Law and Development
University of Antwerp

October
2026

LDRG Newsletter



Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the Law & Development newsletter. Once a month, we bring the wider group together in one place: member publications, past events, and invitations to what's coming next. It's also meant to be a bit more than a bulletin, a way of keeping us connected as a community.

How it works

For the monthly newsletter, send us information by the last Monday of the month at lawanddevelopment@uantwerpen.be and we will include them in the following month's edition.

What you can send

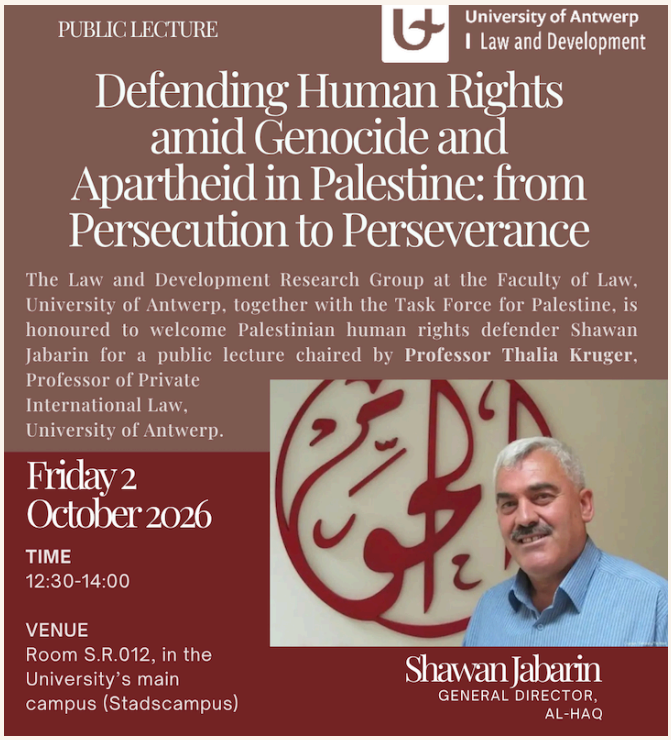
- Invitations to collaborate on a specific topic, such as a journal issue, a grant, or a blog post
- Recent Events or Outputs (not limited to Publications)
- But also the fun things!
  - Personal updates - New positions, New projects, A festival you'd like to tell the group about or invite people to join
  - A social event, museum exhibition, or interest to research members

And so on...

What's Happening This Month

Public lecture by Shawan Jabarin (Al-Haq), 2 October 2026

"Defending Human Rights amid Genocide and Apartheid in Palestine: From Persecution to Perseverance." Organised with the Task Force for Palestine and chaired by Thalia Kruger. Details and registration





Book launch, Conflicts of Worldviews and Private International Law (Hart Publishing) by Sandrine Brachotte

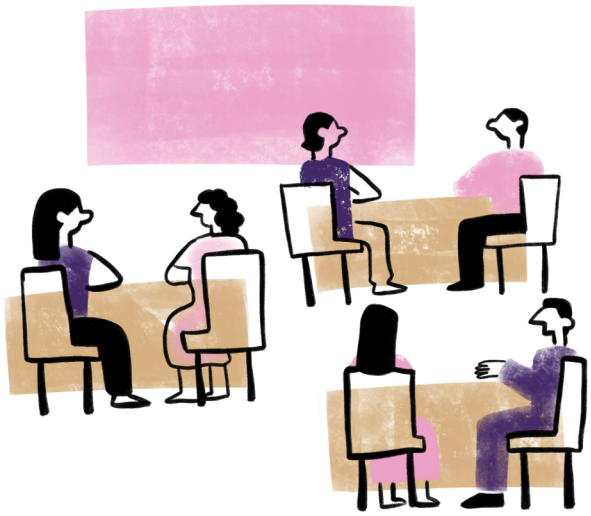
6 October, 11:00–12:30 CET (online)

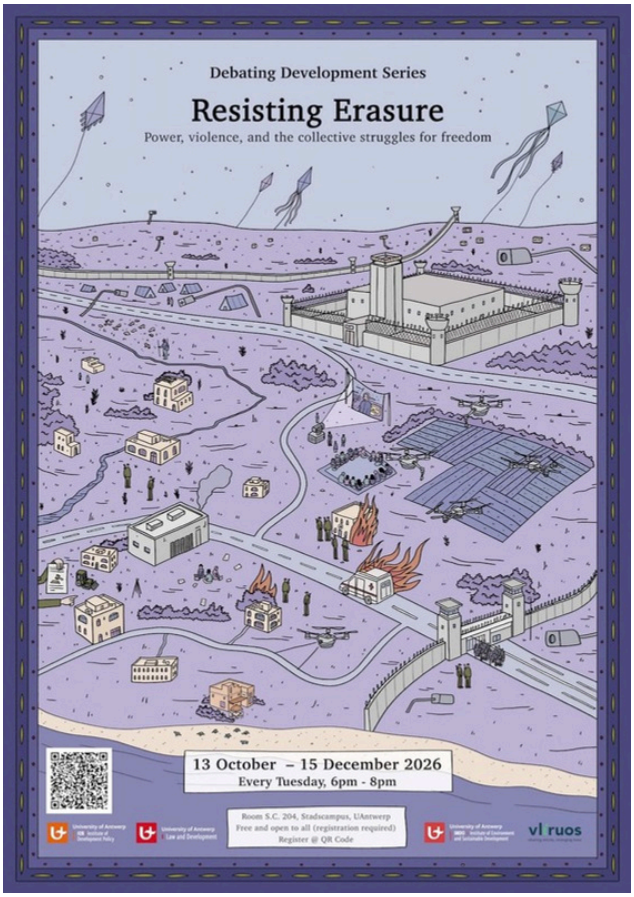
The book adapts the theory of private international law in Europe to the demands of decolonial thinking, with a view to greater social justice and peace. Organised by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law. Register here

SEIPD Conference, "Litigating Socio-Economic Equality and Poverty Anti-Discrimination: Strategies and Limitations."

