

5TH YOUNG LEGAL RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE 2024

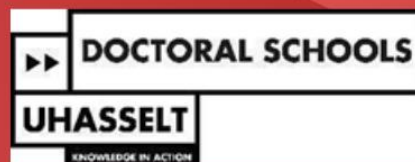
Strategizing for the future: Innovative legal research in the EU and beyond



CONFERENCE BOOKLET

Hasselt University

6 December 2024



Contents

Contents

- 1. Conference theme..... 2
- 2. Conference Schedule..... 3
- 3. Session details 4
- 4. Posters 7
- 5. List of presenters 10
- 6. Contact information..... 22

1. Conference theme

Hasselt University Faculty of Law is proud to announce the fifth edition of the Young Legal Researchers Conference, which takes place on **Friday the 6th of December 2024**. The conference will be organised **physically** at the city campus of **Hasselt University**. The aim of the conference is to bring together young researchers (primarily PhD and postdoctoral researchers) to share, discuss and exchange ideas on their research with one another.

This conference reflects and discusses different transformations the law is currently going through as a result of major societal challenges, such as: the uncertain impact of US and EU elections in 2024, the ongoing international armed conflicts, developments in migration, environmental crises, and emerging technologies. By addressing these challenges, the overarching goal of the conference is to provide future-oriented insights to create a sustainable and resilient pathway for the next generations. This not only includes the law as we know it in the books, but also law in practice.

Accordingly, the 5th Young Legal Researchers Conference is dedicated to showcasing presentations across all areas of law, both independently and in collaboration with other disciplines, aimed at enhancing **innovative legal research in the EU and beyond**.

2. Conference Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
09:30 - 10:00	Registration and coffee	Café Cour Campus Oude Gevangenis - Hasselt University
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome speech <i>Prof. dr. Petra Foubert, Dean of the Law Faculty and Professor at Hasselt University</i>	Aula Louis Roppe (OG-Aud2)
10:15 - 10:45	Keynote speech: AI Act - Because Even Robots Need Rules <i>Dr. Nele Somers, Lawyer and guest lecturer at Hasselt University and the University of Antwerp</i>	Aula Louis Roppe (OG-Aud2)
10:50 - 12:20	Parallel Sessions (I)	See table below
12:20 - 13:30	Group photo and lunch	Cafe Cour /Panopticon
13:30 - 15:00	Parallel Sessions (II)	See table below
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break	Cafe Cour
15:30 - 16:45	Parallel Sessions (III)	See table below
16:50 - 17:20	Keynote speech: Obtaining a PhD, me?! <i>Dr. Loth Van Der Auwermeulen, Postdoctoral researcher and research manager at Hasselt University</i>	Aula Louis Roppe (OG-Aud2)
17:20 - 17:30	Closing remarks and announcement winner poster competition <i>Prof. dr. Steven Van Garsse, Vice Dean of the Law Faculty and Professor at Hasselt University</i>	Aula Louis Roppe (OG-Aud2)
17:30	Reception	Cafe Cour

Panellists will have 10 minutes to present their research, followed by 5 minutes of discussion time with questions from the audience.

3. Session details

Parallel Sessions I

10:50 - 12:20

Room	Session	Moderator	Presentations
FR 0.01	Fundamental rights and the rule of law	Casper Kikken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Olivia Loyens - Strategies for safeguarding taxpayers' rights in the context of the harmonisation of direct taxation in the European Union 2. Emilia Sandri - The Progressive Integration of Fundamental Rights in European Judicial Cooperation to Protect the Rule of Law 3. Dóra Horvath - Methods and challenges in the legal enforcement of the rule of law 4. Georgios Athanasiou - Rule of law in Europe: lessons learned from the Migration crisis 5. Niels Klein - Too rigorous, too lenient or just right: a case study on the rigidity of constitutional amendment procedures
FR 0.02	Environmental law	Claudia Wortmann	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Britt Bocken - LULU-what? : the importance of the often-forgotten LULUCF-sector in the race against climate change 2. Edo Schoone - Shifting Baselines in Flemish Nature Conservation Law: Legal Challenges in a Changing Climate 3. Xanne Bekaert - Empowering Indigenous Voices in Carbon Market Governance 4. Martin Kopecky - Role of landlocked states in ensuring fairer ocean governance regarding the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction 5. Leila Kentache - Integrating Environmental Concerns Along the Economic Recovery in the EU: Towards a Systematic Resort to Environmental Conditionality? 6. Dita Toska - Colour me green: Global Gateway, green transitions and a new way of indebteding the Global South
FR 0.03	Justice: Litigation and Governance	Justine Richelle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eleonora Di Franco - Creating a resilient space for democratic participation in the EU: the case of the anti-SLAPP directive 2. Julien Mabile - Strategizing to Stand in Courts as a French Union 3. Dewy Pistora - Remedial approaches in public interest litigation 4. Monique van Cauwenberghe - An Approach to Climate Litigation Analysis: A Focus on Mental Health and Displacement 5. Majedeh Bozorgi - Public Health Litigation and the SDGs: A Legal Instrument for Achieving Sustainable Development

