

Conference Program ESELS Ljubljana 2026

(version of 27 May)



Conference venue

University of Ljubljana,
School of Economics and Business
Ekonomski fakulteta
Univerza v Ljubljani
Kardeljeva ploščad 17,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

How to reach School of economics and business

It is very easy to get around in Ljubljana. As the city center is relatively small, you can simply walk to it or rent a bike. Do not search for subway, because of its size Ljubljana has never had it. To get to other parts of Ljubljana you should use public transport like city bus system or a taxi. The walk from the center of Ljubljana (e.g. Prešeren Square) to the School of economics and business (Kardeljeva ploščad 17) takes approximately 25 minutes (app. 2 km; route - fastest route is along Dunajska cesta).

By city buses: There are 85 bus lines that connect all parts of the city and also suburbs. To find Ljubljana city bus timetable and to plan your travel it is best to use Google Maps. For a city bus ride, you pay the driver upon boarding the bus. Please note that paying the driver in cash is not feasible. However, you have the option to settle your fare using a debit or credit card (one ride is 1.30€). The fastest way to get to the School of economics and business (EF) in Ljubljana from the city center (Bavarski dvor/Slovenska cesta) is by LPP bus number 6 (direction Črnuče, get off at the Mercator stop) or 11 (direction Ježica), and get off at the Mercator stop (bus ride app. 10/15 minutes).

BicikeLJ – Ljubljana public bike sharing system: From May 2011, Ljubljana residents and visitors to the capital city can ride city bikes in the self-service BicikeLJ rental system, which complements other forms of public transport in the city. It is easy to become a user. All you need is an e-mail address and a PIN code. If you stay in Ljubljana for a couple of months or longer, get yourself a yearly subscription, which is almost free of charge: 3 €. If just for couple of days or a week, weekly subscription will suffice. The cost of registration is one Euro.

Here is the **registration site** where you can register already before your arrival: <https://www.bicikelj.si/en/offers/groups> After your registration is done you will receive a **user number and a code** that you will need for every **bike** hire. Log on at a terminal, choose a bike, press a green button at the bike stand for your bike to be released and off you go! In case the terminal you are at is bike **empty**, log on at the terminal to see where the next closest station is located. The closest terminals to the School of economics and business are terminal 29 (Mercator) and terminal 30 (Lidl shop). For more see: <https://www.ljubljana.info/bicikelj/>

Message from the President

Dear colleagues, dear friends of ESELS,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Annual ESELS Conference 2026 in Ljubljana. On behalf of the European Society for Empirical Legal Studies, I would like to thank all participants, speakers, reviewers, chairs, poster presenters, workshop organizers, and especially our local host, Professor Mitja Kovač and the School of Economics and Business at the University of Ljubljana, for making this conference possible — and for coming together in this beautiful environment to advance empirical legal studies in Europe.

I would also like to express my particular gratitude to Erik Wesselius, the General Secretary of ESELS, whose dedication, experience, and calm guidance are behind so much of what makes ESELS work, to my wonderful co-presidents, Dr Or Brook and Professor Urška Šadl, and to all members of the ESELS Board. Their commitment, judgment, and collegial cooperation sustain ESELS throughout the year.

This conference marks the fourth annual conference of ESELS and is a particularly strong expression of what ESELS has become over the years: We are proud that researchers from across the globe have chosen the ESELS conference to discuss their cutting-edge research. In fact, the listed presenter affiliations span around thirty countries. While presenters from Europe form the core of this year's conference, the program also includes contributions from scholars based far beyond Europe, including Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Russia, Taiwan, and the United States among others.

The 2026 conference also confirms that empirical legal studies in Europe is no longer confined to a small number of methods or legal fields. Every year, ESELS becomes a place where new datasets are introduced, new methods are discussed, old assumptions are challenged, and legal scholarship is opened to evidence, comparison, and methodological debate. At the time of writing in April 2026, the Ljubljana conference comprises 138 research presentations, including 126 panel presentations across 44 panel sessions, 12 poster presentations, and four pre-conference workshops. These figures illustrate the remarkable growth empirical legal studies has experienced over the past decade in Europe and beyond.

In line with ESELS' philosophy, our conference program reflects a broad and inclusive understanding of empirical legal studies: research that engages a wide range of empirical methods, is solidly grounded in law, and is relevant to European institutional and social contexts. It brings together quantitative, qualitative, computational, experimental, doctrinally informed, and comparative approaches to law. It also demonstrates the growing presence of empirical methods across fields such as constitutional law, EU law, human rights, criminal justice, courts, legal AI, competition law, access to justice, sustainability, and legal institutions more generally.

