

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

## **The Legal Status of Settlers in Occupied Areas under International Law**

**Wednesday, 6 April 2022 at 18:00-19:15**

**by Dr Nicholas Ioannides**

Chair: Associate Professor Aristoteles Constantinides

### **Abstract**

In the aftermath of World War II, it was clear that the legal framework governing armed conflict hitherto was far from adequate. With a view to filling in these gaps, the international community embarked upon a diplomatic endeavour, which culminated in the conclusion of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. These Conventions together with the 1899 and 1907 Hague Regulations form a unified apparatus called ‘International Humanitarian Law’ (‘IHL’) governing the conduct of armed conflicts. One of the main features of the new legal edifice is the enhanced protection afforded to civilians while their country is under foreign military occupation, otherwise termed ‘belligerent occupation’. In order to safeguard the rights of civilians residing in occupied areas and to prevent demographic changes in there, the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits deportation of locals from and transfer of parts of the civilian population of the Occupying Power into the occupied areas. A breach of the aforementioned obligations triggers state responsibility, while the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court promulgates individual criminal responsibility for those organising and executing such unlawful acts. Another thorny predicament stemming from these situations is the clash between the rights of holders of property title deeds, who have fled the area, and settlers. Thus, it should be examined whether settlers can acquire any rights opposable to the owners of the property and/or the authorities of the occupied state. An interesting case on the matter worthy of discussion is Demopoulos, handed down by the European Court of Human Rights in 2010.

### **Speaker Bio**

[Nicholas A. Ioannides](#) holds a PhD in Public International Law from the University of Bristol. During the academic year 2017-2018, he was a Nippon Fellow at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He teaches Public International Law at the University of Cyprus. He received his LLB from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) in 2010 and earned an LLM in Public International Law from the University of Bristol in 2012. He was also called to the bar in Cyprus in 2011. In 2019, he was awarded the ‘Georgios Tenekides’ Prize by the Hellenic Society of International Law and International Relations. In 2020, he was awarded the ‘Daniel Vignes’ Prize by the International Association of the Law of the Sea for his article on hydrocarbon activities in undelimited maritime areas. His monograph entitled ‘Maritime Claims and Boundary Delimitation: Tensions and Trends in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea’ has been published by Routledge.

### **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.