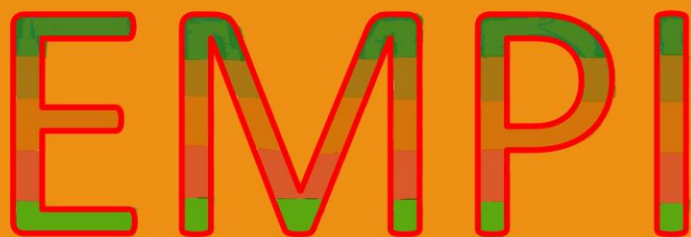


# EMPI Call for Papers

## Multidisciplinary Meeting on Indigenous Peoples (EMPI)

### Sciences Po Paris, June 4-7, 2024

*“Indigenous Responses to Global Crisis Contexts:  
Decolonising the Law, Indigenising Methodologies,  
Exploring Legal Orders, Pursuing Environmental Justice,  
Categorising Vulnerabilities”*



Sciences Po Paris

June 4-7 2024

co-convoked by  
Sciences Po Paris, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt &  
Goethe University Frankfurt

generously co-funded by  
Université franco-allemande (ufa) &  
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This year's EMPI edition (*Multidisciplinary Meeting on Indigenous Peoples/Encuentro Multidisciplinar sobre Pueblos Indígenas*) is to take place at the heart of Europe (Paris) from June 4 (evening) till June 7 (evening) at Sciences Po Paris, Law School.

EMPI 2024 shall catalyse and stimulate academic debates on current global crisis contexts and respective vulnerabilities indigenous peoples are facing today. The event distinguishes itself by its unique thematic focus on indigenous peoples, its multi- and interdisciplinarity and Europe-wide institutional forms of cooperation.

The envisaged programme addresses different global challenges and vulnerabilities arising in indigenous peoples' worlds. This ranges from actual threats relating to CoVID19, environmental crisis contexts, indigenous-specific genocide or neo-colonial developments to meta questions relating to the methodologies applied or the legal framework(s) to be studied.

While the Meeting follows the common panel format, it also includes a keynote speech, a book fare, a documentary, a museum visit including a follow-up debate on 'decolonising academia', opportunities for junior-senior-peer advice, including dedicated (student) skills sessions. It further provides spaces that allow for interdisciplinary encounters, discipline-specific reflections and dialogue on the field of indigenous studies.

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## Your Submission

Please submit the following information at your earliest convenience but no later than 31.03.2024 to [EMPI.June2024@gmail.com](mailto:EMPI.June2024@gmail.com) including your 1) full name, 2) career stage, 3) university or institute of affiliation, 4) title of your paper, 5) paper abstract (max 300 words), 6) a couple of key words, and 7) the session of your choice (find below) and 8) stating if you would like to be considered for one of our [10 MA/PhD student grants](#) or our [10 grants for indigenous individuals](#) to participate at this year's Meeting. You will hear back from us by 15.04.2024 as far as your paper presentation and the grant, if applicable, are concerned. In the meantime, please kindly save the date of this year's EMPI Meeting: June 4-7, 2024.

FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (e.g. FRENCH OR SPANISH)

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## Sessions

- I) Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Justice
- II) Multiplicity of Legal Orders
- III) Legal Anthropological Encounters and Legal Pluralism
- IV) Indigenous Methodological Encounters and Decolonial Theory
- V) Global Crisis Contexts
- VI) Indigenous Peoples, Vulnerable Groups and Intersectionalities
- VII) Indigenous Self-Determination: Approaches and Perspectives
- VIII) Open-Topic Stream

## Session Descriptions

Session I:

### Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Justice

This panel shall first and foremost offer a space of (re-)definition in an emerging field, that of environmental justice as it is shaped and understood by indigenous peoples. In that sense, emphasis may be placed on conceptual issues, criteria and thresholds enabling us to draw a conceptual picture of the indigenous environmental justice idea. We may, however, also delve

into hard law issues such as procedural law, guided by principles such as justiciability, information and participation. The panel also provides possibilities to explore relevant regimes at depth, that is, biodiversity and agrarian contexts or the rights of nature including intersections with human rights regimes. Importantly, indigenous cosmologies may find a place and further articulation in these overlapping claims; other related chances lie with bio-cultural rights for indigenous peoples to channel their voices into the persisting State-centric legal order. Relatedly, we shall explore the value attributable to indigenous environmental activism, as of growing importance to the field, in theory and practice.

Disciplines potentially represented: law, political science, legal and political anthropology, geography, sustainability studies, human ecology

Session II:

### Multiplicity of Legal Orders

The present panel offers the opportunity to examine legal orders at depth as these I) engage with indigenous peoples' rights as such or II) in so far as these prove relevant for indigenous peoples in some way, emblematic being neighbouring legal orders such as peasants' rights, minority regimes or biodiversity frameworks. The former shall allude to classical legal questions such as situating indigenous peoples' rights in specific orders such as international human rights protection mechanisms, regional safeguards (e.g. the Inter-American human rights framework) or relevant constitutional reform processes such as those ones arising in Andean States with their endorsement of plurinationalism and dedicated collective rights orders. Progressive developments and frontrunner cases may be examined in those cases; these could be derived from domestic constitutional contexts, regional ius commune or international spheres of the law. The second possible option of engaging with the multiplicity of legal orders shall enable us to contextualise our findings and possibly find common postulates as they become discernible in other frameworks. The rights of peasants commonly find expression in indigenous contexts and vice versa with territorial conflicts, struggle for alimentary sovereignty or the right to water, becoming crucial questions to deal with. For a long time and especially in European contexts, (ethnic/cultural/religious/linguistic) minority rights have proven

fundamental as alternative legal venues or as providing important opportunities for spill-overs to inspire progressive developments in the field of indigenous rights and vice versa. In many ways, comparative work in such group rights and collective rights contexts promise to provide an interesting space of further conceptual and beyond exploration.

