

AMITY LAW SCHOOL

PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR **2026**

(Hybrid Mode)

Expanding the Definition of War Crimes to
Reflect Modern Conflict: Balancing State
Sovereignty with International Accountability

6–7 October 2026

Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow Campus





ABOUT THE SEMINAR

“ Law is not a neutral or culture-free zone, but is shaped by and reflects the cultural values and norms of the society in which it operates. ”

-Geoffrey Samuel

The nature and character of armed conflict are undergoing profound transformation under the influence of emerging technologies, asymmetric strategies, cyber operations, artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons, environmental degradation, and evolving geopolitical dynamics. These developments increasingly challenge the traditional conceptual and legal boundaries of armed conflict and raise complex questions concerning accountability, attribution, state responsibility, and the protection of civilians.

The International Seminar 2026 seeks to provide a distinguished academic platform for legal scholars, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and students to critically examine whether existing definitions and frameworks governing war crimes remain adequate to address the realities of contemporary warfare.

The Seminar will particularly explore the evolving relationship between International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, international human rights law, state sovereignty, and international accountability. It will examine whether and how international legal frameworks should evolve to respond to emerging forms of warfare while preserving the fundamental principles of sovereignty, proportionality, distinction, necessity, and accountability.

The Seminar will feature four technical sessions, with two parallel sessions being conducted on each day. The sessions are designed to facilitate focused academic discussion on emerging dimensions of modern warfare and the challenges they pose to international law.





DISTINGUISHED GUESTS & SPEAKERS



Michelle Perkins

Founder of Trivium International
Mediation and Arbitration
London, UK



Giovanna Sartório

Founder and Partner
Sartório Advogados
Curitiba, Brazil



Erico G. Villanueva, J.D.

International Corporate Lawyer
MNA Ventures
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Richard Eno Lawani

Senior Lecturer
Federal University Lokoja,
Kogi State, Nigeria



SEMINAR TECHNICAL SESSIONS

DAY 1 | 6 OCTOBER 2026

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

TECHNICAL SESSION 1

Invisible Battlefields: Cyber Warfare, Artificial Intelligence, and Autonomous Weapons Systems in Contemporary Armed Conflict

This session will critically examine the rapidly evolving nature of warfare in the digital age, where cyber operations, artificial intelligence, and autonomous weapons systems are reshaping traditional understandings of armed conflict and accountability under international law.

The session will explore the challenges posed by technologically advanced methods of warfare to existing frameworks of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Criminal Law (ICL), state responsibility, and global security governance. It will also consider emerging legal doctrines, ethical dilemmas, attribution challenges, and regulatory responses associated with digital warfare and algorithmic combat systems.

SUB-THEMES

1. Legal thresholds of “armed conflict” in cyberspace: determining when cyber operations may constitute a use of force, armed attack, or war crime under international law.
2. Accountability, command responsibility, and criminal liability for autonomous weapons systems and AI-driven military operations.
3. State sovereignty, attribution, and international responsibility for state-sponsored cyber operations and proxy cyber warfare.
4. Protection of critical civilian digital infrastructure, including healthcare, banking, communications, and energy systems, under International Humanitarian Law.
5. Ethical and legal implications of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and the future of meaningful human control in warfare.
6. Challenges in applying the principles of distinction, proportionality, military necessity, and precaution to cyber and AI-enabled warfare.
7. Regulation of emerging military technologies under existing international treaties and customary international law.
8. Cyber espionage, information warfare, and disinformation campaigns as threats to international peace and security.
9. The role of international organisations and multilateral cooperation in governing cyber warfare and digital conflict.
10. Human rights implications of AI-enabled surveillance, predictive targeting systems, and algorithmic decision-making during armed conflicts.



SEMINAR TECHNICAL SESSIONS

TECHNICAL SESSION 2

Collateral Damage in the 21st Century: Environmental Warfare, Ecocide, and the Protection of Ecological Systems During Armed Conflict

This session will examine the growing recognition of environmental destruction as a serious consequence of armed conflict and explore emerging legal and policy debates surrounding ecocide, environmental justice, environmental accountability, and sustainable peace.

