



Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe

Institute of International  
Shipping and Trade Law

# 2025

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**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2025

2025 has been both productive and transformative for the Institute and its members. Not only has the Institute hosted its usual series of agenda-setting research events; in addition it has greatly strengthened its global footprint by collaborating with leading research centres around the world, fostering deeper academic engagement and exchanging cutting-edge ideas with academics and others everywhere.

A major highlight was the launch of our new tripartite collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin and Athens University. In April, Swansea proudly hosted a seminar in London entitled "Climate Change: The Transition and Path to Sustainability in Shipping and Energy Sectors." This landmark event brought together academics and practitioners from the Institute and across the UK, putting them alongside seven very distinguished scholars from our partner institutions and taking steps to cultivate a seriously strong academic network. A follow-up event is scheduled to take place in Austin, Texas in spring 2026.

In September, the Institute partnered the Centre for Commercial Law and Financial Regulation at the University of Reading in putting on in Swansea the second Biennial Modern Studies in Commercial Law Conference. This flagship event dealt with trade law and once again showcased our commitment to thought leadership.

Throughout the year, our members individually have continued to produce high-quality, impactful research and to participate in major academic forums across the globe. Details of these contributions can be found throughout this Report. Work has also progressed on significant research projects—including the "Developing Resilience for SMEs" project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council—and several research monographs are nearing completion, with publication expected in 2026.

We have also continued to expand and enhance our specialised Dr Nikaki Library, which remains a vital resource for our academic community. This year, we were pleased to welcome visiting colleagues from Turkey, China, and Hong Kong to the enormous enrichment of our scholarship and its capacity to use insights into diverse legal systems in order to contribute to a deeper understanding of global legal culture.

As we look ahead, we are excited at the opportunities the coming academic year will bring. With strong foundations laid through this past year's achievements, the Institute is well-positioned to continue advancing its mission of excellence in research, collaboration, and global engagement.

**Professor B. Soyer**

Director of the IISTL



*Professors Athanassiou (Athens University), Fielder (University of Texas Austin) and Soyer (IISTL) closing the Inaugural Tripartite Conference hosted by IISTL*



## EVENTS

Throughout the year, the Institute hosted a series of high-impact academic events. These not only showcased the depth and breadth of expertise within Swansea itself but also enabled productive exchanges with academics, industry specialists, and legal practitioners from around the world. A chronological summary of these activities is provided below.

### Climate Change: The Transition and Path to Sustainability in Shipping and Energy Sectors

With the University of Texas at Austin (Energy Institute and the Institute of Transnational Law) and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Law, on 10 April 2025 the Institute proudly hosted a one-day seminar focused on the transition toward a sustainable future in the shipping and energy sectors.

The event attracted a strong audience. Presenters and chairs included distinguished scholars and leading professionals from across the globe:

- Professor Owen Anderson, University of Texas at Austin
- Professor Lia Athanassiou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Professor Simon Baughen, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University
- Dr Richard Cadell, Cardiff University, School of Law and Politics
- Mr Paul Dean, Global Head of Shipping, HFW
- Professor John S. Dzienkowski, University of Texas at Austin
- Professor Dr Lauren Fielder, Institute of Transnational Law, University of Texas at Austin
- Mr Neil Henderson, Gard AS, Arendal and London
- Mr Cathal Leigh-Doyle, Partner, Stephenson Harwood LLP
- Professor James Hu, Shanghai Maritime University
- Mr Grant Hunter, BIMCO, Denmark
- Rear Admiral Fred Kenney, Past Director of Legal and External Affairs, IMO; Member, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law
- Dr Tabetta Kurtz-Shefford, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University
- Dr Wenwen Li, Shanghai Maritime University
- Ms Johanna Ohlman, Associate, HFW, London
- Professor Manos Mastromanolis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Dr Pia Rebelo, City Law School
- Mr Alessio Sbraga, Partner, HFW, London
- Professor Michael Sturley, University of Texas at Austin
- Professor Baris Soyer, Director, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University
- Professor Melinda E. Taylor, Energy Institute, University of Texas at Austin
- Professor Andrew Tettenborn, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University

This seminar marked a significant milestone in our international collaborations, and laid a strong foundation for future joint initiatives—including a follow-up event to be held in Austin in spring 2026.



