



SOLÈNE GUGGISBERG

INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPERT &
ACADEMIC PUBLISHING CONSULTANT



Areas of expertise

Law of the sea & ocean
governance
Fisheries
International environmental law
Antarctica
International dispute settlement

Core skills

Legal research & analysis
Argument development &
writing
Substantive editing
Connecting ideas &
perspectives
Critical & strategic thinking

Languages

French – native
English – C2
Spanish – B2
German – B2
Dutch – B1

PROFILE

International lawyer and academic publishing consultant with more than 15 years of experience across international legal practice, research and policy, complemented by more than 10 years in academic research and publishing.

Professional experience spans the International Court of Justice, governments, international organisations and academia, with a particular focus on the law of the sea, ocean governance and fisheries, international environmental law, Antarctica, and international dispute settlement.

Through this combination of legal practice and academic experience, I bring together subject-matter expertise, first-hand knowledge of various international settings, and a strong understanding of the development and communication of scholarly work.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant

Current Folio, NL and remote | 2026 – present

Independent consultant providing expert advice in international law and expert support in academic publishing.

- Services include legal research and analysis, expert advice in international proceedings, as well as substantive and editorial work on academic publications.
- Collaborating with governments, international organisations, NGOs, research institutes and think tanks, academics, practitioners and publishers.

Postdoctoral Researcher

Utrecht University, NL | 2021 – 2026

Senior researcher at the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), in the NWO Dutch Polar Programme project *Proactive Management of Antarctic Tourism (ProAct)*.

- Conducted and published research on Antarctic tourism, Antarctic affairs, global goods and commons, non-use and rights of nature, with findings presented to academic and practitioner audiences.
- Edited the 500+ page scientific volume *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, published by Brill.
- Organised workshops, a symposium and a book launch bringing academics and practitioners together and strengthening the policy relevance of academic research.

Legal Counsel

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, CH and remote | 2019 – 2021

Legal counsel to Switzerland in proceedings concerning the *San Padre Pio* before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), instituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and subsequently transferred to ITLOS.

- Conducted research and analysis on the legal and strategic issues arising in the case during both the provisional-measures and merits phases of the proceedings.
- Supported the development of Switzerland's legal position and submissions before ITLOS.

Postdoctoral Researcher

Utrecht University, NL | 2017 – 2020

Senior researcher at NILOS, in the Nippon Foundation Nereus Program: *Predicting Future Oceans*.

- Conducted and published research on fisheries governance at the international and regional levels, including climate change, compliance and transparency, the EU Common Fisheries Policy and the BBNJ process.
- Taught law of the sea courses to students, diplomats and practitioners, and supervised LL.M. students.
- Organised a conference on transparency in fisheries governance and guest edited a Special Issue of *Marine Policy*.

Associate Legal Officer

International Court of Justice, NL | 2014 – 2017

Associate Legal Officer supporting several Judges of the International Court of Justice.

- Conducted extensive legal research and analysis on procedural and substantive questions of public international law, including the law of the sea, environmental law, diplomatic protection, immunities and terrorism.
- Supported Judges in their judicial work through drafting memoranda, researching particular cases, preparing questions and reviewing submissions.
- Assisted Judges with related scholarly and professional activities, including the preparation of articles and lectures.

Policy Officer

European Commission, BE | 2013 – 2014

Policy Officer at the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), in the team responsible for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- Drafted projects of Decisions and Regulations implementing the EU IUU Regulation.
- Provided internal legal advice on the ITLOS advisory case concerning IUU fishing.

Consultant

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IT and remote | 2013

Consultant in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

- Reviewed and analysed the mandates, structures and performance of 11 regional fishery bodies (RFBs) established under FAO auspices.
- Contributed to an updated overview of the international fishery organisations and other bodies active in the conservation and management of living aquatic resources.

Bluebook Trainee

European Commission, BE | 2013 – 2014

Trainee at DG MARE, in the team responsible for combating IUU fishing.

- Maintained and restructured the EU IUU vessels list.
- Participated in drafting Decisions and Regulations implementing the EU IUU Regulation.

Intern

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IT | 2013

Intern in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

- Contributed to the drafting of *The Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.
- Researched fisheries governance and the application of CITES.

Junior Legal Counsel

Legal Team for Bangladesh, DE | 2011

Junior legal counsel to the Bangladesh legal team in the Bangladesh/Myanmar maritime boundary delimitation case before ITLOS.