I am especially pleased to see the strong participation of doctoral candidates and early-career scholars. More than fifty PhD researchers will present their work in Ljubljana, and twenty-six promising submissions have been nominated for the ESELS Young Scholar Recognition. Their contributions are central to the future of our society.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our keynote speakers: Professor Jonathan Klick, Professor Peter Grajzl, Justice Heico Kerkmeester, Dr Urška Kežmah, Dr Ana Kerševan, Špela Vizjak, and Professor Urška Šadl. Their participation underlines an important feature of ESELS: empirical legal research is not only an academic enterprise. It also speaks to courts, public institutions, legal professions, and the future of law in society.

Ljubljana – a city shaped by many traditions and influences – offers an ideal setting for this exchange. The University of Ljubljana, with its long intellectual tradition and its present role as Slovenia's largest research and educational institution, provides a perfect environment for a conference devoted to the empirical study of law in context.

Finally, I wish all participants a productive and intellectually enriching conference.
Welcome to Ljubljana, and welcome to ESELS 2026!

Tilman Altwicker
President, European Society for Empirical Legal Studies
Annual ESELS Conference 2026, Ljubljana

Message from the local organizer

I am delighted to welcome you to the University of Ljubljana School of Economics and Business for the annual conference of the European Society for Empirical Legal Studies (ESELS).

While the University of Ljubljana was originally founded in 1595, when Adam Bohorič became rector of the Ljubljana Protestant Estates School (1563-1598), law has been already taught for several years. Higher education in Ljubljana then officially began in 1704, when chairs for logic and canon law were officially established within the framework of philosophical studies at the Jesuit college, in 1705 a chair for physics and mathematics was established, and in 1766 a chair for mechanics. Finally, in 1919 University of Ljubljana became a full University which today encompasses 26 faculties and has around 40.000 students. However, our School of Economics and Business is much younger and has been established in 1946 immediately after the WW2 and this year proudly celebrates its 80th anniversary.

During turbulent and often tough times of socialism our school was known for its critical, western oriented thinking and teaching and has, after Slovenia gain its independence in 1991, developed into a leading economic think-tank embracing interdisciplinarity, becoming a home to a modern, vibrant academic community. School of Economics and Business which hosts ESELS 2026 conference is now an internationally triple-accredited school (EQUIS, AMBA and AACSB) and belongs to the top 1% of business and economics schools in the world.

One may say that Slovenia is a unique country where the Pannonian, Alpine and Mediterranean worlds meet and weave a tapestry of natural, cultural and culinary diversity. Ljubljana which is located in the middle of our country lies exactly at the meeting point of all this diversity, embracing the Slavic, Germanic and Italic cultures that intertwine in our heritage, culture, cuisine and intellectual enterprises.

Thus, nestled at this meeting point Ljubljana reflect the same mixture of approaches that are also reflected in our multi-disciplinary, highly learned European Society for Empirical Legal Studies. Dear ESELS, dear friends and conference's participants welcome home. With that in mind, I hope that you will make the most of the conference and also of breaks to talk with colleagues over refreshments and at other social events.

Finally, I would like to thank to the entire ESELS board and to the members of the local organizing team for their support and care over the year.

Prof. dr. Mitja Kovac

Local organizing team

- Prof. dr. Mitja Kovač, president
- Prof. dr. Jaka Cepec
- Associate prof. dr. Rok Spruk
- Hana Palčič Vilfan (junior researcher)
- Pia Slabe and Miha Jurečič, managers for corporate and institutional connections
- Una Lajić, Chief designer and content creator
- Student task force: Alma Funtek, Ana Klačar, Ajda Pižorn, Barbara Zalokar, Alia Kozlovič Ban

Social Program

Wednesday 17 June 2026

-19.00 cocktail reception at Philharmonic Hall Ljubljana, Kongresni trg (featuring opera soloist Nuška Drašček)

Nuška Drašček, soloist of the Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana, studied singing at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana and her appearances at international singing competitions earned her fourth prize at Ferruccio Tagliaviani, Deutschlandsberg (Austria), third prize at Nuits Lyriques, Marmande (France, 2013) and second prize at Grandate (Italy, 2014). She performed the role of Laura in Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta*, on a concert tour with Anna Netrebko, the Slovene Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Slovene Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Emmanuel Villaume (2012). The concert was recorded live for Deutsche Grammophon. On Ljubljana's stage she has appeared as Maddalena (*Rigoletto*, 2013), Public Opinion (*Orpheus in the Underworld*, 2015), Emilia (*Otello*, 2016), Cherubino (*The Marriage of Figaro*, 2016), Cinderella (*La Cenerentola*, 2017), Carmen in Bizet's *Carmen*, Tatiana in *Ksenija*, the mezzo-soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana* (2017) and the Beauty (*Beauty and the Beast*, 2018). She was also engaged by the Alden Biesen Summer Opera in Belgium (as Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, 2016, and Isabella in Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri*, 2019). Her performance as Cinderella further led to an engagement in Koblenz, Germany (2018).

