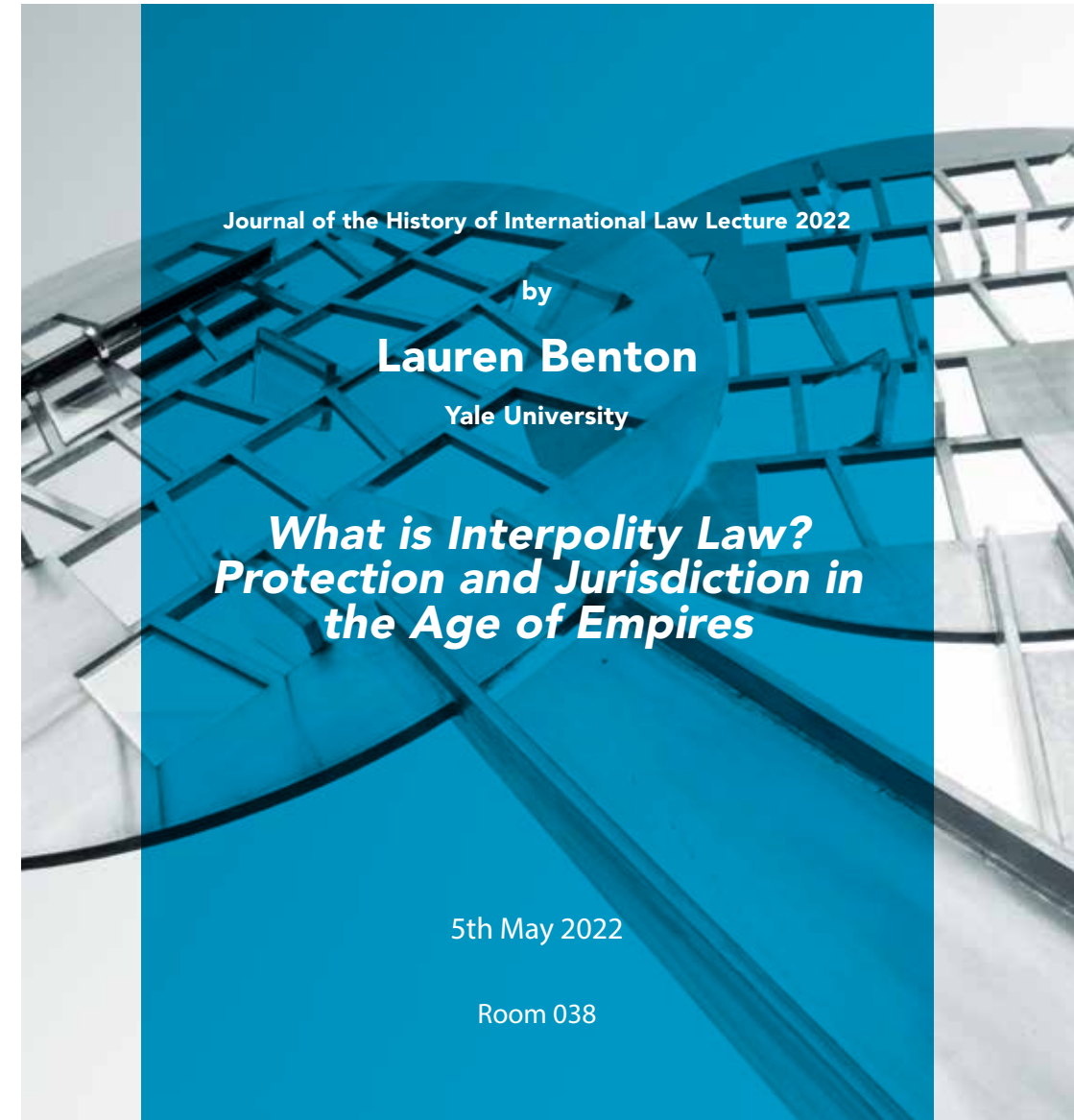




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Journal of the History of International Law Lecture 2022

by

Lauren Benton

Yale University

***What is Interpolity Law?
Protection and Jurisdiction in
the Age of Empires***

5th May 2022

Room 038

PROGRAMME

18:00 h	Welcome <i>Prof. Dr. Anne Peters</i>
18:10 h	What is Interpolity Law? Protection and Jurisdiction in the Age of Empires <i>Prof. Dr. Lauren Benton</i>
18:45 h	Comments <i>Dr. Inge Van Hulle</i>
19:00 h	Discussion <i>All</i>
19:30 h	Closing Remarks <i>Prof. Dr. Randall Lesaffer</i> <i>Apéro</i>
20:00 h	Dinner <i>Upon personal invitation</i>

Abstract

Historians have struggled to characterize the nature of global legal ordering before the nineteenth century, when international law took shape as a profession and the field placed interactions among states at the center of a story of the development of international law. Several recent scholarly trends, including a resurgence of interest in the work of Charles Alexandrowicz, have responded to the challenge without generating satisfying methodological or analytical approaches. This lecture proposes a focus on “interpolity law” as a way forward. Drawing on legal histories of European empires, the lecture highlights two main categories of discourse and action in legal relations across polities between 1400 and 1850: the politics of protection and conflicts over jurisdiction. The lecture demonstrates the importance and usefulness of these categories in the analysis of legalities of violence in and on the edges of empires.

Short Biography

Lauren Benton is the Barton M. Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law at Yale University. A comparative and global historian, she writes on the legal history of European empires and the history of international law. She received her AB from Harvard University and PhD in anthropology and history from The Johns Hopkins University. Prior to Yale, Benton was the Nelson O. Tyrone Jr. Professor of History and professor of law at Vanderbilt University, where she also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Julius Silver Professor of History and affiliate professor of law at New York University, where she served as dean of humanities and dean of the graduate school. In 2019, Benton was awarded the Toynbee Prize for significant contributions to global history. She is a recent recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and immediate past president of the American Society for Legal History.

Benton is the author of four books, including three on the history of empires and law: *Rage for Order: The British Empire and the Origins of International Law, 1800–1850*, coauthored with Lisa Ford (Harvard, 2016); *A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400–1900* (Cambridge, 2010); and *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400–1900* (Cambridge, 2002), which was awarded the James Willard Hurst Prize and the WHA Jerry Bentley Book Prize. Her coedited books include (with Bain Attwood and Adam Clulow) *Protection and Empire: A Global History* (Cambridge, 2017); (with Richard Ross) *Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500–1850* (NYU, 2013); and (with Nathan Perl-Rosenthal) *A World at Sea: Maritime Practices and Global History* (UPenn, 2020). She is currently the Anna-Maria Kellen Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.