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doi:10.1017/amp.2017.26

AN INTRODUCTION: WHAT INTERNATIONAL LAW VALUES

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For scholars, practitioners, and advocates in the field of international law, it is commonplace to encounter questions about whether international law is achieving its goals. But in the flurry of our daily work, we less frequently have an opportunity to interrogate the goals themselves—to ask why certain goals are prioritized, what values those goals reflect, whether international law ought to reflect them, and crucially, how to assess which constituencies' views merit greater consideration in assessing these questions. The Program Committee for the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law thus decided to focus on the values that drive international law, and on how the world's heterogeneous communities can best be harnessed in service of shared international purposes.

The discussions, keynotes, panels, and roundtables of the Annual Meeting offered an opportunity to reflect on these complex and urgent questions. To explore the theme of the values of international law, the 2017 Program Committee organized more than forty substantive sessions addressing a range of topics across international law, including the right to fair trial under international law; military intervention and consent; the value of compulsory jurisdiction and the values inherent in contemporary international dispute settlement; the regime of islands in the aftermath of the South China Sea arbitration; the rise of multistakeholder global governance; and the use of trade agreements to raise and enforce labor and environmental standards. The Program Committee championed innovative formats, most notably by beginning each of the Annual Meeting's three days with a session dedicated to the relationship between the new Trump administration and international law, focusing, respectively, on national and international security, trade, and the environment.

Along with the rest of the Program Committee, we were proud to produce a program that demonstrated the diversity and excellence of the field of international law. Of the 206 speakers, over half (104) were female, reflecting the highest percentage ever of female speakers at the Annual Meeting. The panelists and moderators came from a wide range of personal and professional backgrounds, including national and international judges, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. More than 1,300 individuals participated from around the world. Indeed, in keeping with the Society's broad embrace of the international legal community, the 2017 Program Committee, including the co-chairs, reflected the diversity of the field of international law through the wide range of practice areas, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and nationalities represented.

While the Annual Meeting itself is an immense intellectual and logistical feat, its benefits far outlast the ephemera of those three days. This is so not least because of the *Proceedings*, the vital publication that records the contributions of the participants of the Meeting so that those in the future can draw from the research, insights, and experience of the speakers at the Annual Meeting. We are grateful to the contributors for memorializing the productive and innovative thinking of those days in this volume. We look forward to the continuing exchange of ideas their contributions certainly will inspire.

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https://doi.org/10.1017/amp.2017.26 Published online by Cambridge University Press