

My studies have so far focused on humanitarian assistance in the event of natural disasters with a wide perspective including both humanitarian law and human rights.

I hold a Master's Degree in Law from the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II. By way of a post-graduate Master's Degree in Diplomatic and International Relations at the SIOI I completed my education in law and gained knowledge both in international relations as well as in international economics. I interned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and completed a two-year training in a law firm in Naples.

I presented a paper, "The protection of people in the event of natural disasters in the ILC's works", at the conference organised by the Società Italiana di Diritto Internazionale – giovani internazionalisti.

Through a six-month internship at the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva I worked on political and human rights analysis in several countries and focused on how to advance a rights-based approach in humanitarian action.

## Research Project

Natural disasters affect large numbers of individuals each year, in all regions of the world, causing widespread loss of life, injury and economic loss. Moreover, the relevant impact of natural disasters on the enjoyment of human rights is often intimately linked to pre-existing social and economic patterns or inappropriate policies, neglect or oversight. However, the response by the international community to these kinds of events is often fragmented due to the lack of a coherent and settled international law framework concerning humanitarian assistance in these particular cases.

The International Law Commission is currently considering the possibility of developing and codifying international law applicable to "the protection of persons in the event of disasters".

The PhD project aims at analysing both the meaning of the "rights-based approach" to the topic and the hurdles that might jeopardize the effectiveness of the individual perspective in constructing the legal framework for the conduct of international disaster relief activities. Specifically, the research seeks to understand the extent to which it is possible to set up both duties for the State affected by the disaster to its population and a duty for the international community to cooperate and provide assistance in the case of the affected State's inability or unwillingness to fulfil its duty of protection. Indeed, even if the existence of a "right to humanitarian assistance" cannot be affirmed *de lege lata*, a number of human rights treaty norms apply to natural disaster situations, especially those protecting the right to life and the economic and social rights.

## Publications

**L. Cosenza** (in press) "Immunità dello Stato e norme di *ius cogens* nella sentenza del 3 febbraio 2012 della Corte internazionale di giustizia", in *Diritti umani e diritto internazionale*

**L. Cosenza**, (in progress) "La protezione delle persone in caso di disastri naturali nei lavori della Commissione di diritto internazionale", *Acts of the Conference – "Gestione internazionale delle emergenze globali: regole, valori e etica"*- organised by SIDI - giovani internazionalisti