Thursday 18 June 2026

-6.40 Morning jogging with Ajda Pižorn from Slovenian National Alpine Ski-team (i.e. sight-running) and morning yoga with Lea Bajc, meeting point Preseren statue, Presernov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana.

-18.30 Guided city tour (meeting point Preseren statue, Presernov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana - i.e. three bridges)

-19.00 Reception at Ljubljana City Hall (Stritarjeva ulica 2, 1000 Ljubljana)

-19.30 Conference dinner Hotel Slon (Slovenska cesta 34, 1000 Ljubljana): Awards Recognition, musical guest Maja Bobnar - Majči

Friday 19 June

-6.40 Morning jogging with Ajda Pižorn from Slovenian National Alpine Ski-team (i.e. sight-running) and morning yoga with Lea Bajc, meeting point Preseren statue, Presernov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana.

General information ESELS Annual Conference 2026

Conference venue, registration and enquiries

Our conference will be situated at the **School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana (Ekonomska fakulteta, Kardeljeva ploščad 17, 1000 Ljubljana)**. The event team will be available throughout and wearing UL EF shirts, so please do just ask if you need any help. You can also contact us via email: Mitja.kovac@ef.uni-lj.si or call 0038631302171.

Photography and filming

Photographs and videos of activities at the Conference will be taken and used in ESELS publicity. If you would prefer not to have your photograph taken or not be in video footage, please see the team at the registration desk.

Wifi Access, luggage store and certificates

There is free-access wifi (no password needed) available and luggage can be stored at the registration desk. Certificates of attendance will be provided by email to you post event.

Pre-conference workshops (Wednesday 17 June 2026)

Venue: School of Economics and Business University of Ljubljana / Ekonomska fakulteta, Kardeljeva ploščad 17, 1000 Ljubljana)

- a) **Empirical Strategies for Causal Inference in Legal Studies**, Rok Spruk, University of Ljubljana School of Economics and Business, Slovenia (Klubska soba / Executive Conference Room)
- b) **AI-Driven Open Science Methods for Empirical Scholars**, Cherifa Boukacem, Universite Claude Bernard Lyon, France (Sejna soba dekanata / Dean's Conference Room)
- c) **Interviewing for economists and lawyers**, Kyra Wigard, Utrecht University, The Netherlands (P-119 Predavalnica MBA / P-119 MBA Lecture Room)
- d) **Computational methods**, Tilmann Altwicker & Ephraim Seidenberg, University of Zurich, Switzerland (Sejna soba senata / Senate Conference Room)

Conference Program

Wednesday 17 June 2026

19.00 cocktail reception at Philharmonic Hall Ljubljana - Slovenska Filharmonija (Kongresni trg 10, Ljubljana); featuring opera soloist Nuška Drašček.

Thursday 18 June 2026

6:40-7:30 Morning jogging/sight-running with Ajda Pižorn (Slovenian National Alpine Ski-team), and yoga with Lea Bajc

8:30-9:00 Registration at the desk

9:00-9:30 Opening addresses: Tomaž Turk, Dean of the School of Economics and Business, Mitja Kovač (local organizer), and ESELS President Tilmann Altwicker, followed by group photo shoot)

9:30-10:30 Keynote Jonathan Klick (How do we add value after robots take over: empirical scholars in the age of AI)

10:30-11:00 Coffee

11:00-12:30 Round 1 Parallel Sessions

12:30-13:30 Networking lunch

13:30-15:00 Round 2 Parallel Sessions

15:00-15:30 Drinks and Poster presentations

15:30-17:00 Round 3 Parallel Sessions

17:00-17:45 Keynote Peter Grajzl (MLLLMing Legal History)

18:30-19:00 Guided city tour

19:00-19:20 Reception City Hall Ljubljana

19:30-21:30 Conference dinner (ESELS poster and paper recognition)

Friday 19 June 2026

6:40-7:30 Morning jogging/sight-running with Ajda Pižorn (Slovenian National Alpine Ski-team), and yoga with Lea Bajc

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:30 Round 4 Parallel Sessions

10:30- 12:00 Keynotes Heico Kerkmeester, Urška Kežmah, Ana Kerševan, Špela Vizjak and Urška Šadl (title: Empirical legal studies, judiciary and legal practitioners: challenges and opportunities)

