The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way the world functions. As businesses and corporations grapple with the effect of the virus and reduced workforce to manage costs, job opportunities traditionally available to young practitioners can be expected to be impacted. However, with the change comes new opportunities. Fresh graduates and young practitioners often try to fit into the existing frameworks and opportunities rather than gaining an eclectic set of knowledge and skills to build niche practices. To increase awareness about specialised areas of law and alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the AIAC YPG introduces its new initiative “CAREERS 2.0: FIND YOUR NICHE”, a series of monthly webinars. This project is aimed at providing a platform to connect with experienced practitioners from all over the world who can share their success stories and give tips on building careers in those specialised areas of ADR.
Tatiana Polevshchikova is a Deputy Head of Legal at the Asian International Arbitration Centre where she is involved in the administration of international and domestic arbitrations, adjudications, mediations and domain name disputes. Tatiana works on multiple institutional and cross-institutional projects, revision of the AIAC Arbitration Rules, capacity building and knowledge dissemination initiatives. She is a Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the AIAC Young Practitioners’ Group, one of the organisers of the AIAC Pre-Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and an institutional representative at the Asia-Pacific Forum for International Arbitration. Before joining the AIAC, Tatiana practiced for three years in Russia and obtained an LL.M. in Negotiations and Dispute Resolution at Washington University in St. Louis (Fulbright Scholar).

Imad is an international disputes lawyer who advises governmental entities and private companies across diverse economic sectors, including energy, oil and gas, electricity, renewables, waste management, mining, and pharmaceuticals. Imad has particular experience in investment treaty arbitration – having represented foreign investors and host States in over a dozen ICSID/UNCITRAL arbitrations – and commercial arbitration under rules of the ICC, ICDR, HKIAC, and LCIA. He serves as adjunct professor of international law and arbitration at Washington University School of Law, and chairs the law school’s annual International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Symposium. Imad is also a Chair of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators’ Young Members Group in North America and Executive Board Member of the ICDR Young & International.

Professor Dr. Frans G. von der Dunk holds the Harvey and Susan Perlman Alumni / Othmer Chair of Space Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s LL.M. Programme on Space, Cyber and Telecommunication Law since January 2008. He also is Director of Black Holes BV, Consultancy in space law and policy, based in Leiden, The Netherlands. He has edited and written the first major Handbook of Space Law in 2015, is editor of the renowned series Studies in Space Law and has published some 200 articles and various other books on space law. He also has given some 140 presentations on the subject and has taught as a guest professor at dozens of universities worldwide. He has consulted with hundreds of clients all over the world (governmental, intergovernmental and private sector) on issues of space law and policy. He also is the holder of several prestige awards in the field.

Jean-Claude is a partner in Bird & Bird Paris office. He is the head of the Aviation, Space & Defence practice in Paris and the co-head of the firm’s global Space & Satellite Group. Jean-Claude advises clients in the Aerospace and Defence sector in relation to commercial and finance transactions, litigation and pre-litigation cases. He has recently advised a client in relation to the drafting and implantation of a space law in a Middle-Eastern county, a major Defence and Space company in relation to the structuring of the financing of a LEO satellite constellation and a major satellite manufacturer during the negotiation of a cooperation in relation to a space laser communication project. Jean-Claude was Technical Advisor to UNIDROIT during the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Space Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Berlin 2012). Jean-Claude is a former Commercial Court Judge in France.

Please join us for the first webinar titled “TO INFINITY AND BEYOND: A CAREER IN AIR AND SPACE LAW” on Friday, 28th August 2020 at 4.00 p.m. (MYT). Registration: http://bit.ly/AIACYPGCareers2
Rachael O’Grady is a senior associate in the international arbitration practice at Mayer Brown International LLP. A solicitor advocate, she focuses on international commercial and bilateral investment treaty arbitration and public international law. Rachael has acted as counsel and advocate for claimants and respondents in both investment treaty and commercial arbitrations across a wide range of industries, including the satellite, telecommunications, taxation, mining, oil and retail sectors. She has particular experience in large-scale investment disputes in Africa and the Middle East. Rachael has conducted arbitrations under the ICSID, ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, LMAA, CAS and ad hoc rules. As well as advising on complex international and domestic legal issues in such disputes, she has been commended by clients and peers for her “rock-solid case management”. Rachael publishes regularly on international arbitration and public international law. In relation to the latter, she has a special interest in the laws of outer space.

Upasana Dasgupta is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL), McGill University, which she is pursuing with Erin J C Arsenault Fellowship, amongst others. Her doctoral thesis topic is “Preventing Collisions in Outer Space: Towards Better Implementation of International State Responsibility” which she is writing under the supervision of Dr. Ram Jakhu. Upasana has also pursued Masters in Air and Space Law from McGill University (2012-2014). Upasana has worked on various projects as a Research Assistant including the Air Line Emergency Restrictions Tracker, Global Space Governance, Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space and Space Security Index. Prior to this, she used to work in capital markets division in Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas in India. Upasana has also worked as advisor to Indian Delegation to the 38th General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and has interned at Legal Bureau of ICAO.

Sharon Chong is a dispute resolution partner at Skrine. Her portfolio focuses on aviation, international arbitration, commercial litigation and arbitration, and regulatory enforcement. Sharon represents aircraft lessors, financiers, reinsurers, airlines and regulators in aviation matters. She acted successfully for an aircraft lessor in the first ever case of repossession of an aircraft in Malaysia. She also recently acted for Malaysia Airports in a matter involving the ownership of three abandoned aircraft parked at its airports. She is the current President of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (MIArb) and is on the YSIAC Committee. Sharon is a Fellow of CIarb (UK) and MIArb and is on the panel of arbitrators of AIAC, SIAC and KCAB. Sharon was recently awarded Young Lawyer of the Year [Law Firm] at ALB Malaysia Law Awards 2020. She is ranked “Next Generation Partner” for Dispute Resolution in The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2020 and recognised in GAR 100 (12th and 13th Edition).