



## Dr. Rafael PRADO, PhD, LLD

IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI),  
University of Malta Campus, Msida, MSD 2080,  
Malta

+356 9992 8512

[rafael.prado@imli.org](mailto:rafael.prado@imli.org)

Languages: Portuguese (native), Spanish (native),  
English (C1), French (C1), Catalan (C1), Italian (B2),  
German (A2, willing to improve)

## Curriculum Vitae

International legal scholar and practitioner with 15+ years' experience in international law, international relations, and political science. Research focuses on environment, sovereignty, regulatory authority, and norm fragmentation in contested spaces, integrating fundamental rights, rule of law, and security-related legal change. Combines legal theory and practice to address the transformation of public authority under systemic stress.

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## Researcher interests

- Legal risk, complexity, and governance transformation
- Public authority and legitimacy in multilevel governance
- Climate change, oceans, and the Anthropocene in legal thought
- Dispute settlement and resilience of international institutions
- Transnational regulation and environmental compliance

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## Academic-Professional Experience

**Since February 2023:** Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Malta. Lead teaching and research on the governance of international maritime law, including Law of the Sea, human rights at sea, marine environmental protection, fisheries, polar regimes, and legal drafting. Deliver specialised lectures and co-coordinate and coordinate advanced courses on treaty law and marine environmental governance, bringing together senior stakeholders from governments, international organisations, and academia to address pressing issues such as climate-induced displacement, geoengineering, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, and shipping decarbonisation.

**September 2021 to February 2023:** Risk & Compliance Researcher and Consultant, Dow Jones Corporation (Princeton, Barcelona, Singapore). Conducted complex risk analyses on ESG, sanctions, embargo compliance, vessel tracking, anti-money laundering (AML), countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), and crime compliance in international trade. Developed frameworks for red flag identification — including maritime and supply chain monitoring — and advised on mitigation strategies in line with international standards.

**2020 to 2021:** Postdoctoral research fellow, University College London (UCL), Climate resilience and socio-legal risk methodologies for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

**2019:** Doctorate, Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona & Federal University of Santa Catarina, title of thesis: *Peaceful Settlement of Environmental Disputes before the ICJ and the Development of International Environmental Law (with distinction)*

**Spring 2014:** Visiting research fellow, The Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy Graduate School of Law, University of Hamburg, Germany

**Since December 2014:** Visiting research fellow and lecturer, Center of Studies in Law of the Sea, Faculty of Law, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil.

**July 2013 to November 2014:** Temporary clerk and researcher for the judges and the registrar, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), Hamburg, Germany

**2013-2014:** Consultant, Tribunal Permanente de Revisión del MERCOSUR (TPR MERCOSUR), Arbitral Awards

**Spring 2013:** Visiting research fellow, Institute of Juridical Sciences (IIJ), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), conducted research in Constitutional Law and International Environmental Law. Co-coordinator of Permanent Seminars of the Mexican Yearbook of International Law

**Since 2013:** Visiting research fellow and visiting lecturer on Law & Technology, UNESCO Chair on Sustainability, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Focus on law and sustainability transitions, risk society, scientific diplomacy, and environmental regulation

**Summer 2012:** Diploma in International Law and International Relations, University of the Basque Country, Spain, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, granted by the Basque Country Government.

**2012:** Master's in environmental law (LL.M.), University Rovira i Virgili (URV), Spain. Visiting researcher: University of Limoges, France, granted by the Government of Catalonia

**Spring 2010:** Intern, Department of International Labour Standards (NORMES), International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, Switzerland. Assisted in legal research, drafting, and analysis on international labour standards and their application within the ILO's normative framework.

**Winter 2009-2010:** Capacity Building and Training Programme for Young Lawyers of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva. Responsible for preparing reports and analyses for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on human rights and environmental issues, including the rights to food,

health, and a healthy environment, as well as topics such as climate change, energy, and the rights of vulnerable populations. Took part in the 7th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.