*Professor Fielder (University of Texas, Austin), Johanna Ohlman (HFW), Dr Kurtz-Shefford (IISTL) and Professors Anderson and Dzienkowski (University of Texas, Austin) during one of the Panel discussions.*

## IISTL's 20th International Colloquium

The Institute also proudly hosted its 20th Annual International Colloquium in September, bringing together a global community of leading academics, top practitioners, and industry innovators for two days of engaging dialogue and debate. Delivered in a hybrid format, the 2025 colloquium centred on the timely theme: "Transport Law in the Digital Age." This theme reflected the rapid technological transformation shaping global trade, shipping, aviation, and logistics.

The event featured the usual insightful presentations from IISTL's distinguished scholars—Professors Simon Baughen, George Leloudas, Barış Soyer, Andrew Tettenborn, and Dr. Aygun Mammadzada—alongside an impressive roster of guest speakers, including:

- Pietro Benintendi, Legal Counsel, Lufthansa Cargo
- Luci Carey, University of Aberdeen
- James Clanchy, FCI Arb, Full Member, LMAA
- Lucy England, Partner, Fox Williams LLP
- Filip Koscielecki, Senior Lawyer, Gard AS
- Ben Lynch KC, Fountain Court Chambers
- Peter McDonald-Eggers KC, 7KBW
- Gabriella Mifsud, Associate, Clyde & Co
- Ines Afonso Mousinho, Associate, Clyde & Co
- Craig Neame, Chief Investment & Legal Officer, Uniserve Group
- Frank Stevens, Erasmus Law School, Rotterdam
- Professor Xingguo Cao, Dalian Maritime University
- Tom Walters, Partner, HFW
- Shihui Yu, Dalian Maritime University
- Jingbo Zhang, Aston University

Discussions spanned a wide range of topics, including cyber risks in carriage and insurance contracts, digital solutions for trade documentation, the digitalization of arbitration processes, and the transformative impact of data on aviation, logistics, insurance, and trade. In short, the Colloquium reaffirmed IISTL's position as a global leader in shipping and trade law scholarship and practice, fostering vibrant exchanges that continue to shape the future of the sector.



*Fred Kenny (IISTL) with Prof Xingguo Cao and Ms Shihui Yu (DMU), Prof Simon Baughen (IISTL) and Tom Walter (HFW) delivering Session 2 of the Colloquium*



## Biennial Modern Studies in Commercial Law Conference

In collaboration with the Centre for Commercial Law and Financial Regulation at Reading, the Institute proudly hosted the Biennial Modern Studies in Commercial Law Conference at Swansea on 24-25 September. Building on the success of the inaugural event in Reading two years ago, this year's conference convened leading academics and researchers from around the world to explore three pivotal themes shaping the future of commercial law: i) Protection of vulnerable parties; ii) Sustainability and environmental challenges; and iii) Contemporary issues in trade, finance, and the role of technology

Over two dynamic days, participants engaged in stimulating discussions and presented some seriously cutting-edge research.

Distinguished speakers included:

- Professor Simon Baughen, IISTL, Swansea University
- Dr Zofia Bednarz, University of Málaga
- Professor Iris Benohr, University of Southampton
- Dr Lowri Davies, IISTL, Swansea University
- Dr Tim Dodsworth, University of Reading
- Dr Andrea Fejos, University of Essex
- Professor Paula Giliker, University of Bristol
- Professor Geraint Howells, University of Galway
- Professor George Leloudas, IISTL, Swansea University
- Dr Katie McCay, University of Bristol
- Dr Aygün Mammadzada, IISTL, Swansea University
- Dr Andrea Miglionico, University of Reading

