



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Ziv Bohrer

**Nuremberg Was Not the First International Criminal Tribunal — by a Longshot:
The Long (Forgotten) Pre-WW2 History of International Criminal Law**

MPIL Agora

25 September, 2019, 15:00-16:00, Room 014

The post-WWII creation of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg is widely regarded as the 'birth' of International Criminal Law, in supposedly being the first international criminal tribunal.

In his presentation, Dr. Bohrer will challenge this consensus, revealing the centuries-long, forgotten history of International Criminal Law (the significance of the post-WWII trials notwithstanding). His historical research (presently conducted in partnership with Dr. Benedikt Pirker (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)) uncovers that in every century, since the late Middle-Ages, multi- and supra- partisan criminal tribunals existed. Moreover, it reveals a doctrinal connection between the various tribunals: Piracy is, actually, not the only longstanding international crime; law of war violators (war criminals) have long been considered 'enemies of mankind'.

In short, the research presented will show that International Criminal Law is not a post-WWII creation, rather its history spans over centuries.



Dr. Ziv Bohrer is a faculty member at Bar-Ilan University, Faculty of Law. His main areas of interest are (current and historical) International Criminal and Humanitarian Law. Dr. Bohrer was awarded: a Israel's Junior Law Faculty Workshop - Paper Competition Prize (2017), a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship (2011) and a Wolf Foundation Doctorate Scholarship for Excellence (2010). He was a visiting scholar at Cambridge University (10/2017), UGA (10/2015), Hebrew University - Sacher Institute (2012-13), and University of Michigan (2011-12). He is currently a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.

**Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
Im Neuenheimer Feld 535
69120 Heidelberg**