**Summer 2009:** Certificate in International Public Law, The Hague Academy of International Law Summer Course.

**September 2008 to June 2010:** Swiss Confederation Research Fellow, Department of International Law and International Organisations, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Awarded a merit-based Swiss Confederation Excellence Research Grant (CFBE) to conduct advanced research in international law and international organisations.

**Summer 2008:** Certificate of introductory courses for university studies in Switzerland (CIUS), Université de Fribourg, Switzerland

**June 2008:** Visiting research fellow, Carleton University and Université de Montréal, Canada, researching Comparative Constitutional Law of Federative Legal Systems. Awarded a merit-based research grant by the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)

**May 2008:** Certificate on International and Comparative Environmental Law, Washington College of Law, American University, USA. Awarded a merit-based scholarship.

**April 2008:** State law exam, admitted to the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB)

**July to August 2007:** Diploma in International Law and Development, Inter-American Juridical Committee, Washington, DC, USA & Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Awarded a merit-based scholarship by the Organization of American States (OAS/OEA), Director of Studies: Prof. Antonio Augusto Cançado Trindade (late Judge at ICJ in memoriam)

**December 2005 to April 2008:** Assistant Lecturer on Constitutional Law, Environmental Law, Academic Legal Writing, Administrative Law, Indigenous Peoples Rights, Intellectual Property Rights, and correlated subjects, Federal University of Rondônia, Amazon Region, Brazil

**December 2005 to April 2008:** Attorney at Law & Legal Counsel, Federal and State Courts of Brazil, Legal representation of indigenous peoples and environmental NGOs in the Brazilian Amazon region, focusing on environmental protection, land rights, and public interest litigation.

**2004:** Federal Court Clerk Intern, Federal Judiciary Session in Joinville, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Responsible for legal research and assisting judges in matters under federal jurisdiction.

**2003:** Scientific Police Intern, Police Department, Municipality of Joinville, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Prepared reports and analyses to support criminal investigations in the field of public security.

**2000 to 2005:** Study of Law, Communitarian University of Joinville Region (UNIVILLE), State of Santa Catarina, Brazil, and University of Minho, Braga, Portugal (2001–2002). Title of dissertation: *Constitutional tools to avoid the phenomenon of double tribulation between Brazil and Portugal*.

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## Memberships & Affiliations

- Since 2018: IOC-UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - Since 2014: Centre of Studies and Research in Law of the Sea “Vicente Marotta Rangel”, University of São Paulo (CEDMAR-USP), Brazil.
  - Since 2014: Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS)
  - Since 2014: Advisory Editorial Board at the Brazilian Yearbook of International Law, ISSN 1980-9484.
  - Since 2013: ITLOS Alumni Association, Hamburg, Germany
  - Since 2013: Member of the International Law Association (ILA) Brazilian Branch.
  - Since 2013: Advisory Board Brazilian Environmental Law Journal (RDA), Thomson Reuters ISSN 1415-5400
  - Since 2013: Centro de Estudos em Direito Internacional (CEDIN) International Law Center. Belo Horizonte: Brazil
  - Since 2012: The World League of Environmental Lawyers (LIMAA), México
  - Since 2012: Advisory Editorial Board of “Revista Derecho Sin Fronteras. *Lerni Instrui*”, México
  - Since 2012: Latin American Society of International Law (SLADI)
  - Since 2011: Revista de la Secretaría del Tribunal Permanente de Revisión del MERCOSUR (RSTPR). ISSN 23-5163, eISSN 2304-7887
  - Since 2011: Editorial Board Brazilian Journal of International Law ISSN 2236-997X. eISSN 2237-1036
  - Since 2011: The Mexican Yearbook of International Law (AMDI)
  - Since 2010: Association of Brazilian Researchers and Students in Catalonia (APEC), Spain
  - Since 2009: Brazilian Academy of International Law (ABDI).
  - Since 2009: The Association of Attendees and Alumni of The Hague Academy of International Law (AAA)
  - Since 2008: The Brazilian Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil, OAB)
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## Selected Recent Conferences

