



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands



McGill

Institute of
Air and Space Law

Institut de
droit aérien et spatial

THE LEIDEN & MCGILL ACADEMIC WORKSHOP ON AIR & SPACE LAW

Friday,
18
September
2026
at Leiden
University

The first joint-Leiden & McGill Academic Workshop on Air & Space Law will bring together leading scholars, early-career researchers, and practitioners to explore and debate the most pressing and emerging developments in air and space law. The Workshop is co-organised by Leiden University and McGill University, with the aim of advancing academic legal discussions in the field of air and space law and providing a high-level academic podium for the presentation of groundbreaking and cutting-edge research, rigorous scholarly exchange, and constructive peer feedback.

The Workshop is intended for students studying air or space law at the LLB, JD, and LLM levels, as well as PhD candidates, practitioners, researchers, and other early-career academics, including professors working in the disciplines. Scholars from other areas of law or related disciplines, whose research intersects with air and space law, are also welcome to attend. Interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives are particularly encouraged.

The Workshop's structure will consist of thematic panels featuring pre-circulated papers, short author presentations, in-depth discussions and audience feedback. This format is intended to maximise scholarly engagement and enhance the quality of research outcomes. Topics of interest, but not limited to, are:

OVERVIEW

- Public air law (incl. sovereignty, air service agreements, dispute settlement, environment, and safety and security)
- Private air law (incl. passenger protection, contractual and third-party liability, cargo, insurance and finance)
- Legal aspects of emerging technologies in aerospace (incl. artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, big data, suborbital activities, unmanned aircraft and advanced air mobility)
- Defence and security in outer space (incl. dual-use aspects, militarisation and weaponisation of outer space)
- Regulation of private commercial space activities (incl. private human spaceflight, large constellations, space resource utilisation, active debris removal and insurance)

Participants will critically engage with new ideas, test emerging arguments, and refine research. The workshop will have the following format:

- Presentation of Academic Papers
- Feedback and Debate

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper and present their work at the workshop and to revise their papers following discussion, with the intention of publication in a prestigious academic outlet.

The Workshop is co-organised and hosted alternately by the International Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL) at Leiden University (The Netherlands) and the Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) at McGill University (Canada).

- Announcement of Workshop: January 2026
- Abstract Submission Deadline: 31 March 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: before 30 April 2026
- Submission of the Full Draft Paper: 3 August 2026
- Workshop: 18 September 2026
- Submission of Revised Final Paper: 18 December 2026

The dates may be subject to change at the discretion of the organising committee. Any change will be communicated. Participants who fail to meet any of these dates may not be able to present and publish their paper.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ABSTRACT

An author must submit an abstract for consideration. Only 1 author per submission is permitted. An author may submit more than 1 abstract. Papers will be selected for presentation from among the submitted abstracts. An abstract must conform to the following requirements:

- Title of the Paper
- List of Keywords (maximum 5)
- Name of the author, email address and affiliation
- Abstract of the paper (maximum 500 words)

The aim of the abstract is to clearly present the core research question, methodology, topic, and principal findings or arguments of the proposed paper. It should demonstrate the paper's originality and relevance to the workshop themes, enabling the reviewers to assess its scholarly contribution and suitability for inclusion.

FEE

Free attendance, but registration will be required.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organising committee:

- Dr Benjamyn I. Scott, Assistant Professor, IIASL
- Dr Stefan-Michael Medenig, Assistant Professor (Professional) and Executive Director, IASL

All submissions should be sent to Benjamyn I. Scott (b.i.scott@law.leidenuniv.nl) and Stefan-Michael Wedenig (conference.iasl@mcgill.ca) with the subject line "Leiden & McGill Academic Workshop on Air & Space Law Submission – AUTHOR NAME".