- Stefanie Pletz, University of Huddersfield
- Dr Boris Prastalo, Brunel University
- Professor Ravindra Pratap, South Asian University, New Delhi
- Professor Séverine Saintier, University of Exeter
- Professor Duncan Sheehan, University of Leeds
- Professor Andrew Tettenborn, IISTL, Swansea University
- Dr Sean Thomas, University of York
- Professor Christopher Willett, University of Essex



*From left to right: Professor Leloudas (IISTL), Dr McCay (University of Bristol), Ms Pletz (University of Huddersfield), Dr Prastalo (Brunel University), Professor Tettenborn (IISTL) and Professor Pratap (South Asian University) in the final session of the event.*



## Grant – Building Resilience for SMEs

Professor Baris Soyer and Dr. Jia Wang were awarded a research grant by the ESRC’s Impact Acceleration Account to investigate the effectiveness of current insurance services in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This collaborative project engages with insurance providers—including insurers and brokers—to evaluate how existing products and practices influence SMEs’ awareness of risk and understanding of insurance coverage. The primary goal of the initiative is to identify practical, industry-informed solutions that enhance SMEs’ risk resilience, enabling them to better navigate an increasingly complex risk environment.

Since July 2025, the research team has conducted a series of engagement sessions with SMEs and insurance providers to gather insights and data. Emerging findings were shared at a seminar held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London on 17 November 2025, bringing together insurers, academics, and policymakers.

In addition to Professor Soyer and Dr. Wang, the seminar featured contributions from leading experts including Peter MacDonald Eggers KC (7KBW), Janthana Kaenprakhamroy (Founder of Tapoly), Lucia Williams (UCL and Consultant to Clyde & Co), and Dan Brooks (Wynterhill LLP). Presentations covered critical issues in SME insurance such as policy construction, the application of the duty of fair presentation, the role of technology and brokers in procuring coverage, and how insurance can support SMEs in addressing challenges posed by climate change.

The seminar concluded with a dynamic and productive discussion, followed by a networking session that fostered collaboration between industry stakeholders and academics, reinforcing the project’s commitment to driving practical improvements in SME insurance resilience.



Professor Soyer and Dr Wang (IISTL) together with other panellists at the London event





## PUBLICATIONS

### Professor Simon Baughen

Professor Baughen contributed two entries for the 2025 LMCLQ Yearbook, covering International Law Developments and EU Law Developments.

### Dr Lowri Davies

Dr Davies was invited to contribute entries to the Elgar Encyclopaedia of Intellectual Property Law, edited by Paul Torremans, Irini Stamatoudi, Peter K. Yu and Bernd Justin Jütte (forthcoming April 2026)

### Dr Ogulcan Ekiz

Dr Ekiz's monograph, Photographs and Copyright Law: Reproduction, Permissions, and Scholarship, has been published by Routledge.

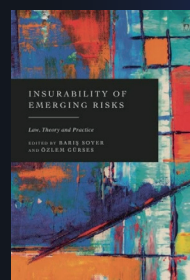
He also published an article titled 'Outside the Senate House: Reflections on Timelessness and Law' in *Amicus Curiae* (2025) 7(1), pp 400-404.

### Professor Georgios Leloudas

Professor Leloudas published two chapters in edited volumes: 'The Insurability of Third-Party Liability Risks Arising from the Use of Civilian Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the UK' in B. Soyer and O. Gürses (eds), *Insurability of Emerging Risks: Law, Theory and Practice* (Hart Publishing, 2025), pp 277-315 and 'Navigating the Edge of Regulation. How Decentralised Insurance Uses DAOs, Fiduciary Duties and Discretionary Mutuals to Manage Risks' (co-authored with **A. Nicholas**) in B. Soyer (ed), *Commercial Insurance Law: Emerging Trends and Perspectives* (Informa Law from Routledge, 2026), pp 175-207. He also authored Issues 192 and 194 of *Shawcross and Beaumont on Air Law*.

