



University of Cyprus
Department of Law

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

**Private Oil Companies Operating in Contested Waters and International Law of the Sea:
A Peculiar Relationship**

Wednesday, 7 April 2021 at 18:00-20:00

by Assistant Professor Marianthi Pappa

Chair: Lecturer Charikleia Vlachou

Abstract

This study investigates whether non-state actors, particularly private oil companies, possess any international rights and obligations while operating in contested waters. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides certain rules that regulate the behaviour of states amid maritime disputes. Yet, it is unclear whether these rules extend to private corporations present in disputed maritime areas. An analysis of UNCLOS and the relevant case law reveals that the rights and obligations of private actors in contested waters are not conferred on them directly by international law of the sea. Rather, these attributes are derivative as they emerge from the authorizing states' domestic laws. Hence, in contrast to states, which are direct subjects of international law of the sea, non-state actors are mere objects thereof. The fact that non-state actors are 'invisible' in the eyes of UNCLOS means that they cannot be held liable for breaching international law of the sea while operating in contested waters. But at the same time, the fact that they possess no international rights deprives non-state actors of the capacity to protect their interests under the judicial procedures of the law of the sea..

Speaker Bio

Dr Marianthi Pappa possesses a diverse background in legal practice and academic research. After completing her legal studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2009, she practiced law in Greece and Cyprus, consulting individuals and multinational corporations operating in the fields of finance and energy. She earned an LLM in Oil & Gas Law and a PhD in International Law of the Sea, both from the University of Aberdeen, and is an associate fellow in the Higher Education Academy of the UK. Marianthi is an Assistant Professor at the [University of Nottingham](#). She specializes in: international law of the sea, energy and investment law, and space law. Her research covers multiple aspects, including: contemporary issues in extractive industries, the place of private actors in the international plane, and the interplay between different areas of law. Marianthi also delivers training workshops to governmental and business organisations on issues of boundary disputes and energy law.

Practical Details

Language: The seminar will be conducted in English.

Registration: Participation is open, but you must register [here](#) for individual access to the Zoom meeting.