



CAMPUS LAW CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

YOUNG RESEARCHERS' FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEORY

Date: 1-3 March 2019; Venue: Seminar Hall, CLC

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

There is a general disregard for legal theory in mainstream international law research and teaching. This has largely to do with legal positivism that has been internalised by those who engage with international law. In the name of autonomy of law, legal formalism fails to acknowledge that international law can be viewed as an object of study from the perspective of different disciplines. It is rightly articulated that international law, like any other branch of study, does not exist in an intellectual and contextual vacuum. Interdisciplinary approach helps in comprehending the nature of international law, and constructs different ways of thinking about the subject and deconstructing it. Educational institutions in the global South particularly face certain challenges in engaging with legal theory. Lack of resources and the dominant culture of formalism, inter alia, limit the exposure of researchers in the global South to the different theoretical dimensions of the subject. Absence of peer group and poor networking among researchers also impede the success of informal study or reading groups. Overall, this restricts their ability to contribute to the discourse, counter the dominant narrative and produce alternative accounts.

Against this backdrop, *Campus Law Centre* and *Young Researchers' Group on Legal Theory* are delighted to organize a Forum on International Law and Theory. This Forum will bring together experts and early career researchers interested in legal theory. This Forum seeks to achieve the following aims:

- To introduce early career researchers to different theoretical approaches to international law.
- To acquaint the participants with the work of international legal theorists, specifically from the global South.
- To develop a peer group of researchers interested in international legal theory, and to provide a platform for future engagements and collective production of knowledge.