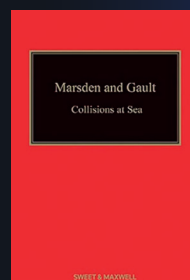
**Dr Aygün Mammadzada** published an article 'Beyond the Model Law- The Case for a Commonwealth-wide Adoption of the Hague Judgments Convention' in (2025) *Journal of Private International Law* pp. 509-549.

**Professor Barış Soyer** published two book chapters 'SME Insurance – A Different Beast in Need of Different Treatment?' (with **Dr Jia Wang**) published in *Commercial Insurance Law: Emerging Trends and New Perspectives* (Informa Law from Routledge), pp 117-130 and 'Going Beyond 'Risk Solidarity' in Private Insurance: The Changing Function of Insurance in Modern Times' published in *Insurability of Emerging Risks- Law, Theory and Practice* (Hart Publishing, 2025), pp 59-80. He also contributed to 2025 LMCLQ Yearbook 'English Marine Insurance and General Average Law', pp 87-95.



### Professor Andrew Tettenborn

Professor Tettenborn published a new edition of his jointly edited book *Marsden & Gault on Collisions at Sea* this year, reaffirming its status as a leading reference work in the field. He also published three articles in respected law journals: 'English Conflicts Law at Sea – The Transfer and Creation of Proprietary Interests in Ships' (2025) *Journal of Private International Law*, pp 211-227; 'Specific Performance and Unascertained Goods: A Special Case or Not?' (2025) *Journal of Business Law*, pp 399-409 and 'Bareboat Charterers and Third Parties' (2025) *Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly*, pp 318-328. He contributed to a book edited by B. Soyer and O. Gürses, *Insurability of Emerging Risks: Law, Theory and Practice* (Hart Publishing, 2025) with a chapter 'Insuring the Uninsurable, Or the Nearly Uninsurable', pp 103-110.



## EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES

### Professor Simon Baughen

Professor Baughen was an active speaker at several conferences, presenting:

- A paper on non-demurrage delays at the January 2025 conference of ASDEM, the tanker trade organization.
- A paper on Carbon Capture and Storage at the April 2025 IISTL/University of Texas/University of Athens workshop on "Climate Change, Transition and Path to Sustainability - Shipping and Energy," held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London.
- A paper on the implications of The Maersk Klaipeda at the September 2025 IISTL colloquium.

Additionally, he participated in two workshops in Cambridge (July and September 2025) organized by the Cape Town Project, concerning the implementation and enforcement of commercial law treaties.

### Dr Lowri Davies

In April 2025, Dr Davies presented her paper on "Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge: Can Article 31 of UNDRIP and the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Treaty Close Gaps in Protecting Indigenous Knowledge in Traditional Medicines?" at the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Annual Conference, hosted by the University of Liverpool Law School in April. In September 2025, she also delivered a paper on "Eco-Labels, IP Law and Greenwashing: Limits on Environmental Branding" at the Biennial Modern Studies in Commercial Law Conference, titled 'Contemporary Issues in and Challenges in Commercial Law'. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Reading and Swansea University, and held at the School of Law, Swansea University.

### Dr Ogulcan Ekiz

In May 2025, Dr Ekiz delivered a public seminar titled "HM for Human-Made: A Critical Introduction to International Copyright Law and Artificial Intelligence" at Thammasat University, Thailand, supported by the Taith Researcher Mobility Grant. During the visit, he also met with judges of Thailand's Central IP & International Trade Court.

In January 2025, he was invited to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies as a discussant for the public seminar "What Can Art Teach Us About Law? – Artist Talk with Carey Young", organised by the Hub for Law & Humanities.

Dr Ekiz was appointed as the Intellectual Property Stream Convenor for the Socio-Legal Studies Association's Annual Conference.

He also edited the documentary Indigenous Products and Practices: Adivasi Narratives of Survival and Change, directed and produced by Abhijeet Kumar. The film was screened on 2 November 2025 at the Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre, Leicester, as part of the Festival of Social Science.