Parallel Sessions II
13:30 - 15:00

Room	Session	Moderator	Presentations
FR 0.01	Corporate Responsibility	Jonas Voorter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isabelle Vanwalleghem - The application of the rules on directors' liability in legal practice in Belgium 2. Theo Monnens - The long-term incentives in the remuneration of CEOs on Euronext Brussels 3. Lucia Jeremiašová - Unlocking the Potential of Appointment and Removal Rights to Drive Corporate Sustainability 4. Leslie Kassongo Tambu - From 'likes' to liability: Holding Corporate Individuals Accountable for Aiding and Abetting International Crimes through Social Media 5. Weronika Herbet-Homenda - Exploring the interplay between corporate law, competition law and economics: piercing the corporate veil within groups of companies in antitrust damages cases
FR 0.02	Social Media and Online Platforms	Harriet Ní Chinnéide	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anna Vicinanza - EU addressing digital platforms' opinion power: liability frameworks and moderation activities 2. Yibo Li and Helena Verhuyck - Bottom-Up Models for Ecosystem Power Management: Lessons from Sustainable and Cooperative Platforms 3. Sahar Karimi - E-commerce in the Age of AI Integration and consumer protection: Navigating the European Regulatory Landscape for Fair and more Transparent Digital Economy
FR 0.03	Data and AI in the Digital Age	Tekle Tadesse Tesfaslassie	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Louise de Bethune - Exclusive Rights and Inclusive Interests within the Digital Archive. A legal history research on data governance and the Commons 2. Isabela Maria Rosal - Open-by-design and by-default principles: data governance in the public sector 3. Marcu Florea - Consent: Legal Basis or Safeguard for Processing Personal Data for Biomedical Research? 4. Marta Zdunek - GPS Earth Imaging and Third-Party Privacy Protection

Parallel Sessions III
15:30 - 16:45

Room	Session	Moderator	Presentations
FR 0.01	Competition Law	Siemen Kalders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prachi Agarwal - Beyond Efficiency: Rethinking EU Competition Law for Social Equity 2. Anna Machura-Urbaniak - Integration of Behavioral Insights into EU Banking and Finance Law: Assessing the Status Quo and Paving the Way Forward 3. Julie Houillon-Leonis - Expanding the Horizons of EU Competition Law: Antitrust as a Tool to Address Social Inequality 4. Marwan Ben Moussa - Examining the Enforcement Challenges of Horizontal Shareholding under EU Law
FR 0.02	Woman Empowerment	Merel Vrancken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oumaima Derfoufi - Rewriting the Vows: The Role of Islamic Feminism in Reforming the Family Code in Morocco 2. Abdul Basit Dihqan - Afghanistan and Women's Rights: A Case Study of the Taliban's Recently Approved Law for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice 3. Oliseyenum Deborah Ezekiel-Okoh - A Comparative Analysis of Citizenship Rights for Surrogate Children in South Africa and Nigeria 4. Simon Indestege - Gender Constitutionalism (or Constitutionalism and Women's Citizenship)
FR 0.03	Protected Persons	Emilie Hermans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lúcia Pestana - Barriers to Abortion Care for Victims of Sexual Violence under the Temporary Protection Directive 2. Helga Luku - Echoes of Identity: Names, Surnames and National Identity 3. Katharina Cieslar - Care to work? - Caregivers' status in the context of EU free movement rules

4. Posters

Legal research can be captured in a graphically attractive way. However, the use of posters is not (yet) an established way of presenting and sharing research within legal studies. The YLRC team wants to change this, since the creative and simplified presentation of research holds great potential, and is a worthwhile skill to develop. Consequently, we provide those persons whose posters have been accepted the opportunity to present their posters during the Conference!