12:00-13:30 Networking lunch

13:00-13:30 ESELS General Assembly

13:30-15:00 Round 5 Parallel Sessions

15:00-16:30 Round 6 Parallel Sessions

16:30-17:00 Closing panel discussion: **Global Perspectives on the growth of ELS in Europe** With: Luciana Morilas, Ryohei Hisano, Jennifer Robbennolt, Keren Weinshall and Or Brook and farewell address President ESELS

Opening round Parallel Sessions, Thursday 18 June, 11:00 – 12:30

Panel 1.1 AI and Legal Reasoning, Thursday 11:00-12:30, Room: Lila Hall
Encoding Legal Reasoning into AI: An Empirical Test of Structured Knowledge Layers for Reliability and Adaptability (Samuel Dahan, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab / Cornell Legal AI Lab; Mariam Guizani, Queen's University; Chu Fei Luo, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab; Xiaodan Zhu, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab / Vector Institute)
How Continental Courts in Central Europe Reason: Case Law Dominates, Text Remains Scarce, and Formalism Declines (Tomáš Koref, Goethe University Frankfurt)
Global Challenges, Local Responses: A Comparative Analysis of the Legislative Processes Shaping Artificial Intelligence Laws in Brazil and the European Union (Saylon Alves Pereira, INSPER, Teresa Helena Barros - University of São Paulo)
Chair: Luciana Romano Morilas

Panel 1.2 Constitutions, Politics and the Judiciary, Thursday 11:00-12:30, Room: Senate conference room
Constitutional Politics in the Legislature: An Empirical Study of Judicial Reform Debates (Aylin Aydin-Cakir, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Oya Yegen, Sabanci University)
Which constitutional rules do people value? Evidence from a survey experiment (Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska, University of Warsaw; Jarosław Kantorowicz, Leiden University)
Gender Composition and Collegial Dynamics in a Constitutional Advisory Court: Evidence from Catalonia (Nuno Garoupa, George Mason University; Marian Gili, UOC)
Chair: Serkan Yolcu

Panel 1.3 Consumer Law in Europe, Thursday 11:00-12:30, Room: Executive conference room
Constructing the Consumer in Public Enforcement: Behaviour, Discretion, and Benchmark Selection in UK Consumer Law (Luz Daniel, University of Cambridge)
Empirical insights into the perceptions of prosumer-sellers regarding power imbalances on online marketplaces (Laura Bakola, Leiden University)
The Role of Documents in Regulating GVCs (Blessing Eze, Maastricht University)
Chair: Or Brook

Panel 1.4 Trade, Companies, and the Law, Thursday 1100-1230, Room: MBA Lecture room
Minority shareholders under pressure? (Rob van Meerwijk, Tilburg University)
(Empirically) Challenging the EU's anti-subsidy narratives (Alexandros Lymperopoulos, European University Institute)
Behavioural Drivers of Delayed Insolvency Initiation: A Qualitative Analysis of Managerial Decision-Making (Lana Katarina Gotvan, University of Ljubljana)
Chair: Pieter Desmet

Panel 1.5 Criminal Law and Justice in Europe, Thursday 11:00 – 12:30, Room: Lecture room P-109

Policy does matter! A cross-country study on the impact of drug policy on prevalence rates (Ana Lourenco, Católica Porto Business School; Ricardo Gonçalves, Católica Porto Business School / CEGE; Hélia Marreiros, NIPE - Universidade do Minho)

An Analysis of Aggravating and Mitigating Factors in Drug Offences: The Croatian Case (Ines Sučić, Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences; Katarina Sokić, Algebra University)

Plain Language as Digital Justice Infrastructure: A Replicable Empirical Framework for e-Justice Portals and Procedures in Europe (Natália Chernicharo Guimarães, University of São Paulo; Luciana Romano Morilas, University of São Paulo)

Chair: Libor Dusek

Panel 1.6 Workers Rights, Thursday 11:00 – 12:30, Room: Lecture Room P-110

Global Worker Misclassification Index: A Computational Comparative Analysis of Judicial Reasoning Across 20 Legal Systems (Samuel Dahan, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab / Cornell Legal AI; Jonathan Touboul, Brandeis University; Chu Fei Luo, Queen's University / ECE / Conflict Analytics Lab; Xiaodan Zhu, Queen's University / Vector Institute; Jacob Badali, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab; Savannah Wall, Queen's University / Conflict Analytics Lab)

Collective Bargaining and Monopsony: The Regulation of Noncompete Agreements in France (Lorenzo Luisetto, Cleveland State University; Tito Boeri, Bocconi University; Tommaso Crescioli, Bocconi University; Andrea Garnerò, OECD)