### Rear Admiral Frederick Kenney

In April 2025, he presented on "Decarbonization and the IMO: The Regulatory Picture Right Now" at the Climate Change, Transition and Path to Sustainability – Shipping and Energy Symposium in London.

In May 2025, he participated as a speaker and panel moderator at the Comité Maritime International Symposium in Tokyo, Japan, addressing "Legal Issues Facing the Cruise Industry."

In August 2025, he lectured on "Ocean Governance and the Role of International Organizations" at the 7th Kadir Has University International Law of the Sea Summer Academy.

During London International Shipping Week in September 2025, he contributed remarks in a workshop titled "Navigating Maritime Decarbonization – Powering the Big Shift."



## Professor Georgios Leloudas

On 27 November 2025, Professor Leloudas delivered a keynote speech at an Aviation Law Seminar co-organised by the Brazilian Association of Federal Magistrates, the Brazilian School of Magistrates, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

He was invited to participate as an aviation law expert in two workshops of the project "Implementation of, and Compliance with, International Commercial Law Treaties", jointly conducted by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and the University of Cambridge Law School.

He served as an external examiner for the following PhD vivas:

- Leiden University – "The Sustainable Governance of Aviation"
- Queen Mary University of London – "Multimodal Transport Harmonisation in ASEAN"
- Cardiff University – "The Legal and Regulatory Implications of AI-enabled Shipping Operations in the Gulf States"
- McGill University – "The International Responsibility of States for AI-enabled Space Activities"

## Dr Aygün Mammadzada

In September 2025, Dr Mammadzada presented her paper titled "Digital Assets and Jurisdictional Challenges" at the Joint Conference of the Centre for Commercial Law and Financial Regulation at Reading University and the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law. Also in September 2025, she delivered a talk on "The Implications of Electronic Trade Documents for Private International Law in the UK" at the 20th Annual Colloquium of the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law.

In June 2025, following the award of the Taith Research Mobility Funding, she was invited to deliver a guest lecture at Maastricht Law School



*Dr Mammadzada with other speakers  
at the 20th Annual IISTL Colloquium*

**Professor Barış Soyer** presented a paper "The Legal Position of Insurance Brokers in the Era of AI and Big Data" in May at a Seminar (The Intersection between Tort and Insurance Law) organised by King's College London. In September, he presented at the 20th Annual Colloquium of the IISTL a paper "Digital Transformation and Challenges in the Context of Carriage of Goods by Sea" and in another Seminar organised by IISTL in conjunction with Reading University a paper titled "Changing Nature of Insurance Law- Protection of Vulnerable Parties". In October, he was invited to the 11th International Conference of Maritime Law of the Piraeus Bar Association, held in Piraeus, to present a paper titled "How Tech and AI Might Change Marine Insurance Practice- Legal and Practical Issues"

## Professor Andrew Tettenborn

Professor Tettenborn was invited to present at several international academic and professional forums this year. In April, he delivered a paper at the Conference on Commercial Law and Sustainability, hosted by the Universities of Athens, Texas, and Swansea at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London. In September, he addressed the Conference on Contemporary Issues and Challenges in Commercial Law, jointly organized by the Universities of Reading and Swansea.

He was also invited to speak on the subject of free speech at the Global Liberty Institute in Zurich and at the APCC/ NPCC Police Summit in London. Additionally, in March, he contributed a broadcast commentary on the collision between the Solong and the Stena Immaculate off the Humber estuary.

