

Law & Geoeconomics

Law & Geoeconomics, Volume 2(1): Special Issue Workshop and Call for Papers

Title: *Legal Weaponization and Geoeconomic Strategy in a Transforming World Order*

As geopolitical tensions intensify, states increasingly use legal frameworks as instruments of power and control, reshaping global governance. This special issue seeks to examine the emerging geolegal strategies that influence economic security and reshape global norms. We welcome contributions that analyze legal weaponization from both national and transnational perspectives, considering how states and non-state actors utilize law to advance strategic interests in the economic domain.

Background

Law & Geoeconomics (L&G) is a peer-reviewed journal providing a multidisciplinary platform for rigorous analysis and debate on the intersections of law and geoeconomics and their implications for global politics. Drawing on a distinguished Editorial Board of scholars across the humanities and social sciences, L&G embraces theoretical and methodological pluralism, welcoming contributions from scholars in political science, law, international relations, economics, history, geography, and sociology.

Following the journal's successful launch, we are pleased to announce our annual special issue for 2025, developed through an in-person workshop, to be held in Helsinki on June 12–13, 2025. We invite paper proposals that will contribute to this issue's exploration of "Legal Weaponization and Geoeconomic Strategy," examining law's role as a tool of statecraft in geoeconomics and its impacts on global governance and security.

Context and Overview

Recent geopolitical shifts, including the reelection of Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States on a platform emphasizing national security and economic self-reliance, mark an intensifying trend of using the legal system as an instrument of state power. This special issue, as part of the Helsinki Initiative on Law & Geoeconomics, a research initiative supported by the Helsinki Geoeconomics Society, invites scholarship on how laws serve as tools for economic influence and geopolitical strategy, often reshaping global norms and governance.

The current geopolitical landscape reflects a new era of “Geolegalization”—the process by which legal systems become critical arenas for geopolitical competition. This trend is underscored by recent developments, such as the reelection of Donald Trump as U.S. President, whose administration has signaled intentions to reshape the legal landscape with appointments perceived as heavily partisan. According to a recent Financial Times article, Trump’s controversial nominations—such as Matt Gaetz as attorney general and Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence—signal an era of potential legal weaponization in U.S. justice and intelligence systems. This environment heightens the relevance of examining how legal systems worldwide are becoming sites of strategic influence, as states and actors wield legal mechanisms to shape international economic and security policies.

Against this backdrop, we invite contributions that critically examine the “weaponization” of legal frameworks in today’s strategic landscape. The journal issue offers a timely platform to publish research that unpacks the immediate ramifications of legal weaponization, while the book provides a structured space for in-depth analyses by seasoned scholars.

This issue is published in parallel with the Springer volume *Geoeconomics and International Legal (Dis)Order*, a comprehensive exploration of legal weaponization as a tactic in economic competition. Together, these publications aim to foster a cohesive investigation of law as a strategic asset in the global arena.

This Call for Papers seeks to advance scholarship on *Geolegalization*, facilitating dialogue on how law shapes economic strategy and global governance in the 21st century.

Themes of Interest

We invite contributions exploring, but not limited to, the following subthemes:

- **Digital and Data Governance as Lawfare:**
Legal strategies in digital governance, cybersecurity, and control over digital infrastructures, including comparative analyses of regional approaches to digital sovereignty.
- **National Security and Economic Lawfare:**
The deployment of legal tools—such as investment screening, sanctions, and export controls—to safeguard national and economic security, with a focus on evolving legal frameworks in response to contemporary geopolitical threats.
- **Comparative Legal Weaponization:**
Cross-national studies on the legal tactics employed by major powers (e.g., U.S., EU, China) in economic statecraft, exploring how these approaches shape and are shaped by global economic competition.
- **Impact on the International Legal Order:**
Analyses of the broader impacts of lawfare and geoeconomic policies on international norms, including potential destabilization of the international legal order and challenges to multilateral institutions.
- **Private Sector Agency in Geolegal Strategy:**
The role of multinational corporations and private actors in either supporting or resisting legal weaponization efforts, including their influence on trade, investment, and technology control policies.

Submission Categories

We welcome submissions in the following formats:

- **Research Articles:** Comprehensive studies (up to 12,000 words) offering in-depth analysis and original insights.
- **Policy Notes:** Focused analyses (up to 6,000 words) of current trends or relevant cases, emphasizing policy implications.
- **Commentaries:** Brief essays (up to 3,000 words) on emerging issues or policy developments in the field of geoeconomics.

Dual Consideration: Submissions to *Law & Geoeconomics* may be reviewed for inclusion in the *Springer Studies* volume, with author consent, allowing pieces to expand into full-length chapters for in-depth exploration.

Submission and Review Process

The special issue will proceed in the following stages:

1. **Submission of Proposals**

Authors are invited to submit a tentative title and an extended abstract of up to 500 words, outlining the research question, argument, and proposed empirical or theoretical contribution.

Deadline: February 15, 2025

2. **Decision on Accepted Papers**

Authors will receive notification of acceptance and preliminary editorial guidance.

Date: February 24, 2025

3. **Submission of Working Papers**

Accepted authors are required to submit a working paper (6,000–12,000 words) for circulation to other authors and workshop discussants.

Deadline: May 31, 2025

4. **Workshop Presentation and Feedback**

Authors will present their papers during a workshop held on June 12–13, 2025 in Helsinki. The workshop provides an opportunity for detailed feedback from peers and invited discussants. Authors are expected to engage actively, reading other participants' papers in advance and possibly serving as discussants.

5. **Submission of Revised Papers for Peer Review**

Revised papers, incorporating feedback from the workshop, should be submitted for final peer review.

Deadline: November 1, 2025

6. **Final Revisions and Editorial Processing**

Authors will complete any final revisions based on peer review, with the editorial team guiding them through the final stages of publication.

Early 2026

Workshop and Funding Opportunities

The special issue workshop will be a 1.5-day event as part of the *Helsinki Geoeconomics Symposium Series*, hosted by the Helsinki Geoeconomics Society. This workshop is designed to foster academic exchange, thematic alignment, and network-building. Funding will be available to support early-career researchers and contributors from underrepresented regions, covering accommodation, meals, and limited travel costs on a needs basis. Please indicate your interest in applying for funding in your submission.

Submission of Abstracts and Contact

Please submit abstracts and proposals (up to 500 words, in which authors specify their motivating research question, argument, and proposed empirical and/or theoretical contributions) to editorialoffice@lawandgeoeconomics.org. Every proposal will be reviewed on a double-blind and confidential basis.

For inquiries or to discuss preliminary ideas, contact the editorial team at editorialoffice@lawandgeoeconomics.org. We encourage early submissions to foster alignment with the special issue's themes.