

The Cambridge International Law Journal
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The Lauterpacht Centre for International Law
present

The 2017 CILJ-LCIL Annual Lecture

'A time map for international law'
Dr Deborah Whitehall

Friday 24 November 2017, 1pm

(with sandwiches from 12.30)

Finley Library, Lauterpacht Centre, 5 Cranmer Rd, Cambridge



This year's lecture will be delivered by Dr Deborah Whitehall from the University of Sydney on the topic of 'A time-map for international law'.

Lecture summary: Hannah Arendt was a German-Jewish witness of the grand infamies of the twentieth-century, a classicist, a political theorist, a social commentator and a cartographer of time. In that last capacity, she presents the international lawyer with a set of concepts to gauge the meaning of international legal time, its relationship to international history, and the part of international law in triggering new historical cycles. Three concepts developed by her stand out for how an international lawyer might reconceive the part of international law in international history and importantly, against catastrophic world tragedies that ask for innovative regulatory response, its redesign. The concepts of a time-gap, time-sequence and the cyclical rhythm and repetition of revolution present possible coordinates for drawing a time-map for international law. The question raised here follows Arendt to ask what might a time-map for international law look like if international lawyers notice the gaps, rhythm and sequences that set and re-set their part in international historical time? Starting in Potsdam, in 1945, settles the question of a time-map on a series of lines and boundaries that restarted time then under the auspice of international agreement.

Profile: Dr Deborah Whitehall is a lecturer at the University of Sydney Law School. Her research considers the intellectual history of the twentieth century to reflect on the normative and institutional progressions of international law. Key thematic interests include French and German social thought and political theory after 1914; alternative histories of human rights; international legal theories and international legal histories. Oxford University Press will publish her book about Hannah Arendt and the alternative histories of human rights in 2018. She is a graduate of the University of Queensland, the University of Oxford and the University of Melbourne. She was previously associate to the Hon. S.M. Kiefel AC, a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, and a Principal Solicitor (Human Rights) for the Victorian government.