- Conducted legal research on issues of maritime delimitation.
- Edited, proofread and referenced speeches for Counsel and prepared materials for the Judges.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Law (Dr. iur.), magna cum laude

Bucerius Law School, DE | 2010 – 2015

- Scholar, International Max Planck Research School for Maritime Affairs, Hamburg
- Visiting Scholar, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge
- Researcher, Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations of the Hague Academy, The Hague
- Dissertation: *The Use of CITES for Commercially-exploited Fish Species: A Solution to Overexploitation and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing?* (Springer, 2015)

Master of Laws (LL.M), with distinction

University of Edinburgh, UK | 2009 – 2010

- Specialisation in public international law, in particular international environmental law, the law of the sea, climate change law, and European and international human rights law
- Master's thesis: Non-flag State enforcement of fisheries conservation and management measures on the high seas

Licence

University of Geneva, CH | 2003 – 2007

- International relations programme structured by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- “Current Legal Developments – Regulating Tourism in Antarctica”, *IJMCL* (2026)
(co-editor) *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025)
- “A Conceptual Framework of Non-use and Non-use Measures”, in S. Guggisberg & C. Blanchard (eds), *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025), 9-36
- “CCAMLR’s Marine Protected Areas - Successes and Challenges”, in S. Guggisberg & C. Blanchard (eds), *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025), 269-283
- (co-author) “Non-use Measures in Antarctic Tourism Regulation”, in S. Guggisberg & C. Blanchard (eds), *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025), 341-372
- (co-author) “Non-use Measures of the Atmosphere and the Success Story of the Montreal Protocol”, in S. Guggisberg & C. Blanchard (eds), *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025), 395-427
- (co-author) “Lessons Learnt and Pathways for Future Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law”, in S. Guggisberg & C. Blanchard (eds), *Non-use Measures for Global Goods and Commons in International Law*, (Brill 2025), 475-515
- (co-author) “Governance of Antarctic Tourism: From Private Actors to the Antarctic Treaty System and Back” in A. Varnajot, M. Vereda & D. Ioannides (eds), *Polar Tourism and Communities of Practice: Experiences, Knowledge Building, Challenges and Opportunities*, (CABI 2024), 43-59
- “Rights of Nature and Non-use of Nature for Environmental Protection in Antarctica”, 14 *The Polar Journal* (2024), 446-474
- “Improving Compliance with International Fisheries Law through Litigation”, in F. M. Platjouw, & A. Pozdnakova (eds), *The Environmental Rule of Law for Oceans: Designing Legal Solutions*, (CUP 2023), 266-280
- “Finding equitable solutions to the land-based sources of marine plastic pollution: Sovereignty as a double-edged sword”, 159 *Marine Policy* (2023), 1-10
- (co-author) “Transparency in fisheries governance: Achievements to date and challenges ahead”, 136 *Marine Policy* (2022), 104639
- “Equity Recognition: Ongoing Displacement of Plastic Waste through the Global Waste Trade”, in J. Vandenberg, & Y. Ota (eds), *Towards an Equitable Approach to Marine Plastic Pollution* (2022), 61-63
- “Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, 14th November 2009 (2899 UNTS 211)” 628 *Oxford International Organizations* (2021)

“Transparency in the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization for sustainable fisheries” 136 *Marine Policy* (2021), 1-10

“Independent, compulsory, and centralized verification of states’ obligations in fisheries - Can the IMO Audit scheme for shipping law be used as an example to follow?”, 22 *ICLR* (2020), 513-531

“Verifying and improving states’ compliance with their international fisheries law obligations”, in A. M. Cisneros-Montemayor, W. W. L. Cheung and Y. Ota (eds), *Predicting Future Oceans*, (Elsevier 2019), 453-464

“The roles of nongovernmental actors in improving compliance with fisheries regulations”, 28 *RECIEL* (2019), 314-327

“Funding coastal and marine fisheries projects under the climate change regime”, 107 *Marine Policy* (2019), 103352

“The EU’s Regulation on the Sustainable Management of External Fishing Fleets: International and European Law Perspectives”, 34 *IJMCL* (2019), 291-324 (Mangone Prize 2019)

“Recent Developments to Ensure Compliance with International Fisheries Law”, 42 *L’Observateur des Nations Unies* (2017), 145-175

“Is Europe ready to lead on international fisheries governance?”, Report commissioned by WWF UK (2017)

(co-author) “International Judiciary Practice in the Development of International Environmental Law: A Decade Review”, in Chia-Jui Cheng (ed), *A New International Legal Order*, (Brill /Nijhoff 2016), 127-144

The Use of CITES for Commercially-exploited Fish Species – A Solution to Overexploitation and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing?, (Springer 2015)

“Le trafic illicite de migrants en mer”, in D. Papastravridis and K. Trapp (eds) *Crimes at Sea / La criminalité en mer*, Publication of the Centre for Studies and Research of The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague, 2012 Program on Criminal Acts at Sea, (Brill / Nijhoff 2014)

“The Nada Case Before the ECtHR: A New Milestone in the European Debate on Security Council Targeted Sanctions and Human Rights Obligations”, 8 *Croatian Yearbook of European Law & Policy* (2012), 411-435

(co-author) “The Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks”, *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular n°C1076*, FAO (2012)

“The European Court of Human Rights: A Constitutional Court Endangering States’ Sovereignty?”, 11 *Cork Online Law Review* (2012), 98-106