabbarin**, founder of the 'Adalah' organization for human rights.

Throughout the conference, 24 different panel sessions took place, with over 100 participants presenting their work and taking part in the discussions. Panel themes ranged from separation of power theories to the regulation of online platforms, public law and economic inequality, empirical public law research, Israel's attorney general, and so on. Diversity was manifested not only in particular panel themes, but also in the different forms of discussions: 3 panels were held in the form of a roundtable discussion ('Political Corruption in Israel', 'Should Israeli Public Law Syllabi be Focused on the Occupied Territories?' and 'Israeli HCJ criticism on Government Actions in the Occupied Territories'). One panel was dedicated to discussing different post-doctoral options for research students considering an academic career. As will be detailed below, the annual ICON-S-IL award for an outstanding paper in public law written by a young scholar for 2021 was also granted during the conference.

In addition, three other events took place:

On May 31st, 2022, a workshop on '**Religion, Illiberalism and Emotions in Constitutionalism**' was held at Reichman University. Participants included Prof. **Martin Belov**, (Sofia University at St. Kliment Ohridski), Prof. **Nicholas Hatis** (University of Nottingham), and Prof. **Andrea Pin** (University of Padua), who presented their work, followed by a discussion and comments by Prof. **Lior Barshack**, Prof. **Yaniv Roznai**, Dr. **Adam Shinar** (Reichman University), Prof. **Christoph Bezemek** (Karl-Franzens-University Graz), Dr. **Tamar Hostovsky-Barndes** (Ono Academic College), Dr. **Michal Saliternik** (Netanya Academic College) and Prof. **Gila Stopler** (College of Law and Business). The workshop was chaired by **Noa Kwartaz-Avraham** (Tel Aviv University and ICON-S-IL secretary).

On June 1st, 2022, a lecture titled '**How Bad is Holmes's 'Bad Man' Really?**', by Prof. **Christoph Bezemek** (Karl-Franzens-University Graz), was delivered at Reichman University.

The lecture was followed by a discussion. Participants included Prof. **Michal Alberstein**, (Bar-Ilan university), Prof. **Alon Harel**, (the Hebrew university of Jerusalem), Prof. **Guy Seidman**, (Reichman University) and **Meir Yarom** (NYU School of law). The event was chaired by **Shani Schnitzer** (Tel Aviv University and the ICON-S-IL blog's executive editor).

On July 19th, 2022, following the US Supreme Court ruling in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson, and in collaboration with the Israeli Association of Public Law, The Rubinstein Center for Constitutional Crisis at Reichman University, and the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law Under Extreme Conditions at Haifa University, a conference titled '**The Conservative Revolution? Following the US Supreme Court ruling Concerning Abortions**' took place at Reichman University. After opening remarks, delivered by Prof. Yaniv Roznai, co-chair of I-con-S-Il and of the Rubinstein Center for Constitutional Crisis, two academic sessions place.

In first session, titled '**The Bodily Rights of women as a Constitutional Arena**', a diverse panel of speakers presented their scholarly work, including Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy (chair; Reichman University); Dr. Rawia Aburabia (Sapir Academic College); Prof. Liav Orgad, Reichman University); Prof. Ron Shapira, (Peres Academic Center), and Dr. Yofi Tirosh (Tel Aviv University).

The second session was titled '**The Judicial Revolution in the US and its Implications**'. Participants included Dr. Adam Shinar (chair, Reichman University); Prof. Moshe Cohen-Eliya (Center for Law and Business); Dr. Ofra Bloch (Tel Aviv University); Dr. Tamar Hostovsky-Brandes (Ono Academic College); Dr. Hillel Sommer (Reichman University); Prof. Menachem (Menny) Mautner (Tel Aviv University), and Dr. Shuki Segev (Netanya Academic College).

Concluding remarks were delivered by Prof. Amnon Reichman, Chair of the Israeli Association of Public Law.

