

**CGG Lecture Series**  
**Globalisation, Social and Political Change**

Do. 14. Juli 2016, 18:15 Uhr

Allende Platz 1, Raum 250

**Professor Wouter Werner**

(Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam)

**Screening International Criminal Justice**

**A Study of Four Documentary Films on the ICC**

In the past ten years or so, several documentaries on international criminal law have been produced, shown at film festivals, and used for advocacy and educational purposes. On some occasions, artists, humanitarian organizations and the Office of the Prosecution of the ICC have worked closely together in the production of documentary films. Documentaries have thus become important tools for education and the spread of imageries of international criminal justice. So far, however, international legal scholars have largely shied away from researching cinematic representations of their field. In this article, I seek to remedy this by focusing on a family of four recent, influential documentaries on the International Criminal Court: *The Reckoning*, *The Court*, *Prosecutor and Watchers of the Sky*. All four use similar modes of representation, narration and promotion and basically communicate the same message about the Court. My article critically analyses how artistic interventions have helped creating specific images, stories and sentiments. In this way, it aims to strengthen the visual literacy of international lawyers and to enable them to engage critically with artistic representations of international criminal justice.

**Wouter G. Werner** is professor public international law at the Centre for the Politics of Transnational law, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. He is also director of the graduate school as well as director internationalization of the law school of the Vrije Universiteit, and founder of the LLM program *Law & Politics of International Security* as well as the Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law. His main research interests are in the fields of the theory and sociology of international law, the politics of international criminal law, cinematic representations of international criminal law and the role of experts in the law of armed conflict. In his talk, professor Werner will discuss some documentaries in the field of international criminal law, drawing on documentary theory and critical legal studies.