## GUEST LECTURES

The following have delivered lectures to our members and students during the course of 2025:

- **Joe Cunningham**, *Senior Claims Adjuster, Tokio Marine: "Artificial Intelligence in Law: Automation and Autonomy"*
- **Cathal Leigh-Doyle**, *Partner of Stevenson Harwood LLP "Energy Law in Offshore Context"*
- **Monica Kohli OBE**, *Senior Lawyer Gard, "FDD Cover and Aspects of P & I Insurance"*
- **Robert Lawson KC**, *Partner of Clyde & Co, "Air cargo disputes"*
- **Matt Hannaford**, *Founder and Managing Partner of Hannaford Turner LLP, "Ship Sales and Finance"*
- **Annie Stow**, *Secretariat International Group of P&I Clubs, "P&I Clubs: Role and Function"*
- **Bernard Twomey**, *Marine Engineer, "Autonomy in Shipping – The Future?"*

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD FOR PROFESSOR LELOUDAS

Professor George Leloudas has been awarded the Swansea University Excellence Award in Teaching and Learning—for the second time in the past decade. This prestigious recognition is driven entirely by student nominations, a powerful testament to the exceptional impact he has on the learning experience.

Professor Leloudas received his award during the 2025 Winter Graduation Ceremony, presented in front of the very students who nominated him. Seeing their enthusiasm and appreciation on the day was a truly memorable moment.

Widely regarded as one of our outstanding educators, Professor Leloudas consistently demonstrates excellence, dedication, and inspiration in his teaching. We warmly congratulate Professor Leloudas on this well-deserved achievement and sincerely thank him for his continued and invaluable contribution to teaching, learning, and the wider Swansea University community.



*Professor Leloudas with his Prize*

## STAFF NEWS

In 2025, we were delighted to welcome several PhD students from around the world, as well as Professor Zou Yingyong from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, who spent the summer with us as a visiting academic.

We are also pleased to announce that Dr Xinge Li joined us as a tutor over the summer. Dr Li has recently completed her PhD on insuring autonomous and remotely controlled ships.

Finally, Dr Jia Wang has decided to pursue her academic career elsewhere. We thank her for her valuable service and wish her every success in her new post.



# MEMBERS OF THE IISTL

**Professor Barış Soyer - Director**

Admiralty law, marine and non-marine insurance and carriage of goods by sea

**Professor Simon Baughen**

Shipping law, carriage of goods by sea and trade law

**Associate Professor Andrew Beale OBE**

IP, asset management and trade

**Dr Lowri Davies**

IP law and asset management

**Mr Paul Dean**

Charterparties, shipbuilding, collisions, salvage, towage and general average

**Dr Ogulcan Ekiz**

IP, tech and AI

**Mr Matt Hannaford**

Shipping, finance and securities

**Rear Admiral Frederick J. Kenny**

Admiralty law and international regulation of shipping

**Ms Monica Kohli OBE**

Shipping, trade, legal tech and innovation

**Dr Tabettha Kurtz-Shefford**

Admiralty law, trade law and law relating to oil and gas

**Dr Xinge Li**

Insurance law, carriage of goods by sea

**Mr Peter MacDonald-Eggers KC**

Insurance and reinsurance, shipping and transport, energy, commodities and international trade, financial services and professional negligence

**Dr Aygün Mammadzada**

Private international law, arbitration law, tech (blockchain) and law

**Professor George Leloudas**

Multimodal transport, carriage by air and road, insurance law, arbitration law and aircraft finance

**Angie Nicholas**

Insurance and admiralty law

**Dr Alicia McKenzie**

Insurance law, cyber risk insurance and tech Angie Nicholas Insurance, cyber and trade

**Honorary Professor Simon Rainey KC**

International commerce, embracing particularly shipping, commodities, insurance and the carriage and sale of goods, and energy

**Professor Andrew Tettenborn**

International trade law, payments and finance, commercial law

**Emeritus Professor D. Rhidian Thomas**

International trade and payments, carriage of goods, marine insurance, reinsurance, admiralty and arbitration

**Bernard Twomey**

Autonomous shipping, technical aspects of shipping

**Dr Shuangge Wen**

Corporate law and conflict of laws

**Honorary Professor Richard Williams**

Carriage of goods and maritime law

## CONTACT DETAILS

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The IISTL is a research centre within the HRC School of Law (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences).



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