

# Western Sahara: Exploring New Perspectives from International Law and International Relations

**9 May 2024. 12.00**

**10.00- Institutional Welcome and Presentation of Conference Aims objectives of the conference**

**- Disruptive Approaches to the Western Sahara Conflict: The Fight against Natural Resource Plundering and the Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Territories.**

**Keynote speeches:**

*The Fight Against the Plundering of the Territory's Natural Resources*

Juan Soroeta Liceras – Associate Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU)

*Collective Memory and Human Rights Violations in Western Sahara: Findings and Work with Victims*

Carlos Martín Beristain – Medical Doctor and PhD in Psychology

**12.00-14.00 Panel 1: Unravelling the Western Sahara Conundrum: Perspectives on the Role of Actors, Colonial Dynamics, Global Influences and African Institutions**

Chair: Steffen Bay-Radmundsen

Papers:

1. *China's Position on the Question of Western Sahara.* (Isaías Barreñada, Complutense University of Madrid)
2. *Suspension of Peace in Western Sahara: The Coloniality of the Moroccan Occupation and the Diplomatic Process* (Moara Assis Crivelente, Centre for Social Studies/CES and Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra/FEUC)
3. *The Western Sahara Conflict in a Post-Hegemonic World: Interests, Values and Foreign Policy Strategies* (Eduard Soler i Lecha, Autonomous University of Barcelona)
4. *' Consent Crises and Relational Reordering Practices in Protracted UN Peacekeeping in Western Sahara* (Irene Fernández-Molina, University of Exeter)
5. *All that Glitters is Not Gold: Renewable Energies as a Manifestation of Neocolonialism? A Thesis on Foreign Companies Building Renewable Energy Infrastructure in Western Sahara, Africa's Last Colony* (Emma Lehib, University of Groningen)

**Lunch**

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**Pedro Arrupe Institute of Human Rights**

### 15.30-17.00 Panel 2: Towards a History from Below of the International Relations of the Saharawi People

Chair: Sebastien Bulay

Papers:

1. *Education on the Move: From the Spanish Sahara to Havana* (Ozman Ahmed Bahiya, University of Poitiers)
2. *People's Diplomacy and New Challenges for Global Saharawi Society: A Comparison between the Occupied Territories, Diaspora Countries and Refugee Camps.* (Alice Verni, Alma Mater Studiorum University, Bologna)
3. *Geopolitics of Saharawi Nationalism: From its Origins in the 1950s to the Founding of the Polisario Front* (Francesco Correale, National Centre for Scientific Research/CNRS, UMR 7324 CITERES)

### 17.00-18.30 Panel 3: Latin American Perspectives for Addressing the Western Sahara Conflict

Chair: María Silvestre Cabrera

Contributions:

1. *The Coloniality of the Conflict and the Diplomatic Process in Western Sahara: A Latin American Perspective* (Centre for Social Studies/CES and Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra/FEUC)
2. *Venezuela and the SADR: Cooperation and Solidarity within the Framework of their South-South Relations* (Ender A. Sabalsa Br., Bolivarian University of Venezuela)
3. *Western Sahara Diplomacy in Latin America: The Case of Colombia.* (José Leonar Botero Martínez, Santo Tomás University, Colombia)
4. *Leisure and Use of Time in the Framework of Saharawi Women's Agency* (Katheryne Aldana Villalobos, National Pedagogical University, Colombia)
5. *How the Violation of the Right to Self-Determination Affects the Ability of the Saharawi People to be Part of the World Community* (Luz Marina Mateo and Javier Surasky, Institute of International Relations, National University of La Plata/IRI-UNLP, Argentina)

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### 8.30. Accreditation

### 9.00-11.00 Panel 4: Exploring Legal Boundaries: Western Sahara in the Field of International Law

Chair: Felipe Gómez/ Gorka Urrutia

Contributions:

1. *The Gap Between Doctrine and Practice: Morocco's Legal Enigma* (Natale Serón, University of Deusto)
2. *A Comparative Analysis of the Occupation of the Palestinian Territories, Western Sahara and Ukraine, and the Role of International Law* (Mafalda Matías, University of Deusto)
3. *The Question of Western Sahara, African Supranational Institutions and International Law* (Hanza Dimam, Bundeswehr University Munich)
4. *Western Sahara and Non-Recognition through Economic Behaviour* (Waleed Mahmoud, Rolin-Jaequemyns Institute of International Law and Department of European, Public and International Law, Ghent University)
5. *Renewables for Employment: Wind Energy and the Legitimization of the Status Quo in Western Sahara* (Roberto Cantoni, Autonomous University of Barcelona)

### 11.30-13.30: Panel 5: Technological Frontiers: Navigating the Dynamics in the Western Sahara Conflict

Chair: Jon Lopez

Papers:

1. *The Abraham Accords and Drone Technology in Western Sahara* (Bettina Gräf, Institute for the Near and Middle East, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
2. *Tracing Change Over Time: NLP Perspectives on UN Resolutions on Western Sahara* (Borja Sanz and María López, University of Deusto)
3. *Cybersecurity in the Occupied Territories: A Focus on Western Sahara* (Federica Cristani, Institute of International Relations in Prague)
4. *New Digital Narratives and Saharawi Activism* (Consuelo Wynter Sarmiento, Autonomous University of Madrid)

### 13.30-14.30: Lunch

**14.30-16.00: Interactive and participatory sessions- \*\*Interactive Workshops:\*\* Group dynamics to develop concrete proposals.**

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## 16.30-18.00 Panel 6: Navigating Complex Realities: Sahrawi Women, Refugee Dynamics and Diasporic Activism

Chair: Ainhoa Izaguirre

Papers:

1. *How Does the Double-edged Sword Affect Sahrawi Migrant Women? Reflections for Social Work Interventions from an Intersectional Perspective* (Janire Azkue Terradillos, University of Deusto)
2. *Ideal but Exhausted Refugees: Understanding and Challenging the Humanitarian and International Cooperation Ecosystem in Sahrawi Refugee Camps* (María González Flores, University of Coruña)
3. *Activism of the Saharawi Diaspora* (Judith Tavakoli, Goethe University Frankfurt)
4. *Can Art Play a Role in Transformative Approaches to the Sahrawi conflict?* (Ariane Vuagniaux, University of Montpellier)

## 18.00: Closing Session: New Approaches to Human Rights Activism in Protracted Conflicts

- Hassana Alia, Human Rights Activist
  - María Carrión, Director of Fishara
  - María López Belloso, Researcher at the University of Deusto
  - Kristina Berasain, Journalist
- Summary of the findings and proposals generated during the conference.

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