



Cyber Security Research Center – Cyber Law Program (H-CSRCL)

**The Prospects for an International Attribution Mechanism for Cyber Operations**

**Call for Applications**

The HUJI Cyber Security Research Center (Law Program) is seeking a Doctoral, a Post-Doctoral student or a visiting researcher to work on topics related to The Prospects for an International Attribution Mechanism for Cyber Operations.

The mission of the HUJI Cyber Security Research Center (Law Program) is to advance both basic and applied research and to develop advanced technologies in order to improve cyber security. The Cyber Law Program aims to advance research regarding regulations used to protect cyber space and activities within it against misuse and abuse, and to fight cyber-crime and cyber-attacks while focusing on the following areas: international law, human rights, law and technology, and criminology.

**The Prospects for an International Attribution Mechanism for Cyber Operations Project** explores the viability of the notion of an international attribution mechanism; its possible structure, authority, process, and scope of consideration; and the role that such a mechanism could play in light of the legal framework governing cyber operations. It is based on a research hypothesis (which needs to be critically evaluated) that a credible attribution process, the findings of which can be publically relied upon, could facilitate the policy option of responding to hostile cyber-operations in a manner that is both lawful and politically legitimate.

A robust and credible attribution mechanism, with a strong technical and legal capacity, would also foster accountability in international law and politics for acts and omissions that are inconsistent with States' legal obligations under the international law governing cyber operations. The project will accordingly include: the assessment of case studies of past attempts to attribute unlawful cyber operations; a comparative review of parallel fields of law in which attribution challenges arise (such as international terrorism, environmental degradation and the recent chemical weapons attack in Salisbury) and the manner in which attribution is dealt with in them; review of the literature on attribution mechanisms; and workshops with decision-makers.

**The current call for applications is for a fellowship working on topics that fall under this area.**

The research Program will be led by Prof. Yuval Shany, Prof. Michael N. Schmitt and Prof. Paul Ducheine, and the Fellow will work under their guidance.

This project is part of an international collaboration of the Cyber Law Program (H-CSRCL) with the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL) at the University of Amsterdam and the Exeter Centre for International Law at the University of Exeter. In



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In addition to conducting research, the Fellow will also participate in project activities and the preparation of grant applications for further work in this area.

The Fellowship benefits include:

- A full-time monthly stipend of 7,000 NIS awarded for a period of up to 12 months.
- The Fellow will be expected to spend part of her or his time in Israel, for several short stays or visits.

Fellowship application requirements:

- The Fellowship is open to Doctoral, a Post-Doctoral student and other junior academics.
- The fellow will be required to submit to the center's management bi-annual scientific reports regarding the advancement of the research and a final scientific report at the completion of the research.

Applications should include:

- Research proposal (up to 3 pages; double space) setting out the applicant's interest and relevant background for work on the project subject area;
- Curriculum vitae, including publications;
- Description of the anticipated contribution to the professional development of the candidate;
- Two recommendation letters (including one from the applicant's Doctoral supervisor).

The research proposals will be submitted by November 10<sup>th</sup> in English in one file via email to Dr. Tamar Berenblum at [tamar.berenblum@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:tamar.berenblum@mail.huji.ac.il).

Evaluation of submissions:

The applications will be evaluated by the leadership of the Cyber Law Program, and by external referees, as needed. The decisions will be approved by the Center's steering committee. Decisions will be final. The decisions will be announced by December 2018.