

***You are currently dealing with... (note: with regard to your research)***

**Serge Nengali K.:** ...the question regarding to what extent deficient secondary rules of international responsibility reduce the effective authority of international human rights' primary rules and international humanitarian law over the activities of non-state actors engaged in the commission of violations of international human rights law in cyberspace.

Accordingly, the title of my dissertation is formulated as follows: *"Certain (AI-based) Cyber-Attacks Conducted by Private Militants and the Responsibility Regime for Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law- Legal and Policy Challenges"*.

In fact, cyber-attacks on civilian critical infrastructure by private militants and their associated military operations in peacetime and during armed conflicts will continue to cause unthinkable sufferings to civilians even long after the end of these cyber operations. Furthermore, the violations of basic rules that the international community has recognized in order to provide subjective rights to civilians and groups, also aimed at regulating threats to peace and use of force by State (and other international law actors), including in cyberspace, during armed conflicts (international humanitarian law) and in time of peace (human rights law), shall be transformed into efficient accountability and enforceable mechanisms that incorporate activities of private militants.

The pertinent question shall be how to link the commissions of violations by private actors to the State under the current rules on State Responsibility, on one hand, or on the basis of such notion as public interest in an effective accountability mechanism, applicable to State and non-state actors for serious violations of international norms, on the other.

***This is so relevant right now because... (note: reference to the situation in Ukraine)***

**Serge Nengali K.:** ...it is very important for the international law to have a broader perspective in order to maintain its function in international relations and international community in general. Specially, in view of the current conflict situation happening on the ground in Ukraine, which has been and is still occurring in cyberspace with similar and even more devastating effects on civilian critical infrastructure (e.g. in 2017 a succession of powerful cyberattacks by anonymous groups using the Petya malware targeted Ukrainian electricity firms and cutting electricity power distributed to about 400,000 civilian populations, including hospitals and water supply system), it is high

time that international law starts thinking more outside of the box and reconsider the tenets of its traditional concepts that exclude certain international actors that are now legitimate part of the system of international politics, but are excluded from the applicable framework of international responsibility; hence weakening the effective authority, efficient accountability and enforceable mechanisms of international human rights' primary rules and international humanitarian law over them and their actions.

***This fellowship...***

***Serge Nengali K.:*** ...will allow me to delve into the research on human rights issues and commit to credible sources, while engaging with people with excellent track records in researching and promoting these rights.

I recognize that learning is a continuous process. It involves thorough interaction with people with deep legal knowledge on the issues and those investigating them as a nexus to their investigation in other field areas. Because of this, I intend to seek advice and guidance from my Fellowship supervisor and academic members of the Institute of International Law and International Relations as well as relevant members in other departments within Uni Graz.

As output at the end of the Fellowship, I would like to finish a preliminary draft article for publication on State responsibility for militants' assistance in cyberspace on request.

***You in three # ...***

***Serge Nengali K.:*** ... # languages #global citizenry #interdisciplinarity (law, politics and economics).

**REWI: Your professional path has been...**

**Serge Nengali K.:** ... filled with several exciting paths and milestones. Initially, my academic trajectory included a bachelor's degree in Law and Economics from the University of Salzburg. I then moved into the world of policy and law, as Intern at UNHCR in Geneva, later at the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat at the Headquarters in New York, and also at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Here, the goal was to develop skills and conceptual knowledge for my further academic endeavors in international law and international relations.

Thereafter, I became an Integration Officer at the Austrian Integration Funds, a public agency under the Austrian Ministry of Interior, and there I dedicated myself to building a sustainable future for refugees as myself in Austria, in the form of social support, outreach and consultancy works with NGOs and Austrian governmental authorities.

Thereafter, I spent many years studying three Masters, in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, and Law and Economics at the University of Salzburg. During these academic endeavors, the theoretical and interdisciplinary aspects of public international law, especially in the area of international human rights, were of fundamental importance to me.

Next, I worked in the private sector as Subject-Matter Expert in Law and Marketing for a procurement consulting company based in the Czech Republic. At present, I am pursuing a PhD degree in International and European Law in the form of co-tutelle programme between the University of Salzburg and Palacky University Olomouc in the Czech Republic.

Meanwhile, I have also been working as Researcher in International Law in view of my journey as legal academic and practitioner, while preparing myself for a position of professorship in international law and international relations, including a future practice professorship in Marketing for international lawyers as a logical continuation of my professional progression in the private sector.

***In Graz you would like to...***

***Serge Nengali K.:*** ... to learn from the extensive expertise of the members of the faculty and scholars at the Institute of International Law and International Relations in human rights law and politics as well as receive practical training on the subject, while also getting to know this great city with the assistance of my many colleagues at this university.