

THE APPLICATION OF COMPARATIVE LAW IN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW RESEARCH

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Abstract: *Comparative law analyses the similarities and differences between legal systems, often across different countries or jurisdictions, and examines how those systems operate. Public international law, by contrast, governs the conduct of actors subject to international law, primarily sovereign states, and international organisations, through legal frameworks and principles. Although comparative law and international law are traditionally treated as distinct areas of study, this paper explores the potential benefits of adopting a comparative approach to public international law. Insights from comparative law can deepen the public's understanding of public international law and advocate for the establishment of "comparative public international law" as a distinct area of research. This field involves using comparative methods to examine how different legal systems interpret, apply, and implement international legal norms. Ultimately, drawing on experience from researching comparative law, the article proposes a framework for applying comparative law in public international law research. This framework is further explored through its potential applications at the regional, academic, and institutional levels, offering a roadmap for future scholarship and practice.*

Keywords: *Comparative international law; international law; comparative law; treaties; states*

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Introduction

Comparative law and public international law are traditionally treated as separate disciplines. Nonetheless, growing legal interdependence, overlapping jurisdictional frameworks, and the evolving role of courts and institutions across borders suggest the need for a closer connection between them. Viewing public international law through a comparative lens can offer new insights into how legal norms are developed, interpreted, and applied across different legal systems. This approach not only improves our understanding of

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