The posters will be presented during the lunch, which takes place from 12.20 until 13.30. During the lunch break, the poster presenter will have the opportunity to briefly explain their research topic with the help of their poster, while those attending the Conference have the opportunity to explore the posters. Of course, do not worry, those presenting their poster will have sufficient time to eat their lunch.

In order to make the posters even more exciting, there will be a poster competition in which the attendees of the Conference can vote for their favourite poster! Voting will take place via a QR code, which will be distributed on the day of the Conference itself. At the end of the day, the winner of the poster competition will be announced.

We are happy to announce the following posters:

Fenicia Aceto - Self-employed and their access to social security protection

SELF-EMPLOYED AND THEIR ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION

PROBLEM

In national social security systems the *classical distinction* between *employed* and *self-employed* workers still exists. Depending on the category, rights and social benefits go along (or not).

CHALLENGES

- New self-employment forms
- Not covered by all branches of social protection
- Fewer social benefits despite similar social risks
- Disadvantages in contribution requirements and benefit calculation compared to employees
- Involuntary self-employment
- Less access to schemes

RESEARCH AIM

Neutral system regarding labour market status

- Eligibility conditions not linked to traditional employment status
- Employees and self-employed exposed to the same social risks

↓

Specific working situation, risks and needs of self-employed

- Concrete analysis for each social scheme
- Differences employee vs. self-employed, i.e. volatile income, contribution payment

Through a Legal Comparison

RESEARCH QUESTION

How can **income replacement schemes** within national social security systems be (re)designed to address the **specific working conditions, risks, and social protection needs** of self-employed workers, while balancing the **freedom to conduct business with the solidarity principle**?

TILBURG UNIVERSITY Fenicia Aceto, PhD candidate, Tilburg University

Amber Jans - The legal position of persons with dementia and their partners

It takes two: the legal position of persons with dementia and their partners

1 person in 5 gets diagnosed with dementia

“ Since the person with dementia always remains part of the family, we need to legally protect all interests involved in this relationship: the interests of the person with dementia, the interests of the other partner and the family interests.

TWO MECHANISMS: LOVE & LAW
Dementia often leads to the **incapacity** of the adult and the need for **guardianship** installed by the justice of the peace. Now imagine yourself having dementia and your spouse as your guardian. Your spouse would be responsible for making decisions about finances, health and well-being. In this case, two distinct mechanisms apply in Belgian law: one being **adult protection laws** focused on the individual with dementia, the other being **relational laws** protecting relational interests.

BALANCING ALL INTERESTS INVOLVED
Both laws can be applied simultaneously to the same adults and the same relationship. So when your spouse is paying the bills, their rights and duties as a guardian may collide with those arising from the relationship and perhaps even with yours. There is **no priority rule nor is there cooperation** between these laws. Therefore, we must find a way to **balance** the different **interests of all persons involved**.

DEMENTIA ON THE RISE: CRITICAL GAP
In a world where dementia is on the rise, our legal system faces a critical gap in addressing the evolving needs of those affected and those around them. We must **reframe and reshape our legal system** to protect these vulnerable adults, their partners and their families through legislative adjustments.

Submit for next research info or to share your thoughts!

UHASSELT
Amber Jans | PhD researcher person & family law | amber.jans@uhasselt.be

Adeodata Kanyamihanda - International protection for climate-displaced individuals

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION FOR CLIMATE-DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS

01 INTERNAL VS EXTERNAL CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT
Internal Migration: Movement within a country to escape environmental degradation, like droughts, floods, or rising sea levels.
External Migration: Climate disasters drive migration, but legal frameworks don't recognize climate-induced displacement.
 • Disaster Risks: State failure and hazards worsen displacement.
 • Climate as a Multiplier: Climate change worsens disaster impacts.

02 EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM FRAMEWORK
Qualification Directive & Temporary Protection Directive: Potential to extend protections to those facing climate-induced threats by interpreting "facts of persecution" and "serious harm" more broadly.
Procedures Directive: Ensures fair asylum processes for climate migrants, allowing scientific evidence of environmental harm (e.g., rising sea levels, extreme temperatures) to support claims.

