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# The "New" New Haven School: International Law-Past, Present & Future

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## Foreword

### **The “New” New Haven School: International Law—Past, Present & Future**

A generation ago, the Yale Law School gave birth to the New Haven School of International Law and forever changed the way that scholars think about law outside of the domestic sphere. By insisting that law is more than formal legal institutions, that international law is best studied by evaluating social practice, and that international legal scholars take a policy-oriented approach to determining what constitutes effective world order, the New Haven School pushed legal academics and practitioners toward a more nuanced vision of what international law is and ought to be. Yet schools of thought are not static, and today, as scholars trained in the New Haven School methodology take the helm of our nation’s law schools and begin to chart their own course, the time has come to ask whether a “new” New Haven School is emerging.

*The Yale Journal of International Law* Fifth Annual Young Scholars Conference brought together the architects of the New Haven School, a new generation of legal scholars, and current law students to discuss this pressing question. The Conference addressed the impact and legacy of the New Haven School and its wide ranging applications, broaching topics as diverse as international environmental law and the war on terror. The capstone of the Conference was a special plenary session addressing the potential emergence of a “new” New Haven School and defining its contours.

The contents of this Issue are the intellectual product of that Conference. They are not the works of a school fully formed, but rather the beginnings of a continuing discourse on how to conceptualize international law in the new millennium and how to frame our scholarly inquiries. The pages of *The Yale Journal of International Law* have, for three decades, been a home for nuanced discussion of the New Haven School; we hope, in this Issue, to continue that fine tradition.

*Lauren E. Baer & Stephen M. Ruckman*  
*Co-Editors-in-Chief*

