



## February 15, 2018

### JIL Symposium Lunchtime Talk: An Introduction to International Space Law by Cassandra Steer

Contact Info:

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Time: 12:00pm

Location: Gittis 214, Haaga Classroom

We are so highly dependent on space for our daily 21<sup>st</sup> century lives, from navigation and telecommunications, to international banking, weather and climate tracking and disaster response. Developed countries are also extremely dependent on space for military purposes: intelligence gathering, encrypted communications, drone operations, GPS-guided weapons, navigation on land, at sea and in the air, and more. The best way to cripple an adversary is to take out their "eyes and ears", by targeting their satellite capabilities. At the same time, targeting an adversary's space assets with kinetic "shoot to kill" weapons could be catastrophic for all players, including neutral States, commercial actors, and international civil society. It is impossible to contain the effects of a kinetic armed conflict in an environment where objects move at 4.5 miles per second, and where any debris created will intersect with the orbits of highly vulnerable satellites servicing the entire world.

This is the reason CERL is hosting a national conference in April titled "The Weaponization of Outer Space: Legal and Ethical Boundaries". Central to all the issues we will be discussing today and at the conference is this ethical and policy dilemma: how to protect our assets and critical infrastructure in space, without initiating an arms race, or worse still, triggering a conflict in outer space.

This talk will provide a background on the history of international space law, which stems from the Cold War period, and look at how we should avoid a return to a Cold-War situation in space. How does international space law respond to 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs?

Introductory remarks by Professor Claire Finkelstein, Algernon Biddle Professor of Law; Director, Center for Ethics and Rule of Law.

Feedback