

# Jean Monnet Lecture Series Presents:

## Investor State Dispute Settlement in CETA: The dog that doesn't bite

Over the past decade, investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) that operates outside the realm of domestic legal systems has emerged as one of the least popular and most controversial instruments of international economic law among ordinary citizens in advanced industrial societies, especially in Europe and North America. States are widely recognized to have a fundamental right to regulate in the public interest. Investor-state disputes revolve around investors asserting rights of their own that are in tension with the host state's right to regulate, and international arbitration involves balancing those rights in ways that infringe upon the right to regulate. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union, ratified in 2017, represents a new approach to ISDS. The objectives of this paper are two-fold: the first is to describe that approach, placing it with the broader shifting terrain for ISDS; the second objective is to provide some reasons for being skeptical about the CETA having a significant impact on the operationalization of ISDS.



Dr. Les Jacobs  
Institute for Social  
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**Monday, March 27, 2017**  
**2:30-4:00**  
**Ross S674**

The event is sponsored by the Jean Monnet Chair at York University, Dr. Heather MacRae