03 LESSONS FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
Australia's Pacific Labour Mobility Scheme: Provides pathways for workers from climate-vulnerable Pacific nations.
New Zealand's Pacific Access Category: Offers residency for migrants affected by climate change.
 Key case: *Tebitoto v New Zealand*

LEARN MORE

5. List of presenters

Fenicia Aceto

Fenicia Aceto is a PhD candidate at Tilburg University, specializing in the field of social security law. She graduated with a double Bachelor's degree in German-French law from the Universities of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Cologne in 2016. After successfully completing the first German Bar exam, she pursued the Master “Labour Law and Employment Relations” at Tilburg University. Before starting her PhD in 2022, she did her legal clerkship and is a fully qualified lawyer in Germany.

Prachi Agarwal

Prachi Agarwal is a second-year PhD candidate at the Amsterdam Law School, University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on the complexities of EU competition law and its implications for social equity and market structures. Prachi is a member of the Amsterdam Center of European Law and Governance (ACELG) and Sustainable Global Economic Law (SGEL), where she collaborates with experts on innovative legal frameworks that address contemporary challenges. She holds a Master's degree in European Competition Law and Regulation from the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Prachi's academic journey reflects her commitment to integrating social justice with legal practices, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to competition law that transcends traditional economic theories. Through her work, she aims to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable legal landscape in Europe and beyond.

Georgios Athanasiou

I have obtained a Bachelor of laws in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (valedictorian, first class honors) and a LL.M. on German law at the University of Heidelberg, Germany (specialization on German public law). Currently I am pursuing a PhD on EU constitutional law and Migration law at Universiteit Antwerpen (Government and Law Research Group, Faculty of Law, FWO scholarship holder). I have also worked as a trainee lawyer in law offices in Greece, and organized conferences on EU constitutional law. Over the past year I also was employed as a member of the Editorial Board of the Max Planck Yearbook of UN law (student assistant), at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law. Finally, during the last year of my Bachelor studies I was Editor in chief of the student-run law Journal of ELSA Thessaloniki (Expressis Verbis Law Journal).

Xanne Bekaert

Xanne Bekaert is currently a research and teaching assistant with a Master's degree in Law, specialising in International and European Law, from the VUB. Xanne chose to study international law, but she recognises that the major challenges of our time require efforts that go beyond the law. Driven by a deep passion for justice, equality and human rights, Xanne examines these issues in the ever-changing international context. Under the supervision of Prof Stefaan Smis and Dr Wamwara, Xanne wrote her Master's thesis on the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in international law, specifically through the lens of the Endorois and Ogiek cases in Kenya. Before embarking on her fieldwork in Kenya, she worked in the Litigation and Implementation Unit of the Centre for Human Rights in Pretoria, where she gained fundamental insights into landmark cases and the mechanisms of implementation of decisions of AU human rights bodies. In Kenya, Xanne conducted extensive fieldwork, working with a range of non-state actors, including international and local NGOs, indigenous elders and NHRIs.

Marwan Ben Moussa

Marwan Ben Moussa is a LL.M. candidate at the College of Europe in Bruges (Law and Economics Track). He is a Panthéon-Sorbonne and Panthéon-Assas graduate, both in Law and Economics and studied at McGill University in Canada and Leiden in the Netherlands. He interned at a leading law firm in Brussels and trained under the supervision of President Koen Lenaerts at the Court of Justice of the European Union. He has a strong interest in competition policy and its interaction with corporate governance. He also worked at the University of Cambridge as a Research Assistant, tackling the developments of Fintechs and inclusive finance in emerging markets, drafting reports for the World Economic Forum or the City of London.

Britt Bocken

Britt Bocken is a PhD student at the Environmental Law Unit of the University of Hasselt, where she researches European Environmental Law. Her research focuses on the regulation that sets out the policy for the 'Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry'-sector, or in short LULUCF-sector.

Majedeh Bozorgi

Majedeh Bozorgi is a PhD student in the program 'Administration, Finance, and Justice in the Social State' at the University of Salamanca. She has conducted research in artificial intelligence, gender inequality in criminal law, Islamic family law, and the field of human rights. Her doctoral research focuses on the right to health and potential inequality in Europe.

