



University of Cyprus
Department of Law

The **Department of Law** at the **University of Cyprus** kindly invite you to a research seminar on

Territorial Situations subject to Non-Recognition and the Law of the Sea

University of Cyprus, Wednesday, 19 February 2020 at 16:00-18:00

By Athena Herodotou

Abstract

The obligation of non-recognition of unlawful situations resulting from serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law is largely based on the general principle *ex injuria jus non oritur* (legal rights cannot derive from unlawful actions). This obligation is now part of customary international law and it is binding upon all States. While the existence of such obligation has been repeatedly reaffirmed by international courts and decisions of international organs in relation to a number of unlawful territorial situations, international scholarship has not yet examined comprehensively whether this obligation exists in the law of the sea and, if it does, to what extent. This seminar aims at introducing the audience to the ongoing doctoral research of the speaker which endeavours to establish the relationship between the law of the sea and ‘entities subject to collective non-recognition’. For instance, do such entities have rights and/or obligations over maritime areas? Can they claim maritime zones? Do they enjoy the freedom of navigation? And, most importantly, if the obligation of non-recognition extends to the sea, how does the international community react to unlawful assertions of rights of such entities to the detriment of the lawful sovereign? By providing answers to these crucial questions, the researcher will be able to determine whether, and to what extent, the obligation of non-recognition is upheld in the context of the law of the sea in favour of legality and of the principle *ex injuria jus non oritur*.

Speaker Bio

Athena Herodotou is a PhD candidate at the Law Department of the University of Cyprus researching the relationship between entities subject to collective non-recognition and the law of the sea, under the supervision of Associate Professor Aristoteles Constantinides. She is an alumna of the University of Cyprus, where she obtained her undergraduate degree in law (LLB, 2015). She further obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham in 2016. Currently, she is working as a research assistant at the Law Department of the University of Cyprus in the fields of constitutional law, comparative constitutional law and human rights law. Her research interests include public international law, international law of the sea, the law of state responsibility and issues of (non-) recognition.

Practical Details

Venue: University of Cyprus, ΧΩΔ 02, B208.

Registration: Participation is free and no registration is needed.

Language: The seminar will be conducted in English.