Disciplines potentially represented: Law, Legal Positivism, Theory/Philosophy, International Relations and Political Science, possibly Legal Anthropology

Session III:

#### Legal Anthropological Encounters and Legal Pluralism

One of the most shaping (sub)disciplines in the field of indigenous studies certainly lies in legal anthropology and legal pluralism. These offer a wide array of methodological approaches to engage with justice procedures and jurisdictional matters whenever indigenous rights are studied in one way or the other. Some value is to be found in methods as such, namely ethnographic methods or localisation/vernacularisation approaches that have been serving as methodological tools across the social sciences. Considerable merit certainly also lies in legal anthropology and legal pluralism as proper fields of research which the panel explicitly addresses. Finally, the panel shall provide opportunities for specific or endemic questions to be discussed in relation to the panel theme, namely conflicts of rights and legal hierarchies, or pre-colonial realities which require in-depth knowledge of legal anthropological thought.

Disciplines potentially represented: legal anthropology, law

Session IV:

#### Indigenous Methodological Encounters and Decolonial Theory

The necessity of acknowledging the need to decolonise the law, institutions and society, has become a prevalent policy issue in our everyday lives, both for experts in the field or people occupying policy positions. However, it has also become a prevailing concern in academia, demanding more indigenous scholarship and to spur transformative developments at broader levels, alienating ourselves from a perspective that considers indigenous peoples

as objects of inquiry. Illustrative may be key methods such as participatory action research and other ways of including indigenous voices more explicitly, more actively, channelling voices more genuinely and effectively. In that sense, a wide range of decolonising approaches shall be uncovered, also beyond history as a ground- setting discipline; instead, decolonising academia shall be considered as a cross-cutting, mainstreaming exercise across social science disciplines including the law.

Disciplines potentially represented: methods, decolonial studies, history, education, theory/philosophy, relevant social science disciplines

Session V:

#### Global Crisis Contexts

The present panel shall provide ample room to discuss current crisis contexts as these impact, either in the form of explicit targeting action or as a result of difference-ignorant policies, indigenous peoples' lives and livelihoods. The former may include genocidal or ethnocidal policies or lower level persecution or resettlement action, threatening indigenous peoples to often existential extents. A very common set of impacts studied includes secondary impacts or collateral damage caused by resources extraction or deforestation practices, infrastructure projects but also armed conflicts that show particularly threatening to indigenous peoples. Apart from these recurring impacts, we may also shed light on specific contexts having arisen in the recent past including the pandemic, the subsistence and energy crises respectively. This may give rise to different forms of examination such as case study approaches, but also larger conclusions on vulnerabilities and inequalities materialising in these contexts and as these may become observable across crisis contexts, in that sense, bearing transferring potential.

Disciplines potentially represented: law, international relations/political science

Session VI:

Indigenous Peoples, Vulnerable Groups and Intersectionalities

When dealing with indigenous peoples as collective wholes, internal vulnerabilities including inequalities may be ignored. The present panel shall not only engage more closely with dedicated grounds of discrimination such as affiliation with or belonging to gender groups, children, persons with disabilities or elderly persons, but also appreciate the intersectional relevance of violations, or respective accumulative impacts. Taking a different route, the panel may allow insights into law and society debates on the matter, by e.g. extending our focus of attention to structural and inequality contexts, the systemic nature of these violations, also enabling us to engage more contextually with these manifestations of discrimination. We may derive specific patterns of vulnerability or dedicated scales being indicative of different quantitative indicators but also qualitative variables that prove compelling in terms of intersectional expressions of violations. This may further allow scholars to appreciate the significance of power and institutionalism and their shaping potential vis-à-vis internal differences.

Disciplines potentially represented: law, socio-political approaches, law and society studies, gender studies, diversity approaches

Session VII:

Indigenous Self-Determination: Approaches and Perspectives

Self-determination in its collective form may take a variety of directions, including political struggles in the sense of self-governance or territorial autonomy, but also questions of self-determined development or other aspects touching upon any sphere of indigenous lives. Despite its importance as a powerful collective right in its own terms, self-determination has also been considered as a far-reaching umbrella right, facilitating the channelling of other demands. Its salience may also be traced back to the everlasting claim for lands and natural resources which intrinsically relate to participation and the larger context of self-

determination. The theme also lends itself for theoretical explorations, finding their roots in legal and political theory.

Disciplines potentially represented: law, political science, legal and political theory, international relations

Session VIII:

Open-Topic Stream

This stream is open to subjects not hitherto covered, allowing groups of scholars to present on a topic of their choice. Panels must be constituted beforehand, including at least three panellists and a chair and/or convenor; a discussant may or may not form part of the selection of panellists. Topics shall broadly coincide with the conference's main theme; in case of doubt, the question may be forwarded to the conference convenors before the submission date.