The conference was followed by an Icon-S-Il blog symposium.

The ICON-S-IL Blog

In the past 18 months, the ICON-S-IL blog has continued to serve as a prominent platform for Israeli public law scholars and practitioners to present and exchange ideas. As in previous years, Icon-S-Il blog posts were cited in Israeli court decisions and included in public law courses' syllabi. A total of 85 scholarly posts were published from July 2021 to December 2022, written by 65 different authors. 32% of this period's contributors were women and 68% were men. Authors include legal practitioners and scholars, political science scholars, one former supreme court chief

justice and one former supreme court judge. Several posts were also written by research students. The average number of views per month of blog posts is 6,000, a remarkable number that reflects the blog's impact and relevance in the current Israeli public law arena. In December 2022, blog posts view's hit the exceptional number of 10,000.

As part of Icon-S-II's efforts to maintain its relevance in the public law arena, Icon-S-II launched a new platform for presenting scholarly views, comments, and opinions, in August 2022. The new platform, 'Icon-S-Essays', enables authors to express their views in a more elaborated way (5,000-7,000 words, instead of 1,000-2,000 words in blog posts). The new platform facilitates the need, in certain cases, to present scholarly arguments more broadly than is possible in blog posts, while still enabling a relatively fast publication process, notwithstanding a high-standard academic review process.

Lastly, following the past 18 months increase in the activity of the blog, and in line with its continuing influence in the Israeli public law arena, the editorial team of the blog has expanded. The Icon-S-IL blog team now consists of **Shani Schnitzer**, the blog's manager and 'Icon-S-Essays' editor, **Dr. Chagai Schlesinger**, the blog editor, **Eden Lapidor**, the symposiums editor, and three assistant editors: **Lior Alona-Goldman**, **Khawla Yasin** and **Ron Solomon**. Assistant editors review suggested blog posts in a preliminary editing process.

Out of the past 17 month's 85 scholarly posts, 37 posts were part of 4 different symposiums:

1. A symposium on reforming the office and position of the Attorney general of Israel (10 posts)
2. A symposium on populism in Israel (6 posts)
3. A symposium on limiting the term of office of the Israeli prime minister (6 posts)
4. A symposium on conservatism in law (which has not yet ended; 11 posts).
5. A symposium on the Override Clause (4 posts).

In addition, 3 posts were part of a mini symposium dedicated to the memory of Prof. Josef Raz.

Further, 2 posts were published in a format of a debate between writers, discussing whether a referendum was required concerning the establishment of the Israel-Lebanon Maritime Boundary.

With a growing number of views and a high amount of blog posts, the ICON-S-IL blog continues to play an important role in the Israeli public law arena, enabling different and diverse opinions to

be presented and discussed. Further, the symposiums and mini symposiums on current issues enhance the blog's relevance to the development of Israeli public law.

Young scholars Activities

A. ***The ICON-S-IL Prize for an Outstanding Paper in Public Law Written by a Young Scholar***

As of 2020, the ICON-S-IL prize for an outstanding paper in public law of a young scholar is granted annually. We are happy to announce that as of 2022, in order to promote the capacity and engagement of junior scholars within the ICON-S-IL community, and in line with the ICON-S-IL values, the prize will be dedicated to the memory of Prof. **Baruch Bracha**, one of Israel's most prominent scholars in the fields of constitutional and administrative law. Moreover, the award will consist of a financial prize of 10,000 NIS, courtesy of Prof. Bracha's Family.

From July 2021 to December 2022, the Award was granted twice: once for an outstanding paper in 2020 and once for an outstanding paper in 2021. The 2020 prize was granted to Dr. **Sivan Shlomo-Agon**, for her paper: *'Farewell to the F-Word Fragmentation of International Law in Times of the Covid-19 Pandemic'*. The selection process of the 2020 prize was detailed in our previous annual report.