8–9 October

The second annual conference of the Socio-Economic Inequalities and Poverty Discrimination working group, hosted by our group. Details





Debating Development: Resisting Erasure

13 October - 15 December 2026

Our group members are co-organising this year's Debating Development Series together with other faculties and institutes at the University of Antwerp. Join a session every Tuesday from 13th October to 15 December in Antwerp from 18:00-20:00. Find all details here.

A Look Back at This Month’s Events



"Slow erasure": a talk by Dr. Bram De Smet

Dr. Bram De Smet (Tampere University) presented his ethnographic framework examining the cumulative effects of settler-colonial violence in Palestine.



Second Annual Koen De Feyter Memorial Lecture by Prof. Surya Deva

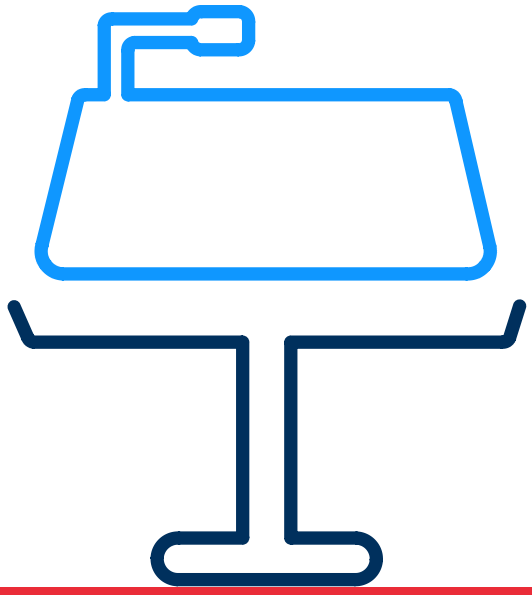
The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development explored how the right to development supports the transition from conflict economies to peace economies.

Image: Professor Surya Deva (left), Professor Gamze Erdem Türkelli (right)

Wouter Vandenhole and Anne Oloo delivered a joint keynote at the AI and Law Conference 2026

Their keynote was titled "Universities, Human Rights and AI," at the conference organised by the University of Wroclaw and the University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata.

Thanks to our group member **Abhisekh Rodricks**, one of the conference organisers.





Any EU citizen can sign the initiative at goodfoodforall.eu to call on the European Commission to turn the right to food into concrete action across its legislative competences and policy frameworks.

Tomaso Ferrando presented at Terra Madre / Good Food For All

Terra Madre is the global gathering led by Slow Food, presenting the Good Food For All – Europe European Citizens' Initiative for the right to food, as part of the series "Nourishing Cities in the World." Feeding and nourishing are not aspirations but rights, and they cannot come at the expense of human rights.

Professor Ferrando represented the Law & Development Research Group and FIAN Belgium.



Members co-organised and participated in the socio-legal workshop at the University of Ghent

The Socio-Legal Research: Bridging Theory and Practice Workshop was co-organised by Isabelle Zundel, Sandrine Brachotte and Sarah Katz-Lavigne. More details here

Fresh off the Press!

- **Sandrine Brachotte** on "ancestral links," written with an Indigenous scholar, in the Dictionnaire des droits de la nature and a critical description of comparative law in the Traité d'études juridiques.
- **Isabelle Zundel** on how German colonial rule shaped historical and contemporary attitudes towards sexuality and gender in Tanzania and Namibia - LGBTIQ+ lives under colonial shadows: The legacy of German colonial law in today's Tanzania and Namibia and a recently co-edited and open access volume titled Revisiting Regional Integration Projects in East Africa on evolution, challenges and future prospects of regional integration in East Africa.
- Thoko Kaime and **Isabelle Zundel** on the ongoing criminalisation of same-sex relations in Malawi under laws inherited from the colonial era - Let's (Not) Talk About the Gays: Malawi's Stalled Attempts at Decriminalisation of Same-Sex Laws.



Latest Conversations from Our Blog

Law and Development Conversations

A blog dedicated to critical conversations in Law and Development scholarship, inspired by the intellectual legacy of late Professor Koen De Feyter

The International Order After Gaza: Failures, Emancipatory Possibilities, and Decolonial Futures

Raphael Banti

Towards a "Super" Independent Accountability Mechanism in Development Finance?

Janet Jebichii Sego

From Cultural Property to Living Heritage: UNESCO and the Paradoxes of Heritage

Pauno Soirila

On commitment, connection and care: Commemorating Koen De Feyter's Community Building Legacy

Gamze Erdem Türkelli

Assembled by Devanshi Saxena and Marion Sandner

Please feel free to **forward this newsletter** to your networks. Anyone not yet on the mailing list can subscribe by emailing lawanddevelopment@uantwerpen.be with the subject line **"Subscribe to the Newsletter" or subscribe on our LinkedIn page.**

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Spokesperson:

Tomaso Ferrando

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