Navigating Equity-Based Compensation Regulation: Employee Preferences and their Effects on Start-Up Offer Choice and Migration Willingness (Moritz Jim Tilgner, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Chair: Elena Kantorowicz-Reznichenko

Round 2 Parallel Sessions, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00

Panel 2.1 Empirical approaches to sentencing, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00, Room: Lilla Hall
Extracting Unwritten Sentencing Rules from Czech Higher Courts' Verdicts (Tomáš Knap, Charles University)
Mapping the sentencing environment(s) through the eyes of experts (Miha Marčenko, University of Ljubljana; Mojca Plesničar, University of Ljubljana; Manja Skočir, University of Ljubljana; Lovrena Jeromelj, University of Ljubljana; Dean Lipovac, University of Ljubljana; Marko Balažic, University of Ljubljana)
Justice Is Blind, But Not Broke: Judges' Wealth and the Price of a Verdict (Maciej Świtłała, University of Warsaw; Paweł Baranowski, University of Łódź)
Chair: Libor Dušek

Panel 2.2 Constitutional Judges and their Behaviour in Democracies, Thursday 13:30-15:00, Room: Senate conference room
Brains Behind the Bench: Who Are the Judicial Clerks at the Czech Constitutional Court? (Gor Vartazaryan, Charles University / Oxford University; Petr Hrebenár, Charles University / Bocconi University)
Judicial Ghostwriting: Evidence from the Czech Constitutional Court (Petr Hrebenár, Tomáš Knap, Charles University)
Exploring Assertiveness: How Institutional Architecture and Political Dynamics Shape Judicial Behavior (Kálmán Pócza, Ludovika University / MCC; Pep Vallbé, University of Barcelona; Gábor Dobos, Ludovika University / ELTE Centre for Social Sciences; Attila Gyulai, ELTE Centre for Social Sciences)
Chair: Keren Weinshall

Panel 2.3 EU, Borders & Trade, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00, Room: Executive conference room
The Erosion of Schengen: From Temporary Border Controls to Structural Permanence (Patricie Startlová, Charles University Prague)
Anti-Trade Narratives: Political Economy and Belief Formation around the EU-Mercosur FTA (Rok Spruk, University of Ljubljana; Maximilliano Marzetti, IESEG School of Management)
Posting of Workers to and from Poland: Trend Analysis, Sectoral Concentration and Macroeconomic Significance within the EU Internal Market (Monika Szaraniec, Marcin Kiełbasa, Krakow University of Economics; Monika Szaraniec, Krakow University of Economics; Marcin Kiełbasa, Krakow University of Economics)
Chair: Nuno Garoupa

Panel 2.4 Empirical views on Innovations and patents, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00, Room: MBA lecture room

Foreign Prior Art and International Knowledge Spillover: Evidence from the America Invents Act (Wei-Cheng Chen, Academia Sinica; Thomas Y. Lu, National Sun Yat-sen University)

Platform Republics: How Platform Rules Shape the Content of App Licenses (Luka Nenadic, ETH Zurich; Stefan Bechtold, ETH Zurich; Kevin Davis, New York University; Reinhold Kesler, Heinrich Heine University)

Promoting Sustainability and Innovation through Government Procurement: Empirical Evidence from Switzerland (Désirée Klingler, University of St. Gallen)

Chair: Tilmann Altwicker

Panel 2.5 Empirical-legal approaches to Judges and Legal Training, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00, Room: Lecture room P-109

Bridging the Gap: Integrating Empirical Methods into Legal Education for Joint-Degree Programs (Peter Slowinski, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań)

Access to Justice at International Level: Internationalisation of Human Rights Claims in Slovenia (Veronika Fikfak, University College London; Umut Yüksel, University College London)

The effect of peremptory challenge reform on minority representation in juries and on trial outcomes (Andrea Moro, Vanderbilt University)

Chair: Urska Sadl

Panel 2.6 Access to Justice in Europe, Thursday 13:30 – 15:00, Room: Lecture room P-110

Modeling Demand for Free Legal Aid in Poland: The Impact of Social Inequalities and Legal Capability (Jan Winczorek, University of Warsaw; Mikołaj Ryśkiewicz, University of Warsaw; Karol Muszyński, University of Warsaw)

Anticipatory Legal Planning in Later Life: Family Dynamics, Psychological Barriers and Unequal Access (Roos Nieuwboer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / Amsterdam UMC; Catrien Bijleveld, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / University of Liverpool / Anton de Kom University of Suriname; Leon Verstappen, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen; Eefje Sizoo, Amsterdam UMC)

Barriers to Recognition in the lives of people with epilepsy (Iina Järvinen, University of Eastern Finland)

Chair: Kaijus Ervasti

Round 3 Parallel Sessions, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00

