

International Law

Academic year 2019-2020

Corporate Responsibility in International and Transnational Law

DI119 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Friday 12h15 - 14h00

Course Description

As the activities of corporations often transcend national frontiers and the consequences of such activities can be felt in a great number of States, there is increasing awareness that some form of supranational regulation of corporations is necessary in certain areas such as the protection of human rights and the environment and the fight against corruption. This course explores the theoretical difficulties in securing corporate responsibility within the framework of transnational law and international law as well as the practical aspects of enforcing such responsibility in international and national judicial fora.

> PROFESSOR

[Zachary Douglas](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

Francesca Dal Poggetto

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

The course will cover the following topics:

- The historical development of the principle of limited liability and its extension to corporate groups; the externalisation of risk and the problem of involuntary creditors.
- Exceptions to corporate separation and limited liability in comparative corporate law.
- Corporate groups and private international law; mass tort litigation.
- Corporate responsibility under the Alien Tort Statute in the United States.
- Conceptual issues relating to corporate responsibility under international law: the application of international norms to corporations; the question of international personality; the transposition of international norms into domestic litigation.
- Corporations in different fields of international law such as International Criminal Law and International Human Rights Law.
- UN 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework.
- Multidimensional study of complex mass tort litigation cases.

Assessment:

This course will be assessed through a take-home examination in the last week of the semester.