Before joining the University of Salamanca, she worked as the director of the research department in Tehran for six years and also taught commercial law and accounting. As a researcher and activist in Iran, she collaborated with various civil societies and is currently the Secretary General of the Iranian Association for Human Rights in Spain. She is also currently a visiting researcher at Ghent University.

Katharina Cieslar

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Translation and Interpretation for English and German and a Master degree in Law, both from Charles University in Prague. I obtained my Master degree from the Faculty of Law in May 2022 and subsequently became a PhD candidate there. During my studies, I have done an Erasmus at KU Leuven and a Schuman Traineeship at the Legal Service of the European Parliament. After completing my studies, I have briefly worked for the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, where I analysed the compatibility of newly proposed national legal acts with EU law. Since March 2023, I work in Brussels as Member of the Justice and Civil Liberties Unit of the Directorate for Legislative Affairs of the Legal Service of the European Parliament.

Louise de Bethune

Louise de Bethune is a PhD researcher at KULeuven's centre for IT and intellectual property law and at the State archives as a part of the DAMAR project (A Dependable Archive for Managing (Sensitive) Records). Louise holds a masters and Manama degree in law from KULeuven, where she analysed the national limits of data protection law. During her Manama in IT ad IP law she investigated the legal implications of joint authorship and collaborative open-ended practices in the arts.

Oumaima Derfoufi

Oumaima Derfoufi is a PhD Candidate and a Teaching Assistant at NOVA School of Law (Portugal) where she is conducting research on Islamic Feminist theories and family law reforms in North Africa. She is also Coordinator of the research line on Gender, Religion, and the Law and the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family, and the Law (NOVA GFLaw). She obtained a Research Master's degree on African Studies at Leiden University (The Netherlands) and a Bachelor of Art in International Relations at Al Akhawayn University (Morocco).

Eleonora Di Franco

Eleonora Di Franco is a joint lecturer and PhD candidate in the Department of European Law of Maastricht University. Her PhD project examines the role of SLAPPs as a specific legal form of obstruction of public participation and legal measures to counter the shrinking of civic space within the EU legal order. She holds an LL.B. in Law from the University of York (UK) and an LL.M. in European Public Law and Governance from Maastricht University (NL).

Abdul Basit Dihqan

Oliseyenum Deborah Ezekiel-Okoh

Ms Oliseyenum Deborah Ezekiel-Okoh is a Doctoral (LLD) candidate at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is currently conducting her research on : A surrogate child's right to citizenship: A Comparative study of South Africa and Nigeria. She is a profound independent researcher. Ms Ezekiel-Okoh is also a volunteer at the Children's Rights Unit at the Centre for Human Rights.

Marcu Florea

Marcu Florea is a PhD student at the Security, Technology and e-Privacy (STeP) research group of the Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen. His research focuses on consent for processing personal data for biomedical research and is part of KnowGraphs, an International Training Network funded by the EU Research Framework Program Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Marcu holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Arts in Politics Philosophy and Economics from the University of Bucharest, as well as an LLM in International and Comparative Private Law from the University of Groningen. A member of the Bucharest Bar Association since 2015, he worked as an associate lawyer for Filip & Company law firm and as a privacy and security legal counsel for Oracle Corporation. Marcu is currently affiliated with the George Washington University Law School Center for Law and Technology.

Weronika Herbet-Homenda

Weronika Herbet-Homenda - a PhD candidate at the University of Warsaw, experienced in legal research concerning company, competition and consumer protection law. Her PhD project focused on piercing liability has received a grant of the Polish National Science Center and a scholarship of Max Planck Institute for International and Comparative Private Law.

Dóra Horváth

I received a university degree in law in 2022 (Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest, Hungary), and I started my PhD studies at the National University of Public Service in 2023. My research fields are constitutional law and EU law, my current research focuses on the principle of effective judicial protection in the practice of the CJEU.

Julie Houillon-Leonis

Julie Houillon-Leonis is a PhD researcher and teaching assistant at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, specializing in competition law and health regulation. Her doctoral research reflects her strong expertise in European antitrust law, having gained experience at various law firms and at the General Court of the European Union. Julie holds a Master's Degree in European Law and Litigation, as well as an LL.M in European Legal Studies from the College of Europe, where her thesis on health data transfers earned awards for excellence.