Panel 3.1 Restorative Criminal Justice, Emotions and Hidden Costs, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: Lila Hall
Legal professionals' perspective: Emotional labour, the invisible burden in the criminal justice system (Lovrena Jeromelj, University of Ljubljana)
Beyond the Statistics: Empirical Evidence on the Hidden Costs and Unintended Consequences of Restricting Suspended Prison Sentences in Poland (Katarzyna Witkowska-Rozpara, University of Warsaw)
Provincial Lawyering in Russia: Professional Rights and Limitations in Criminal Defense (Ekaterina Khodzhaeva, Nanterre -Paris University)
Chair: Veronika Fikfak

Panel 3.2 Reflections on AI and Legal Language Thursday 15:30-17:00, Room: Senate Conference Room
AI-Assisted Plain Language Translation of Complex Legal Terms: A Methodological Proposal for Enhancing Legal Accessibility to Non-Expert Audiences (Luciana Romano Morilas, University of São Paulo; Natália Marques Andrade University of São Paulo; Diego de Castro Rodrigues; Natália Chernicharo Guimarães)
AI-Driven Plain Language in Judicial Institutions: A Systematic Review of Brazil's ApoIA System and the CJEU AI Strategy (Luciana Romano Morilas, University of São Paulo; Natália Marques Andrade; Natália Chernicharo Guimarães; Cláudia Loureiro)
Computational model of normative validity applied to legal Retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) systems (Diego de Castro Rodrigues, University of São Paulo; Ivan Ribeiro, University of São Paulo; Júlia Navarro Perito, University of São Paulo; Luciana Romano Morilas, University of São Paulo)
Chair: Ana Lourenco

Panel 3.3 The Resilience of Constitutions and Judicial Autonomy, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: Executive conference room
The determinants of constitutional endurance - a survival analysis (Anna Lewczuk-Czerwińska, University of Warsaw; Jacek Lewkowicz, University of Warsaw)
Explaining Declines in Judicial Autonomy: Backsliding or Backlash? (Keren Weinshall, Hebrew University; Lee Epstein, Washington University in St. Louis)
Constitutional amendments leading to Amendments: Constitutional Zugzwang and the Temporal autocorrelation of constitutional amendments in countries with hyper-amendment dynamics (Mauro Arturo Rivera León, University of Silesia in Katowice; Vahid Mohamad Taghvaei, University of Silesia in Katowice)
Chair: Nuno Garoupa

Panel 3.4 Migration and International Protection in the EU, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: MBA lecture room

Unpacking the 'Coexistence' Perspective in the Interplay between the UN HRC and the ECHR: The Non-Refoulement Obligation in Their Jurisprudence (Burak Tahsin Bahce, Central European University Vienna)

Lost in translation? Investigating the argumentative reach of international rulings within everyday national judicial practice (Anouk Lamé, University of Copenhagen; Nora Stappert, University of Copenhagen; Sarah Scott Ford, University of Copenhagen)

The Legal Geography of Asylum in the East of England (Fiona Costello, University of Birmingham; Catherine Barnard, University of Cambridge; Ali Ahmadi, University of Cambridge)

Chair: Gareth Davies

Panel 3.5 Empirical-Legal Studies of Banking, Trade and Markets, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: Lecture room P-109

Breaking Rules, Building Trade? Rule of Law Decline and Export Growth in the European Union (Janka Deli, University of California Berkeley School of Law)

Learning or Lobbying? A Quantitative Text Analysis of Regulatory Consultations (Ioan Sumandea-Simionescu, SAFE Leibniz Institute for Financial Research / Goethe University; Oana Stefan, King's College London / The Dickson Poon School of Law; Lucian Bercea, West University of Timisoara)

Environmental Regulation, BAT Adoption, and Firm Competitiveness: Evidence from Slovenian Manufacturing (Sofija Marjanović, University of Ljubljana)

Chair: Rok Spruk

Panel 3.6 Empirics and judicial decision-making in Europe, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: Lecture room P-110

Home Is Not a House: What ECtHR Decisions Reveal About the Housing Concepts (Bartosz Biskup, European University Institute; Marc Goetzmann, University of Tours)

Identifying factors influencing judicial decision-making in disability discrimination cases within the case law of the CJEU and the ECtHR using machine learning methods (Anna Kiss, Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Valéria Kiss, Eötvös Loránd University; Sándor Soós, Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

How Facts Shape Law: Empirical Insights into the Prosecution of Human Trafficking in Slovenia (Marko Balažic, University of Ljubljana)

Chair: Urska Sadl

Panel 3.7 The validity of Case Law in the EU, Thursday 15:30 – 17:00, Room: Blue Hall