The session will assess the adequacy of existing international legal frameworks in addressing widespread, long-term, and severe environmental damage resulting from armed conflict, military operations, and occupation. Particular attention will be given to state responsibility, reparations, corporate accountability, environmental displacement, and post-conflict restoration.

SUB-THEMES

1. Expanding the definition of war crimes and crimes against humanity to address widespread, long-term, and severe environmental destruction.
2. The emerging international discourse on ecocide and its potential recognition within international criminal law.
3. State responsibility and reparative obligations for environmental damage caused by military operations and armed conflicts.
4. Legal protection and recognition of persons displaced by conflict-related environmental destruction and degradation.
5. The intersection of international environmental law, International Humanitarian Law, and international human rights law.
6. Protection of natural resources, biodiversity, forests, oceans, and ecologically sensitive areas during armed conflict.
7. Environmental consequences of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological warfare, and industrial sabotage during armed conflicts.
8. Corporate accountability and the role of multinational corporations in environmental harm associated with armed conflicts.
9. Post-conflict environmental restoration, transitional justice, and sustainable reconstruction.
10. Climate change, resource scarcity, and environmental degradation as emerging drivers of armed conflict and geopolitical instability.



SEMINAR TECHNICAL SESSIONS

DAY 2 | 7 OCTOBER 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

TECHNICAL SESSION 3

Psychological Violence, Asymmetric Conflict, and the Changing Nature of Modern Combatants

This session will explore the transformation of contemporary warfare, where psychological operations, misinformation, asymmetric strategies, hybrid warfare, and non-traditional actors increasingly influence the conduct and consequences of armed conflict.

The session will critically examine how international law responds to evolving methods of warfare that blur the distinctions between combatants and civilians, physical and psychological harm, and state and non-state responsibility. It will further consider the challenges of ensuring accountability, protecting human rights, and preserving humanitarian principles in conflicts characterised by irregular warfare and transnational violence.

SUB-THEMES

1. Defining psychological warfare, propaganda, and systematic misinformation campaigns within international criminal law and human rights law.
2. Legal and ethical challenges in addressing psychological violence, cyber propaganda, and digital manipulation during armed conflicts.
3. Asymmetric warfare and the tension between national security imperatives and the protection of fundamental human rights.
4. The evolving status and legal protection of non-traditional combatants, journalists, humanitarian workers, medical personnel, and civilian collaborators in conflict zones.
5. Accountability mechanisms for non-state armed groups, insurgent organisations, militias, and transnational armed groups operating within sovereign territories.
6. Application of International Humanitarian Law to hybrid warfare and irregular military tactics.
7. Child soldiers, forced recruitment, and exploitation of vulnerable populations in asymmetric conflicts.
8. Information warfare, social media manipulation, and the weaponisation of digital communication platforms.
9. Challenges in distinguishing civilians from combatants in urban warfare and decentralised armed conflicts.
10. Strengthening international cooperation, intelligence-sharing, and accountability mechanisms to address emerging security threats.



SEMINAR TECHNICAL SESSIONS

TECHNICAL SESSION 4

The Sovereignty Dilemma: Universal Jurisdiction, State Responsibility, and International Accountability

This session will examine the enduring tension between the principle of state sovereignty and the growing demand for international criminal accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and other serious violations of international law.

The session will critically assess the effectiveness of international judicial institutions, particularly the International Criminal Court (ICC), while exploring contemporary debates concerning universal jurisdiction, immunities, treaty reform, international cooperation, and global enforcement mechanisms.