Simon Indesteege

Simon Indesteege is a PhD candidate in constitutional law and a research assistant. With a passion for teaching constitutional law and human rights, Simon's primary areas of interest include gender equality, non-discrimination, inclusion and diversity. Their commitment to social justice extends to a particular focus on women's rights, feminism, queer studies, and the intersection of law and philosophy. Simon's research has led to publications on constitutional rights and an analysis of the European Court of Human Rights' case law concerning (transgender) pregnancy and the right to have a child. As they continue their academic journey, Simon is poised to make significant contributions to the field of constitutional law and human rights, in particular the rights of gender diverse persons.

Amber Jans

Amber Jans is a Belgian PhD Researcher specializing in person, family and elder law, with a focus on the legal rights and protection of individuals with dementia. She is affiliated with Hasselt University, where she conducts research and contributes to the understanding of the complex legal issues surrounding dementia. Her research specifically focuses on the legal position of persons with dementia and their partners.

Lucia Jeremiašová

Lucia Jeremiašová is a Ph.D. researcher in the Private Law Department of the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University, a Ph.D. fellow of the Institute for Corporate Law, Governance and Innovation Policies (ICGI), and editorial secretary of the European Company Law journal. Next to her research, Lucia teaches the courses Comparative Company Law and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Adeodata Kanyamihanda

Adeodata Kanyamihanda is a graduate in EU law with a focus on the rights of refugees and migration policies. She completed her second master's degree and is set to begin a position as a mandate assistant in EU law at the University of Antwerp in September. Her thesis explored the potential right to free movement for recognized refugees within the EU, a topic that holds personal significance due to her parents' experiences. In addition to her academic pursuits, Adeodata is passionate about supporting students with a migration background, recognizing the unique challenges they face. This drive led her, along with colleagues Andreea and Nathan, to establish the "Diversity for Law Students" project, which earned them the prestigious Queen Mathilde Award. Adeodata's ongoing research will examine the possibility of granting international protection to individuals displaced by climate change seeking refuge within the EU.

Sahar Karimi

My name is Sahar Karimi, and I am a Doctoral Researcher in Law at the University of Turku, focusing on the intersection of AI, e-commerce, and consumer protection. I hold an LLM degree from Bologna University, where I specialized in law, economics, and finance. During my two-year master's program, I completed courses in legal studies, obtained Europrivacy Auditor and Implementer licenses from the Europrivacy Academy, and interned for three months in Civil Protection at the Prefecture of Ravenna. My research includes writing a master's thesis titled "Data Protection in E-Commerce: A Cross-Border Perspective Balancing Trade Expansion and Privacy Protection." Additionally, I have three years of experience as a lawyer, during which I developed expertise in legal research, analysis of case law, legal writing, and managing contractual negotiations and drafting.

Leslie Kassongo Tambu

Leslie holds a bachelor's degree (2019) and a master's degree in Criminal Law (2021) from the Free University of Brussels (VUB). As part of her studies, she spent time at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, through the Swiss European Mobility Program. In 2022, she earned an advanced LL.M. in International Law from the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Leslie has gained practical experience in international peace and security through internships at the Bulan Institute and the OHCHR in Geneva, as well as the ICC in The Hague. Since October 2023, she has been a PhD researcher at the VUB, focusing on aiding and abetting standards under international criminal law, particularly as applied to corporate individuals within social media. She also serves as a teaching assistant for the 'Methodology of Law' course for first-year bachelor's students.

Leila Kentache

Leila Kentache is a Ph.D. candidate in Administrative Law at the University of Torino. She is currently undertaking her visiting period at the University of Utrecht, Department of International and European Law. Her research focuses on the application of the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle in National Recovery and Resilience Plans' procurements. Along with her project, she supports the Office for Construction and Sustainability of the University to discuss sustainability practices in public procurements in the construction sector.

Niels Klein

Niels Klein is a doctoral researcher and teaching assistant at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He obtained a master's degree from this same university, specializing in public law and wrote his thesis on constitutional customs in the Belgian legal order. After graduating, Niels decided to pursue a PhD in constitutional law. His research analyzes the concept of democratic constitutionalism in federal states. The project particularly explores how constitutional amendment schemes should be shaped to be sufficiently rigid and guarantee effective participation of federated entities and citizens. These findings will be applied to the Belgian context, in order to propose an alternative for its current, regularly scrutinized amendment procedure.