Empirical exploration of autonomous concepts of EU law (Greta Spanò, University of Copenhagen)

Measuring Incremental Change in the Case Law: A Reliability and Validity Analysis Using the Rasch Model (Eun Hye Kim, University of Leeds)

When it is too late to challenge EU law: the TWD rule and preliminary references on validity (Marie-José Garot, IE University)

Chair: Mattias Derlen

Round 4 Parallel Sessions, Friday 9:00 – 10:30

Panel 4.1 Criminal Law and Procedural Justice, Friday 9:00 – 10:30, Room: Lilla Hall
Seeing Beyond the File: The Role of Hearings in Judicial Selection (Mohor Fajdiga, University of Ljubljana; Mojca Mihelj Plesničar, University of Ljubljana)
From Recommendation to Judgment: Evidence on Prosecutorial Sentencing Decisions (Alena McClure, Charles University)
The Effects of a Simplified Criminal Procedure: Evidence from One Million Czech Cases (Libor Dušek, Charles University; Josef Montag, Charles University)
Chair: Michal Šoltés

Panel 4.2 Dataset Panel, Friday 9:00 – 10:30, Room: Senate conference room
Swedish Political Discourse on the Judiciary, 1867–2022: Introducing the POLCOURTS dataset (Mattias Derlen, Umea University; Johan Lindholm, Umea University)
Open borders: a dataset on free movement regimes, 1990-2025 (Greta Spanò, University of Copenhagen; Lucas van der Baaren, European University Institute)
From Medical Evaluation to Legal Evidence: Measuring the Quality of Medical Expert Reports Using Swiss Court Data (Szilvia Altwicker-Hámori, Zurich University of Applied Sciences; Tilmann Altwicker, University of Zurich; Tamara Küng, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences; Andrin Gehrig, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences; Jörg Jochims, SMAB AG Bern)
Chair: Tilmann Altwicker

Panel 4.3 Empirical Studies of EU Competition Law, Friday 9:00-10:30, Room: Executive conference room
Beyond the Non-Enforcement Policy Norm: Empirical Evidence on the Circumstances of Intervention Against Exploitative Abuses Under EU Competition Law (Paullina Scarabattoli, European University Institute)
Interplay between Innovation, Competition, and the Size of Companies in the Commission's Merger Decisions concerning Digital Markets (Adrian Żądło, University of Warsaw; Joanna Mazur, University of Warsaw,)
Substantive Decentralisation of EU Competition Law: The Triumph of Member States in Shaping EU Competition Policy (Or Brook, Oxford University)
Chair: Marie-José Garot

Panel 4.4 Law and Economics: Empirical Analysis of Damage, Fines and Fees, Friday 9:00-10.30, Room: MBA lecture room

Uncovering the process of valuation of non-material damage by the aggrieved party: when experimental economics meets natural language processing (Maciej Switala, University of Warsaw; Magdalena Grabowska, University of Warsaw)

Redesigning Justice: A Conjoint Analysis of Day-Fine Systems (Elena Kantorowicz-Reznichenko, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Jaroslaw Kantorowicz, Leiden University)

Does Judicial Experience Matter for Attorneys' Fees in Securities Class Actions (Sahil Chopra, University Sorbonne Paris Nord)

Chair: Pieter Desmet

Panel 4.5 Courts, Rights and the Rule of Law: European Country Case-Studies, Friday 9:00-10.30, Room: Lecture room P-109

Who bears the burden? Conscientious Objection and Abortion Providers' Labor Rights in Italy (Sara Molinari, European University Institute)

Inclusion and the Rule of Law: Minority Experiences, Discrimination, and Civic Engagement in Hungary (Valéria Kiss, Eötvös Loránd University; Ágnes Gyursánszky, Eötvös Loránd University; Annamária Sebestyén, Eötvös Loránd University; Fruzsina Rozina Tóth, Eötvös Loránd University)

Wild Species Before French Administrative Courts (Julien Betaille, University of Pau; Guillaume Chapron, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Chair: Jennifer Robbennolt

Panel 4.6 Empirical Approaches to International Courts, Friday 9:00-10:30, Room: Lecture room P-110

The performance of international courts: factors, patterns and effects (Sarah Lee, KU Leuven)

Does the Professional Background of Judges Affect Their Decisions? Evidence from Russian Courts, 2010-2021 (Lika Kapustina, HSE University)

Queer lawfare. Strategic use of the third-party procedure before the ECtHR in SOGIESC cases (Sam Chollet, University of Lausanne)