SUB-THEMES

1. Balancing state sovereignty with the jurisdiction and enforcement mandate of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
2. Universal jurisdiction as a mechanism for prosecuting grave international crimes beyond territorial boundaries.
3. Domestic legal reforms, hybrid courts, and international tribunals as mechanisms for effective prosecution and transitional justice.
4. Political immunity, diplomatic protections, and challenges in enforcing international arrest warrants against state officials and political leaders.
5. State cooperation, extradition obligations, and enforcement challenges in international criminal proceedings.
6. Revisiting and amending the Rome Statute to address emerging realities of cyber warfare, autonomous weapons, and transnational conflicts.
7. The role of the United Nations Security Council in referrals, sanctions, and the enforcement of international criminal justice.
8. Selective prosecution, geopolitical influence, and criticisms concerning the legitimacy and impartiality of international judicial institutions.
9. Reparative justice, victim participation, and restorative mechanisms in international criminal proceedings.
10. The future of global governance and accountability in an era of evolving armed conflicts and multipolar international relations.



SESSION INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

- **Parallel Sessions:** Technical Sessions I and II will be conducted concurrently on Day 1. Technical Sessions III and IV will be conducted concurrently on Day 2.
- **Paper Selection:** Participants may submit abstracts addressing any of the Seminar's principal themes or sub-themes.
- **Research Scope:** Interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are particularly encouraged.
- **Mode:** The Seminar will be conducted in Hybrid Mode, enabling both physical and online participation.

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Participants are invited to submit original and unpublished abstracts relevant to the Seminar theme and sub-themes. Abstracts should demonstrate analytical clarity, academic originality, and relevance to contemporary legal, policy, and international affairs.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The abstract must be written in English.
2. The abstract must be original and must not have been previously published or presented elsewhere.
3. Co-authorship is permitted, with a maximum of two authors per submission.
4. **The abstract must clearly indicate:**
 - Title of the Paper
 - Name(s) of Author(s)
 - Institutional Affiliation
 - Email Address
 - Contact Number
5. The abstract should briefly set out:
 - Research Problem and Objectives
 - Scope and Methodology
 - Key Arguments/Findings
 - Concluding Observations and/or Recommendations
6. The abstract should be between 300 and 500 words.
7. The abstract must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing and justified alignment.
8. Citations, where applicable, should follow a consistent citation style, preferably Bluebook or ILI, or such other style as prescribed by the Organising Committee.
9. The abstract must be submitted in MS Word format (.doc/.docx).
10. The email subject line should read:
"Abstract Submission – [Name of Author]"



GUIDELINES FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

Authors whose abstracts are accepted may be invited to submit full papers. The full paper must demonstrate original research, critical analysis, academic rigour, and substantive engagement with the Seminar theme and relevant sub-themes.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

11. The full paper must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
12. Submissions must demonstrate academic rigour, clarity of argument, methodological soundness, and relevance to the Seminar theme.
13. Co-authorship is permitted for a maximum of two authors but they have to register separately.
14. Authors must ensure that their submissions are free from plagiarism and comply with accepted standards of academic integrity and publication ethics.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

15. The full paper must be written in English.

16. The paper must include:

- Title of the Paper
- Name(s) of Author(s)
- Institutional Affiliation
- Designation/Year of Study
- Email Address
- Contact Number

17. The prescribed word limit is 4,000–8,000 words, inclusive of footnotes.

18. The manuscript must conform to the following formatting requirements:

- Font: Times New Roman
- Main Text: 12-point
- Footnotes: 10-point
- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Alignment: Justified
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides

19. Citations and references must follow a uniform citation style, preferably the Bluebook (20th or 21st Edition) or another style prescribed by the Organising Committee.

