



Universiteit Leiden

“Smart and lean integration: finding regional solutions to global challenges”

Hybrid: The Hague, 31 August and 1 September and online

Location: Leiden University, The Hague Campus

Auditorium, Schouwburgstraat 2, The Hague

Attendance is free of charge and possible online: please [register here](#)

Aim and background:

Our world is facing unprecedented challenges which demand a joint response. Climate change cannot be solved by any country alone, no matter how strategically autonomous it is. Migration is a global phenomenon, which cares little about sovereignty. And a modern (digital) economy is inherently interconnected. Even if dependence on some global value chains might be reduced, full autarky is therefore a myth, certainly if climate goals are to be actually realized, standards of living are to be retained, and some form of market mechanism is to remain.

To make matters worse, these shared challenges have to be addressed in a rapidly renationalizing world. Multilateral institutions like the UN and the WTO are challenged, torn by the economic and geopolitical strife that accompanies the shift to a multipolar global order. Major powers are racing to protect their own strategic autonomy, leading to nationalistic agenda's that threaten effective and efficient collaboration. Instead of more global collaboration, we may be headed for more fragmentation and conflict.

Regional integration may be one part of the solution, in collaboration with other vital actors at the international and national level. For regional integration to play this role, however, we need to find better ways for countries to collaborate than the mechanisms that exist today. Ways that better fit the very different challenges and realities in Africa, Asia, Latin-America, the Middle East, and Europe.

For these reasons, this conference explores the potential of regional collaboration for meeting some of the key challenges facing our world today, and to do so in a smarter and leaner way than 'just' copying the EU model. It does so in the context of [CompaRe](#), the Leiden Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on comparative regional integration, and in collaboration with UNU-CRIS, the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies.

Substantively, the conference focuses on three core challenges: climate change, migration and economic collaboration in a digital, renationalizing reality. In addition, it focuses on two key underlying academic challenges: the methodology of comparative legal integration and the challenges raised by overlap between regional initiatives and between regional and even larger, global initiatives.

Co-funded by the
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Day 1 (Thursday 31 August 2023)

9:30 - 12:00: Workshop for and with authors edited volume

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch with authors, coffee and registration other participants

13:00 – 13:30 Welcome and key note addresses on key theme of Lean integration and regional challenges

13:30 – 15:00 Panel 1: Comparative (legal) methods and innovative approaches

Chair: Darinka Piqani (Leiden Law School)

Speakers:

- Stefan Gänzle (University of Agder), Jens Uwe Wunderlich (Aston University) and Tobias C. Hofelich (University of Agder): **'Differentiated Disintegration in and beyond the European Union: A Comparative Regionalism Approach for Studying Member State Withdrawals from Regional Organizations'**
- Boyka Stefanova (University of Texas at San Antonio): **'Beyond Comparative Regionalism: The EU and the BRICS Regionalist Challenge'**
- Nelly Stratieva (Leiden University / Berlin): **'Regional integration, value chains and the private sector'**
- Patricia Ouma (Leiden University/London): **'Sovereignty boosting governance and hostile regional objectives: The potential of lean integration in the East African Community'**

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee

15:15 – 17:00 Panel 2: regional integration and climate change

Chair: Joris Larik (Leiden University)

Speakers:

- Bella Nathania (Indonesian Center for Environmental Law): **'The Opportunity of Plastic Packaging Reduction Standards in ASEAN'**
- María Victoria Alvarez (National University of Rosario, Argentina): **'The Role of LAC-EU Interregionalism in Driving Global Governance: A Critical Analysis of the Climate and Environmental Protection Agenda'**
- Aidul Fitriada Azhari (Muhammadiyah University of East Kalimantan), Ali Salmande (Banten Public Administration School), M Robbi Qawi (Trisakti University, Jakarta): **'The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Indonesia: it's Ratification in Parliament and Use in Court'**

17:00-18:00 Drinks

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Day 2 (Friday 1 September 2023)

9:00 – 9:30: welcome and coffee

9:30 – 10:30: Panel discussion: Overlap and interregional collaboration: how to make it work?

- Armin Cuyvers (Leiden University, chair)
- Frank Mattheis (UNU-CRIS)
- Darinka Piqani (Leiden Law School)
- Emmanuel Sebijjo (International University of East Africa)

10:30 - 12:00: Panel 3: regional integration and migration

Chair: Prof. Jorrit Rijpma (Leiden Law School)

Speakers:

- Diego Acosta Arcarazo (Bristol): **‘Comparing free movement of people regimes at global level’**
- Dr Niringiye Aggrey (Principal Research Fellow East Africa Community, Arusha, Tanzania): **‘A baseline Assessment on Mobility of Selected Professionals and Students Across EAC Partner States’**
- Mark Klaassen (Leiden University), **‘Liberalising immigration control to limit irregular migration: the potential of international cooperation’**

12:00 – 13:30: lunch

13:30 – 15:30: Panel 4: regional economic integration in a digital and renationalizing world

Chair: Tom Ottervanger (Leiden Law School)

Speakers:

- Jackline Nyaga (Riara Law School, Nairobi): **‘Jurisdictional Conflicts and Trade Disputes Settlement in Africa: Collaboration versus Competition Between WTO, AfCFTA and African RECs’**
- Gregorio Buzzellia (University of Milan) and Francesco Nicolib (Polytechnic University of Turin), **‘The impact of technological breakthroughs on the trajectories of regional integration’**
- Ali Abdillah (Utrecht University): **‘Escaping the political economy trilemma in ASEAN: towards a smart legal framework for ASEAN regional economic integration’**
- Emmanuel Sebijjo Ssemmanda (International University of East Africa), **‘The Nature of AfCFTA Law: A Comparative Analysis of EAC, EU and WTO Law’**



15:30 – 16:00 Coffee

16:00 – 17:00: Concluding debate: the role of regional collaboration in a renationalizing world facing global challenges

- Philippe De Lombaerde (UNU-CRIS, Chair)
- Diego Acosta (Bristol)
- Nelly Stratieva (Leiden University, Berlin)
- Patricia Ouma (Leiden, London)
- Armin Cuyvers (Leiden University)

