

Gaetano Morelli Lectures

1st Edition

The Present and Future of *Jus Cogens*

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This first edition of the Gaetano Morelli Lectures inaugurates a series which, in our intent, is to remain as a recurrent *rendez-vous* for international law studies in Rome.

The idea to convene in Rome on a yearly basis to discuss key issues of contemporary international law is naturally connected with the glorious Institute of International Law of “*La Sapienza*”. The story of this institution has accompanied the development of international law in the XX Century, to which the members of the Institute have considerably contributed. Naming the Lectures after Gaetano Morelli is thus more than an individual tribute; it is a collective acknowledgement to a legal tradition, which we intend to renew and to innovate every year, brick after brick.

The Lectures are mainly addressed to young scholars from all over the world. They aim to offer conceptual tools for appraising controversial knots of international law in its continuing development. There is a lot of sense, in our view, for doing this. International law is one of the branches of legal science where the pressing need for change goes hand in hand with the persistence of its basic legal paradigms. It is this unique blend of theory and practice, of tradition and innovation, which makes international law so challenging and ultimately explains its on-going intellectual fascination.

The first edition of the Gaetano Morelli Lectures is devoted to *jus cogens*, a “classic unaccomplished” in contemporary international law. One course will focus on the formation of *jus cogens* through the judicial process; the other will focus on the formation of *jus cogens* through the political, institutional process. An interactive seminar will deal with the relevance of *jus cogens* in the system of State responsibility.

It is our hope that this edition will promote a model of learning international law: offering diverse, if not even antithetical, perspectives among which everyone can find its way; a dialectical approach to legal studies which will hopefully become the distinctive feature of this initiative.