**24–25 September 2015** 12th Galle Dialogue: International Maritime Conference – “Maritime Outlook of the Indian Ocean under Changing Dynamics”, organized by the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Navy. Speech: Session 2: Responding to IUU Fishing in the Indian Ocean: Sustainable Practices and Marine Environmental Stewardship Amid Shifting Geopolitical and Climate Dynamics.

**12 July – 2 August 2025** PHILSEA 2025 (Philippine International Law of the Sea Academy). Intensive academic capacity-building training programme on the Law of the Sea. Facilitator of the Workshop on International Marine Environment and Director of the Marine Environment Dispute Settlements case studies.

**3–7 March 2025** 83rd Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters, London. Participation in committee deliberations and technical discussions on alternative fuels and **food security**

**12–13 February 2025** CIL-CLIMA Conference: “Decarbonization of Shipping and Alternative Fuels”, National University of Singapore (NUS) Centre for International Law & University of Copenhagen, Singapore. Session 4 – Alternative Fuels: Safety and Environment: “The Role of the Precautionary Principle in Shipping Decarbonization”. Discussions during the conference also addressed the phenomenon of the “*dark fleet*” and its implications for maritime security and global ocean governance.

**21–24 August 2024** XXII Brazilian Congress of International Law, Brazilian Academy of International Law, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. Panel 4: Law of the Sea: “Education in Professional Training in International Maritime Law and Law of the Sea: The Unique Comprehensive Case of IMO-IMLI” (paper forthcoming).

**27–30 August 2024** – Faculty of Law, University of São Paulo, Workshop on SDGs and Ocean Governance.

**30 September–4 October 2024** 82nd Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), International Maritime Organization Headquarters, London. Participation in committee deliberations and technical discussions.

**21–22 November 2024** – Conference: “A Multi-disciplinary Take on the Role of the Judiciary in the Law of the Sea”, Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), University of Utrecht. Session 3 – Litigation Beyond Bilateral State Interactions: “The Role of Amicus Curiae in the ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law” (paper forthcoming).

**2–3 December 2024** International Conference: “The Crossroad of International Environmental Law Enforcement: The Instrumentalization of Other Legal Regimes and Discourses in the Era of Fragmentation and the Anthropocene”, Open University of Catalonia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Barcelona, Spain. Presentation: “The IMO Mechanisms of Implementation Related to Decarbonisation and its Contribution to International Environmental Law Enforcement” (paper forthcoming).

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## Research Grants & Projects

- 2025: Lloyd’s Register Foundation (LRF): Seafarers upskilling on decarbonisation processes and the use of alternative fuels.
- 2025: São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP): Application — Normative Proposals for Circular and Transnational Governance of Plastics and Solid Waste.
- 2016–2019: UNESCO Chair on Sustainability: Legal Frameworks for Technological Cooperation in Environmental Governance.
- 2015–2016 – OEI/European Commission: Ibero-American Scientific Diplomacy and Research Integration.
- 2012–2013 – Luso-Brazilian Program for Graduate Studies, CAPES/FCT.

- 2008–2010: Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (CFBE): Postgraduate research grant recognising outstanding academic achievement and research potential.
  - 2008: Canadian Government (ICCS, FEP): Indigenous Environmental Law and Comparative Federalism.
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## Awards & Distinctions

- Honourable Mention, Brazilian Yearbook of International Law (CEDIN)
- PhD with Distinction, University of Barcelona / UFSC (2019)
- UN Human Rights Fellow – UN System Geneva (2010)
- CAPES (Brazil) Doctoral Scholarship (2015–2019)
- Luso-Brazilian Program for Graduate Studies, CAPES/FCT