In 2022, the prize was granted to two young scholars, Dr. **Bell Yosef**, for her paper *'A Double-Edged Sword: Constitutional Dialogue Confined'*, and to Adv. **Noy Na'aman**, for his paper *'Bordering Legal Parenthood'*. The winning papers were chosen by a diverse committee of Israeli public law scholars, out of 12 papers submitted anonymously. The committee consisted of Prof. **Gad Barzilai** (Haifa University; chair), Prof. **Ariel Bender** (Bar Ilan University), Prof. **Netta Barak-Corren** (the Hebrew University), Prof. **Aeyal Gross** (Tel Aviv University), Prof. **Tammy Harel Ben-Sahar** (Haifa University), Prof. **Mohammed Watted** (Zfat Academic College), Prof. **Amichai Cohen** (Ono Academic College), Prof. **Michal Tamir**, (Academic Center for Law and Science).

B. ***A Panel Discussion for Young Scholars on the pros and cons of different post-doctoral positions***

In order to further promote the engagement of junior scholars, this year's annual conference included a panel of scholars discussing the significance of a post-doctoral position to pursuing a legal academic position in Israel. Junior and senior Israeli faculty

members shared their experiences and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of different post-doc positions.

C. ***Participation in the ICON-S-IL Annual Conference***

We are happy to share that in this year's annual conference, 10% of the participant presenting and discussing their work were research students in different stages of their Ph.D. studies.

D. ***Outreach of ICON-S Young Scholars Activities to the Young ICON-S-IL Community***

Israeli research students have also participated in this year's ICON-S events for junior scholars: the ICON-S writing school and the virtual panel titled "Towards an International Academic Career: Doing a Ph.D. in Public Law".

Outreach and Visibility of ICON-S-IL

A. ***Facebook***

Our Facebook group consists of 383 members and continues to serve as an intersection for scholars, students, and practitioners to catch-up on and discuss local and international public law issues and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1558921144347059/?ref=bookmarks>

B. ***Twitter and YouTube Accounts***

In the past year, our number of followers on Twitter has doubled itself and now stands on 311 followers. In addition to our Facebook group, the ICON-S-IL Twitter account serves the ICON-S-IL team in informing its community about recent blog posts, as well as local and international public law events: https://twitter.com/icon_il.

The number of views in our [YouTube channel](#) has also doubled itself this year, and now stands on 1200 views. Our YouTube channel continues to be updated, and videos of all of the panel sessions from our 7th annual conference are now available online.

Meeting Last Year's Objectives

As mentioned above, with the decrease in COVID-19 regulation, and in line with last year's objectives, this year we were finally able to hold an annual physical conference. The following objectives were also determined in our previous report:

1. Enhance our support for younger scholars

Several activities held this year, and in particular, holding a panel discussion on post-doc positions and dedicating the annual prize for a young scholar to the memory of Prof. Bracha, with the addition of a financial prize, indicate that this goal was achieved.

2. Keep a high level of maintenance of the Blog (with a possible expansion of its editorial team, depending on the number of posts to be submitted to the blog)

The increasing number of blog posts views, the different symposiums and mini symposiums held this year, enhancing the blog's relevance and diversity of opinions, and the expansion of the blog's editorial team, allowing a more thorough review process, indicate that this goal was achieved.

3. Expand regional collaborations with other ICON-S chapters

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold regional collaborations with other ICON-S chapters this year, and we aspire to do so in the upcoming year.

4. Increase our social media presence

As detailed above, the number of members in the ICON-S-IL Facebook Group has increased, while the number of views on our YouTube Channel and followers on Twitter has doubled itself. Recordings of our annual conference are now also available online. We estimate this goal was achieved, while our online presence may still be enhanced.

Looking ahead

1. Expand regional collaborations with other ICON-S chapters.
2. Keep a high level of maintenance of the Blog.
3. Enhance our support for younger scholars.
4. Increase our social media presence.
5. To maintain and further develop collaborations with other institutes and organizations.