Sir Elihu Lauterpacht's 80th Birthday Event

This was an enormous success, attended by 270 people. For further information and photos see the new 25th Anniversary Section of the Centre's website. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success, especially Anita Rutherford, Kristin Hollis, Margaret Young, Stephanie Ierino, Merel Alstein and Tara Grant.

Incidentally the section on Sir Eli has gone up in the Eminent Scholars Archive: http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent_scholars/

First Africa Seminar on Corporate Complicity

On 1 November 2008 the LCIL hosted a seminar organised around the theme of corporate complicity in human rights violations. Corporate representatives, leading academics on the topic and lawyers from leading international law firms attended the seminar. Andrew Clapham, Celia Wells and Gerald Pachoud debated the question of whether or not international law and international criminal law plays a role in holding corporations accountable for human rights violations. Jennifer Zerk, Patricia Feeney and Ines Tofalo considered the effectiveness of instruments of ‘soft law’ and guidelines (the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the United Nations Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights) in regulating the relationship between corporations and human rights. Anna Kirk, Olga Martin-Ortega and Shubhaa Srinivasan discussed the role of domestic courts based in the UK and USA in adjudicating cases involving human rights abuse by corporations. Throughout the seminar, the participants provided a critical evaluation of the recently published report of the International Commission of Jurists on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes. The seminar concluded with the steering committee of the LCIL/First Africa Project receiving advice from the participants on areas that the project could focus on with a view to raising the quality of debate on corporate responsibilities and accountability for human rights.

New Centre Staff: Karen Fachechi

I am very pleased to welcome Karen Fachechi as the Centre's new Receptionist/Secretary. Following Kristin Hollis’ retirement in the summer, Karen will run the front office and be the first point of contact for visitors and callers to the Centre. Having spent a number of years working for HM revenues and customs, Karen will, I am sure, ably take care of running the front office. Karen can be contacted at: kjf35@cam.ac.uk. Our thanks to Sarah Yorke who has held the fort since Kristin’s retirement.

The 2008 Hersch Lauterpacht Lectures

This year’s Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lectures will be given by Dr Andrés Rigo Sureda (former Deputy Legal Counsel, World Bank and an international arbitrator) on the subject of Policy and Discretion in Investment Treaty Arbitration. The Lectures take place at the Lauterpacht Centre on 11th, 12th and 13th November with discussion held during the lunchtime session on Friday 14th November. The Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lecture is an annual lecture series given by a person of eminence in the field of international law to commemorate the unique contribution to the development of international law of Sir Hersch Lauterpacht. A revised and expanded version of the lectures is usually published by Cambridge University Press as part of the Hersch Lauterpacht Lecture Series.
International Law Reports Now Online

The International Law Reports are now available online via the Justis platforms. Cambridge University Press and Justis Publishing Ltd have been working together to deliver the ILR in a fully searchable online format and the full archive, comprising more than 130 volumes is now available with the benefit of advanced search and cross-referencing capabilities. The series, edited by Sir Elihu Lauterpacht and Professor Christopher Greenwood, will now be published both in print and online. More information on the ILR is available on the Centre’s website.

News of Fellows and Alumni:

Sir Michael Wood was elected on 8 August 2008 to the International Law Commission, filling the vacancy caused by Ian Brownlie’s resignation. Many congratulations to him.

Dr Michael Waibel started a three year postdoctoral research fellowship at the Centre in October. He is the first British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cambridge Faculty of Law. Michael researches financial crises and the insolvency of States in international law. He explores the extent to which the law protects sovereign creditors and enables countries in financial distress to restructure their debt. Michael hold Mag. iur. and Dr. iur. degrees from the University of Vienna, an MSc (Econ.) from the LSE and an LLM from Harvard Law School. In 2008, he won the Deik prize for his AJIL article on sovereign bonds in international arbitration.

Matthew Carroll is the 2008 Snyder Visiting Scholar. Matthew holds a BS from Northern Arizona University and a JD from Indiana University's Bloomington School of Law. He was awarded the Earl Snyder Scholarship to spend three months in residence at the Lauterpacht Centre researching the tensions world trade laws create in the economic policies of less developed countries, specifically exploring the role and usefulness of policy space.

Sovaida Ma‘ani Ewing, a graduate of Pembroke College and one of the first researchers to work at the Lauterpacht Centre (1986-1987) has a new book out entitled Collective Security Within Reach. In it, she makes concrete recommendations for solving some pressing global problems taking a principled approach. Problems addressed include Security Council reform, steps towards the creation of an international standing force, reform of the International Court of Justice and the establishment of a supranational institution for the equitable management and distribution of critical resources such as oil, gas and nuclear energy. Her book is available at www.grbooks.com and at www.amazon.com.

The Alumni Fund

In the next FTD I will report on fundraising efforts in the aftermath of the Centre’s 25th Anniversary events. One initiative is the establishment of an LCIL Alumni Fund, which will, in due course, we hope, support a number of scholarships for visiting fellows. Donations large or small gratefully received.

Michaelmas Term Visiting Fellows and Scholars Photograph

Clockwise from top left: Gabriele Porretto, Jochen von Bernstorff, Helmut Aust, José Alajandro Carballo Leyda, Natalie Klein, Joanna Gomula (LCIL), Mehmet Toral, John Morss, James Crawford (Director), Roger O’Keefe (Deputy Director), Amokura Kawharu and Yihe Qin.

Visiting Fellows’ Roundtables

This term’s presentations include:

- Natalie Klein on Limits of the Law of the Sea Convention
- Marina Tarbais on Law of the Sea: Opportunities and Challenges
- Yovelwa Kuuya on Business and Human Rights: From Corporate Responsibility to Corporate Accountability
- Helmut Aust on Complicity in the Law of State Responsibility and the Concept of an International Rule of Law
- Mehmet Toral on International Commercial Arbitration and Human Rights
- Amokura Kawharu on Expropriation of Foreign-Owned Property
- John Mors on Snakes, Ladders and Legal Norms: Clearing the Ground for International Law’s Multilateral Project
- Matthew Carroll on Trade and Development at the WTO - Before and After Doha
- Anne-Laurence Brugère on the Concept of “Threat to Peace” in the Practice of the UN Security Council
- Anthony Cullen on the Characterisation of Non-International Armed Conflict

Publications Update

International Law Reports:

Volume 134 has now been published and includes:

(1) Decisions on the death penalty from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee and the courts of Barbados, Jamaica, Malawi, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago;

(2) Decisions from the ICI (LaGrand and Avena) and the ECHR (Mamatkulov) on the nature and scope of provisional/ interim measures;

(3) Decisions from the ICI (LaGrand and Avena) and the United States of America (Sanchez-Llamas) on consular relations/Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963.

ICSID Reports

Volume 13 has now been published and includes the awards and Svea Court of Appeal decisions in Nagar v. Czech Republic and Petrobart Limited v. Kyrgyz Republic, the NAFTA award in GAMI Investments Inc. v. Mexico and the decision on annulment in MTD v. Chile.