Casper Kikken

Casper Kikken is a third-year PhD student at UHasselt, Faculty of Law, Centre for Government and Law (CORE), Law, Tax & Business Unit. With a background in public administration, he conducts interdisciplinary and socio-legal research on the relation between taxation and gender equality.

Martin Kopecky

Martin Kopecky is Ph.D. student at the Department of the Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University in Prague. In his research, he focuses on the ecosystem approach and the legal regime of the international law of the sea, and on the legal and natural science perspective on the protection and use of marine biodiversity. He spent one year of his master studies at the Università degli Studi di Siena where he worked on his master thesis on the protection of biodiversity of deep sea-bed in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Yibo Li

Yibo Li, PhD researcher at Antwerp University, focusing on regulation of digital platforms and AI content moderation.

Olivia Loyens

Olivia Loyens (LL.M. KU Leuven) is a PhD candidate at the Law, Tax and Business Unit of Hasselt University, under the supervision of prof. dr. Caroline Vanderkerken (Hasselt University, promoter) and prof. dr. Piet Van Nuffel (KU Leuven, copromoter). Her research focuses on the position of the taxpayer in fiscal proceedings, in particular regarding taxpayers' fair trial guarantees under the European fundamental rights framework.

Helga Luku

My name is Helga Luku. After pursuing a Master's Degree in International and European Law at the University of Antwerp, I started my PhD. I am currently in my second/third year. My research field in EU law and EU Private International Law.

Julien Mabile

Julien Mabile is a fourth year PhD candidate at the University of Paris 1, in France. His PhD is funded by a labor Union. He works inside this Union as a part time legal advisor. Before the PhD, he studied both Law and political Philosophy.

Anna Machura-Urbaniak

Anna Machura-Urbaniak is a doctoral researcher in EU Banking and Finance law at the University of Luxembourg, where she conducts interdisciplinary research focused on incorporating behavioral insights into the EU legal framework for the financial services sector. Her work has been recognized on several occasions, including being awarded the prestigious Pierre Werner scholarship and an individual grant from the National Research Fund (FNR). She is an author and co-author of works on investor protection, the challenges of digitalization, the green transition, and post-pandemic economic governance in the EU. Before pursuing her academic career, Anna worked for several years as an attorney-at-law (Avocat à la Cour) in law firms in Luxembourg.

Theo Monnens

Theo obtained a Bachelor of Laws (2017-2020), a Master of Economics, Law and Business Studies (2020-2022) and a Master of Business Economics (2022-2023) all at the KU Leuven. His master's thesis on loyalty voting rights in Belgium received the TRV-RPS prize 2022 and his master's on crowdfunding the Ekonomika Master's Thesis Award 2022-2023. He also studied for a semester at the University of Copenhagen as part of the Erasmus exchange program.

Lúcia Pestana

Lúcia Pestana is a jurist and feminist activist. She is a research assistant at the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family and the Law and a teaching assistant in Comparative Equality Law at the NOVA School of Law. She has served as a parliamentary advisor on women's rights in the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal. She is Vice-President of the Portuguese Youth Network for Gender Equality and represents the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights in the European Women's Lobby's Working Group on Women in Politics.

Dewy Pistora

My name is Dewy Pistora. Since September 2022 I have been working as a PhD-student at the PBL Department of Tilburg University. I studied in Utrecht (Utrecht University), and have a Bachelor degree in law 'Rechtsgeleerdheid', one Master degree in 'Private Law' with a specialization in liability law, and one Master degree in 'International Law' with a specialization in human rights. Alongside my PhD, I am working as an editor for the Dutch law journal 'Ars Aequi' and I also published several articles in the field of civil (procedural) law, liability law and human rights.

Isabela Maria Rosal

Isabela is a legal researcher at CiTiP (KU Leuven) where she works on data governance projects. She obtained an LL.M degree in Economic and Regulatory Law from the University of Brasília in 2022, presenting a thesis on “The processing of personal data for marketing purposes”, which was published as a book by Ed. Fórum. She also holds a Master’s degree in Law from the same university (2019), having written her thesis on “The definition of the legitimate interest” according to the GDPR and the Brazilian Data Protection Law (LGPD). Prior to joining CiTiP, Isabela worked as a lawyer at a prestigious law firm and as a project manager at the CEDIS-IDP (2020-2022), where she contributed to projects such as “Effective LGPD” and “LGPD in the Courts”. She has also worked as head of Data Governance and Digital Economy” at LAPIN and as an antitrust body.

