



**British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law**

24th Annual SLS-BIICL Conference on Theory and International Law

15 May 2015, 14:00-19:00

British Institute of International and Comparative Law,
Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

[Call for Papers and Invitation to Attend](#) *The Concept of Remoteness in International Law: The Use of Force and Armed Conflict*

The theme for the annual Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) (International Law Section) BIICL Conference on Theory and International Law is the concept of *remoteness* – distance in time and through space – in relation to the use of force and in the context of armed conflict.

There are new threats that challenge the temporal and geographical proximity classically used to assess the legality of self-defence. Non-state actors, in locations ranging from Paris to north-eastern Nigeria, are engaging in attacks that are unpredictable and devastating. The 178-year old *Caroline* test for anticipatory self-defence of a threat that is 'instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation' – would appear ill-suited to combatting contemporary terrorist strategies. In addition, in responding to both past attacks and threats of a temporally remote nature states take actions in distant lands, very often with weapons systems that are controlled remotely. Indeed, both terrorists and governments are exploring new weapons that are remotely operated and barely visible, from drones to cyber-hacking to biological agents. Furthermore, in justifying their various actions states have sometimes proclaimed that they are engaged in a single armed conflict with a terrorist network that is spread across the globe.

The co-convenors of SLS International Law Section welcome contributions on the concept of remoteness, including but not limited to:

- Self-defence: availability of anticipatory self-defence; availability of self-defence against non-state actors; 'elongated' imminence; the concept of an 'armed attack';
- Technology: cyberwarfare, drones, lethally autonomous weapons, non-obvious warfare;
- The legal classification of conflicts that are said to be dispersed across states;
- The impact of the use of remotely controlled weapons upon the law of armed conflict, in particular the rules governing targeting;



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- Ethics of remotely operated weapons; ethics of manipulating time to justify force against an 'imminent' threat;
- Responsibility: responsibility of non-state actors; challenges of identifying those responsible in a splintered or non-existent 'chain of command'.
- Reparations: remoteness in time and space from the incident; who is a 'victim'?

Submission of abstracts is open to academics (including graduate students) and practitioners. **Abstracts should be one page long and sent to philippa.webb@kcl.ac.uk and christian.henderson@liv.ac.uk by 10 March 2015.**

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Event Information

Date & time

Friday 15 May 2015, 14:00-19:00

Venue

British Institute of International and Comparative Law,
Council Chamber, Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

Pricing & Registration

BIICL Members:

- Individual - £60
- Full-time Academic - £45
- Full-time Student - £15

Non-members:

- Individual - £110
- Full-time Academic - £85
- Full-time Student - £35

N.B. The Academic rate also applies to staff of government and non-profit organisations.

For further information on the conference and to book online, please visit www.biicl.org/events



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