20. Footnotes, rather than endnotes, should be used.

21. The paper must be submitted in MS Word format (.doc/.docx).



SUGGESTED STRUCTURE OF THE FULL PAPER

The full paper should preferably include the following:

- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Statement of the Problem
- Research Objectives
- Research Methodology
- Literature Review, where appropriate
- Main Discussion and Analysis
- Findings
- Suggestions/Recommendations
- Conclusion
- References/Bibliography

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Full papers must be submitted via the designated email address intseminaralsl@gmail.com on or before the prescribed deadline.
2. The email subject line should read:
"Full Paper Submission – [Name of Author]"
3. The file name should include the author's name and a short title of the paper.
Submission Email: [To be inserted]

REVIEW SELECTION & PUBLICATION

- All abstracts shall undergo an academic review by the Editorial/Review Committee.
- Selection shall be based on originality, relevance to the Seminar theme, research quality, analytical rigour, and academic merit.
- Selected participants will be notified via email within the stipulated timeframe.
- Authors of selected abstracts may be invited to submit full papers for presentation and possible publication.
- Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited book, conference proceedings, or a reputed journal, subject to editorial standards, peer review, and the applicable publication requirements.
- The decision of the Organising Committee and/or Editorial Board regarding acceptance, presentation, and publication shall be final.



IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

1. Submission of an abstract implies the author's agreement to abide by the rules, guidelines, and publication ethics of the Seminar.
2. All submissions must be original and free from plagiarism.
3. Manuscripts exceeding the permissible plagiarism threshold of 10–15%, as determined by the Organising/Editorial Committee, may be rejected.
4. Authors shall be solely responsible for the originality of their work, accuracy of citations, and authenticity of the information presented.
5. Plagiarism, academic misconduct, or unethical publication practices may result in immediate rejection of the submission.
6. The Organisers reserve the right to make necessary editorial modifications to accepted papers for publication purposes, without altering the substantive academic content.
7. Submission of an abstract does not automatically guarantee acceptance of the full paper or publication.

THE SEMINAR WILL
RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING
SCHOLARLY
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH
**BEST RESEARCH
PAPER AND BEST
PAPER PRESENTER
AWARDS IN EACH
TECHNICAL
SESSION.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date
Last Date for Abstract Submission	28th September 2026
Notification of Acceptance	29th September 2026
Last Date for Registration	28th September 2026
Full Paper Submission Deadline	5th October 2026
International Seminar 2026	6th – 7th October 2026

FOR REGISTRATION
SCAN THE QR CODE



REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Fee (INR)	Details
Amity Students & Scholars	₹500/-	Inclusive of GST
Amity Faculty	₹750/-	Inclusive of GST
National Delegates	₹1,000/-	Exclusive of GST
Foreign Delegates	₹1,500/-	Exclusive of GST



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ABOUT AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, LUCKNOW CAMPUS

Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow Campus (AULC) is a constituent campus of Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Noida. Established in 2004 with the vision of imparting research- and innovation-driven education, the 40-acre, state-of-the-art campus provides a stimulating academic environment that integrates global education, professional training, research, and innovation.

The Lucknow Campus offers UGC-recognised undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across multiple disciplines and employs contemporary teaching and learning methodologies. The campus houses 18 institutions offering 87 programmes to more than 6,000 students. Its diverse research centres facilitate interdisciplinary research in areas including Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Electronics, Agriculture, Forensic Sciences, and several other emerging fields.

ABOUT AMITY LAW SCHOOL, LUCKNOW CAMPUS

Amity Law School (ALS), Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow Campus, was established in 2007 with the objective of providing research- and innovation-driven legal education in a dynamic and globally oriented academic environment.

The Law School offers UGC-recognised undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in law and is committed to excellence in legal education, research, professional training, and interdisciplinary scholarship. ALS has made significant strides towards strengthening the internationalisation of legal education and fostering a multicultural academic environment that promotes meaningful international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

With more than 1,300 students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, Amity Law School provides a supportive academic ecosystem through initiatives such as the Mentor–Mentee Programme, which assists students in making informed academic and career choices while addressing challenges encountered during their educational journey. The low student–teacher ratio enables faculty members to provide individualised mentoring, academic guidance, and career counselling.

Amity Law School, Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow Campus, is headed by Director Prof. (Dr.) Tapan Kumar Chandola. The Law School regularly organises a wide range of academic and co-curricular activities, including international and national seminars, law fests and carnivals, workshops, national quizzes, national and intra-university moot court competitions, and faculty development programmes.

