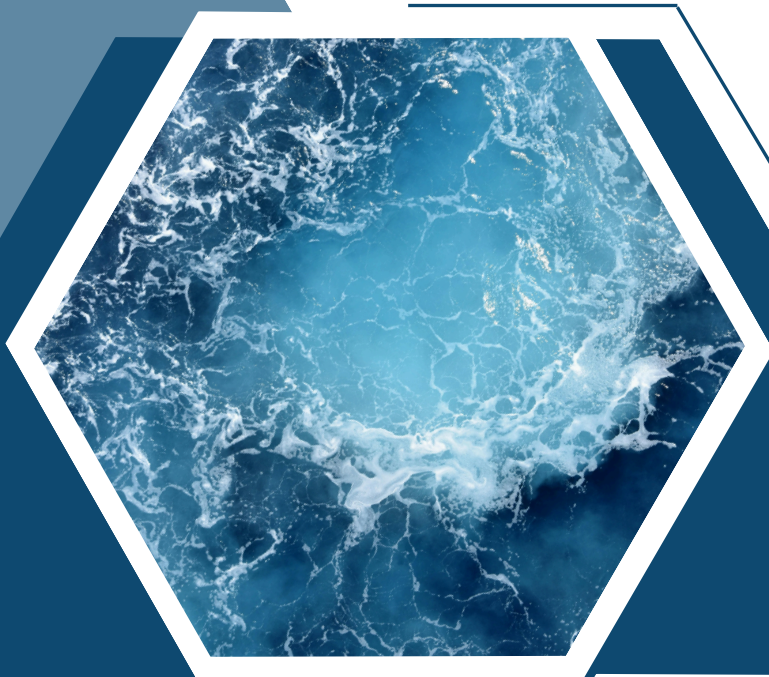


Advisory Board Member



FAMOS



Barbara Stępień

Present Position

Assistant professor of law at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.

Education

PhD from the Jagiellonian University with a thesis entitled "Public International Law and Safety at Sea" (2015)

Research interests

Her research focuses on maritime autonomous and unmanned systems, particularly in the context of naval warfare and emerging technologies. She is currently leading a research project titled "The Perils of Sea Drones: The Legal Implications of Autonomous Vessels in Naval Warfare", which has received funding from the National Science Centre, Poland, under the grant agreement No UMO-2024/53/B/HS5/00681.

Work experiences

Barbara Stępień is a doctor of law working at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University, specializing in the law of the sea and international maritime law, with a focus on autonomous and unmanned maritime systems. She has conducted research and held professional roles at institutions such as the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, the European Commission's Legal Service, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), among others. In addition to her legal scholarship, she holds a professional Master of Yachts license and has sailed over 30,000 nautical miles. Dr Stępień recently completed a Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie project on maritime autonomous surface ships and currently leads a research team under the OPUS programme of the Polish National Science Centre, examining the legal implications of unmanned systems in naval warfare. Her work has been published by leading academic publishers, including Oxford University Press, Routledge, Brill, and Elsevier.

Five most relevant publications

Stępień, B., Navigating New Waters: IMO's efforts to regulate autonomous shipping, Chinese Journal of International Law, vol. 23, no 3, Oxford University Press, 2024, pp. 599-629.

Stępień, B., Towards a New Horizon: 1972 COLREG in the Era of Autonomous Ships, Ocean Development & International Law, Volume 55 no 1-2 (combined), Taylor & Francis 2024, pp. 170-184.

Stępień B., Can a ship be its own captain? Safe manning of autonomous and uncrewed vessels, Marine Policy, vol. 148, Elsevier, 2023, pp. 105451.

Stępień B., Defending the Fleet: Cybersecurity and Autonomous Ships [in:] Kamiński T., Karski K. (eds.) 40 years of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Assessment and Prospects, Routledge 2025, pp. 334-345.

Stępień B., Legal status of international and internal waterways [in:] Kwiecień, R., Fitzmaurice M., (eds.), The Legacy of the Wimbledon case. Centenary of the First Judgment of the Permanent Court of International Justice, Brill 2025, pp. 219-242.