



## Call for papers

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Law Schools Global League's Winter Academic Conference 2021  
*"Sustainable Globalisation – How to ensure sustainability in a globalised world"*

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8 February 2021

Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University

The Netherlands

**Theme:**

In their article "Sustainable Globalisation" (2003), Borghesi and Vercelli posited that the then prevalent process of globalisation would be unsustainable without new institutions and policies to govern it.<sup>1</sup> In answering the question whether globalisation had become more sustainable, Martens and Raza (2010) concluded that "the increasing complexity of our global society means that sustainable development cannot be addressed from a single perspective, country or scientific discipline."<sup>2</sup> By then, the World Bank had set the pursuit of "an inclusive and sustainable globalisation" at the top of its agenda (Zoellick, 2007), noting the need for strong global institutions. A decade later, claims have been raised that "[h]yperglobalization in trade and finance, intended to create seamlessly integrated world markets, [has torn] domestic societies apart" (Rodrik, 2016).<sup>3</sup>

Times of crisis lend themselves well for reflecting on the state of things that enabled, or at least were not capable of preventing, the crises that emerged. Presently, it can hardly be denied that humankind finds itself in the midst of a global health crisis as a result of the COVID-19 virus. Similarly, some argue that climate change has brought us to an imminent or present global climate crisis. Globalisation is often, rightfully or wrongfully, mentioned as a contributing factor. Undeniably, globalisation has resulted in increased growth and prosperity worldwide, whether it is measured in terms of income, literacy rates, and reductions in child mortality. That being said, the question whether and how globalisation can be made "more sustainable" is ever so relevant.

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<sup>1</sup> S. Borghesi and A. Vercelli (2003), Sustainable globalisation, *Ecological Economics* 44, 77-89, at 87.

<sup>2</sup> P. Martens and M. Raza (2010), Is Globalisation Sustainable?, *Sustainability* 2, 280-293, at 290.

<sup>3</sup> D. Rodrik (2016), The Abdication of the left, Project Syndicate. Available at <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/anti-globalization-backlash-from-right-by-dani-rodrik-2016-07>.



Against that background, the LSGL “Sustainable Globalisation” Conference invites papers that address the question what role the law (and related disciplinary fields) may actually and potentially play in strengthening sustainable globalisation. With this question, the organizers intend to host a topical discussion for Junior and Senior Researchers working on Sustainability and related issues at the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Law Schools Global League. The organizers specifically welcome horizontal contributions that reflect on the question and which seek to transcend specific branches of the law, such as trade law, environmental law, business and human rights (BHR), the regulation of technology and the law of international organizations. Whereas these themes may certainly be the focal point of individual papers, the organizers welcome contributions that reflect on the concept of "sustainable globalisation" in a more general manner.

A non-exhaustive list of topics that may be addressed includes:

- Is globalisation redeemable, can it be changed, and if so how?
- Can globalisation be reconciled with the Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs")?
- How should "sustainability" be seen in relation to globalisation?
- What is the role of private actors (business and civil society alike) in enabling sustainable globalisation?
- Do global developments in the past five years reflect a desire among global citizens to be capable of governing at a decentralized level, without the constraints of international rules?
- How do technologies and sustainable globalisation interact?
- What role does "law" (in a broad sense) play in curtailing the negative aspects externalities? of globalisation, whilst seeking to maintain international cooperation?
- Can international environmental law contribute to keeping globalisation "sustainable"?

**Call-for-Papers:**

Paper proposals of 300 to 500 words should be submitted no later than 1 November 2020.

We encourage applicants to attach a brief CV to the proposal.

- Decisions will be announced by 1 December 2020.
- Papers should be ready for circulation to all participants no later than 26 January 2021.
- Proposals for papers will be reviewed by LSGL presidents and the Academic Committee of the conference.

Please send inquiries and paper proposals to [lsglwinterconference@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:lsglwinterconference@tilburguniversity.edu)



**Online conference:**

The conference will be organized as an online event in a digital conference environment. The European LSGL partners will nonetheless be welcome to participate in the conference on campus at Tilburg University, if the situation and applicable guidelines allow this. For those who come to Tilburg, some additional (social) activities will be organized.

**Meeting:**

The meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 9 February 2021 and will be organized as a separate meeting. The Deans will receive further details about this meeting in due time.