



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW  
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

**Douglas Howland**  
**Sovereign Claims and Possessions – The Beginnings of the Territorial State**  
**MPIL Agora**  
**28 November, 2018, 16:00-17:00, Room 038**

Royal claims from the age of exploration persisted into the 19th century, when they began to be replaced by claims to territory on the part of States. Sovereignty over territory was increasingly phrased in terms of “jurisdiction” and, as the State became a territorial entity, an equivalence was posed between “territorial sovereignty” and “jurisdictional sovereignty.” Boundary disputes in the 19th century provide evidence for the transition, and these were invited largely by conflicts over commercial prerogatives in one or another place.

In the 20th century, such disputes would be analysed by judges at the International Court of Justice in terms of “title”—“original title,” historical title, and so on. But this analysis was not forthcoming in the 19th century.

My presentation will discuss territorial practices in the 19th century to begin to understand the beginnings of the territorial orientation of the State.



Douglas Howland received his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1989. He is currently the Buck Professor of Chinese History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and, most recently, author of *International Law and Japanese Sovereignty: The Emerging Global Order in the 19th Century* (2016), and editor (with Elizabeth Lillehoj and Maximilian Mayer) of *Art and Sovereignty in Global Politics* (2017).

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