



UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY LAW



## **International Criminal Law**

International criminal law focuses on the criminal provisions of international law, namely the prohibitions of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The emergence of these norms is closely linked to the Nuremberg trials after the Second World War. In the past couple of decades, international criminal law has again attracted the attention of the world; the UN Security Council established two ad-hoc international criminal tribunals for conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and in 1998, a corpus of the international community agreed upon the establishment of a permanent international criminal court for the first time in history.

This lecture introduces students to the enthralling history of international criminal law, unpacks the fundamentals of this field of law (which give rise to politically explosive issues, such as the immunity of heads of state and the principle of universal jurisdiction under international law), presents the basic modules of international penal jurisdiction and examines in great detail the particular *corpus delicti* as well as selected general principles of international criminal law.