Emilia Sandri

Emilia Sandri is a PhD researcher in the Faculty of Law at the University of Antwerp. Her research focuses on the horizontal enforcement of vertically imposed rule-of-law requirements through judicial cooperation in the EU. She is interested in assessing the handles provided by the Court of Justice of the European Union to national judges to uphold the EU’s fundamental values in civil and criminal matters, as well as exploring how these mechanisms are employed in practice at the domestic level. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from The Hague University of Applied Sciences and a Master of Laws from Utrecht University, where she graduated cum laude. She also has two years of experience in policy consulting for the European Commission, conducting evaluations and impact assessments primarily for the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers on topics related to fundamental rights, and justice and home affairs. Her areas of expertise revolve around Constitutional Law and EU Judicial Protection.

Edo Schoone

Edo Schoone started in 2022 as a PhD-researcher at the UHasselt Faculty of Law, where he is connected to the Environmental Law Unit and the Centre for Environmental Science. He has an additional master’s degree in Environmental Sciences and experience in practice. His work is funded by the interdisciplinary INVABIO-project (www.invabio.eu) and focuses on the historical valuation of biodiversity in law and the valuation of biodiversity damage in permitting and in sanctioning decisions. He has a three-monthly column in the legal journal M.E.R. about recent evolutions in environmental law and has published an article together with several case notes on Flemish and European environmental law.

Mariet Stiers

Mariet Stiers is a PhD candidate at Hasselt University within the research unit Administrative Law and Public Administration. Her research focuses on the allocation and organisation of administrative enforcement powers in Belgium.

Dita Toska

Dita Toska is a second year mandate assistant at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), where she is working on her doctoral dissertation on the IMF's use of law as a tool to impose policy reform in developing countries. She is particularly active in the field of Law and Political Economy (LPE), conducting research on the fundamental reconsideration of money, monetary and financial policies, law, and institutions. She specialises in the IMF, World Bank, WTO and non-market economies. She has work experience in governmental institutions as well as the European Commission. Dita holds a Bachelor and Master of Law (VUB), LL.M in Corporate and Financial Law (University of Leeds), M.A. in European Studies (KU Leuven) and an LL.M. in China Studies (Peking University).

Monique van Cauwenberghe

Monique is a junior researcher and teacher with an interdisciplinary background of social sciences, health and law based at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Her areas of interest and expertise fall within the fields of human rights law, disaster law (climate disasters), health law, displacement and development. She is the coordinator of the Groningen Centre for Health Law (GCHL). She is also the coordinator of the Global Scientific Network on Law and Tobacco (GCHL & University of Queensland). Since 2023, she is a junior researcher for the GCHL health-related dimensions of climate change, with a focus on health arguments (particularly addressing mental health and gender-based violence in displacement) in climate litigation. Her LL.M thesis was entitled: Climate Disaster Induced Displacement in Australia: An International Human Rights Framework for The Right to Mental Health and Freedom from Gender-Based Violence, and she is looking to develop this into a PhD project.

Isabelle Vanwalleghem

Isabelle Vanwalleghem received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Law from UHasselt. Since September 2021, she has been working as an assistant in economic law at UHasselt. Here she conducts research and is currently a teaching assistant for some legal courses in the Law Faculty and the Faculty of Business Economics. She is part of the Centre for Government and Law (CORE) research group and more specifically of the Law, Tax & Business Unit of the Hasselt Law Faculty. She is currently conducting doctoral research on the application of directors' liability rules in practice by the Belgian courts.

Helena Verhuyck

PhD researcher at Antwerp University, focusing on regulation of digital platforms and labour rights. She conducts research on the power dynamics in digital labour platforms with a focus on platform workers.

Anna Vicinanza

After completing a double degree in French and Italian Law with honors, I began my PhD in European Law at the University of Bologna in November 2022. My research focuses on the regulation of digital platforms as actors in the information sector.

Marta Zdunek

Marta Zdunek is a PhD candidate at the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. As part of her research, she analyzes contracts concluded within the space sector.

6. Contact information

For further information about the conference, please contact the Organization Committee at ylrc@uhasselt.be