Chair: Keren Weinshall

Round 5 Parallel Sessions, Friday 13:30 – 15:00

Panel 5.1 Empirical Analyses of Decision-Making Practices in Criminology, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Lilla Hall
A cognitive account of how institutional pressures influence rule enforcement decisions (Revati Shivnekar, Jagiellonian University; Piotr Bystranowski, Jagiellonian University)
The Role of Expertise in Consistency in Decision-Making: Experimental Evidence with Public Prosecutors and Law Students (Michal Šoltés, Charles University; Jakub Drápal, Charles University; Emanuel Vespa, US SD; Daniel L Chen, TSE)
Disciplinary Liability of Judges in Slovakia: An Empirical Analysis of Decision-Making Practice (Ema Mikulová, Comenius University, Bratislava)
Chair: Fernando Miro

Panel 5.2 AI, Politics and Legal Arguments, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Senate Conference Room
Do Authoritarian Legacies Shape Judicial Reasoning? Evidence from 73,000 Decisions and Two Generations of Czech Judges (Tomáš Koref, Goethe University Frankfurt)
Measuring Affective Polarization in Criminal Legislation: An AI-Assisted Longitudinal Study of the Spanish Parliament (Sara Sampayo, Miguel Hernández University)
Legal Texts to Legal Data: LLM-Based Attribute Extraction from Court Verdicts (Tomáš Knap, Charles University; Jakub Drápal, Charles University; Ivana Kvapilíková, Charles University; Jan Černý, Charles University; Vojtěch Pour, Charles University; Klára Bendová, Charles University; Jaromír Šavelka, Carnegie Mellon University)
Chair: Nuno Garoupa

Panel 5.3 Empirical Comparative Studies of Constitutions, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Executive conference room
Comparative Constitutional Compliance: New Evidence (Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska, University of Warsaw; Jerg Gutmann, University of Hamburg; Stefan Voigt, University of Hamburg)
How does Court-Curbing affect Public Trust in the Judiciary? (Aydin Cakir, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Amanda Driscoll, Florida State University; Rok Spruk, University of Ljubljana)
Deparliamentarization and Constitutional Transformation: A Comparative Analysis of Turkey, Poland, and Hungary (Nurullah Gorgen, Istanbul Medeniyet University)
Chair: Tilmann Altwicker

Panel 5.4 Public Trust in and Compliance with the European and National Legal Orders, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Lecture room P-120
Too much, too many: Policy accumulation, target groups, and regulatory intermediaries in the European Union (Stein Arne Brekke, University of Copenhagen; Dorte Sindbjerg)

Martinsen, University of Copenhagen; Silje Synnøve Lyder Hermansen, University of Copenhagen)
United by preferences, diverse in law: an empirical inquiry into citizens' justice views across Europe (Pieter Desmet, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Sarah van Os, Council for the Judiciary, The Netherlands; Chris Reinders Folmer, University of Amsterdam)
Facade Polycentrism: Legal Design and Institutional Dysfunction in Polish Local Government (Piotr Derejczyk, Nicolaus Copernicus Superior School)
Chair: Urska Sadl

Panel 5.5 Empirics, Climate and the Law in Europe, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Lecture room P-109
How legal actors view experimental climate remedies: Empirical evidence from Europe (Rok Spruk, University of Ljubljana)
Future-Proofing Sustainable Finance for Europe's Twin Transition (Paul Verbruggen, Tilburg University)
Decarbonisation pathways under regulatory pressure: How EU Carbon Majors respond to mandatory CSRD reporting standards (Eve Ernst, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Chair: Elena Kantorowicz-Reznichenko

Panel 5.6 The Law, Contracts and Empirics, Friday 13:30-15:00, Room: Lecture room P-110
From Legal Theory to Law-as-Data: Research Prototyping for the Empirical Analysis of Contractual Commitments (Ebru Metin, Tallinn University of Technology)
When Regulations Enter Contracts: How Buyer-Seller Dynamics Shape Interpretation of Regulatory Language (Alex Davies, University of Tartu; Martin Aher, Mind the Meaning; Kurmet Kivipõld, University of Tartu; Maria Reile, University of Tartu; Nikolai Shurakov, University of Zürich)
Chair: Jennifer Robbenolt

Panel 5.7 Courts, Constitutions, and Workload, Friday 13-30-15:00, Room: Blue Hall
More Hands, More Time? Unpacking the Clerk Effect in the Czech Constitutional Court (Petr Hrebenar, Charles University; Tomáš Knap, Charles University; Tomáš Polák, Charles University)
Judicial Decision Under Caseload: Evidence From Millions of Civil Judgements in China (Wu Zijie, Shanghai University)
Legislative inflation in Poland: an Empirical Jurisprudence approach (Mikołaj Ryśkiewicz, University of Warsaw)
Chair: Serkan Yolcu

Round 6 Parallel Sessions, Friday 15:00 – 16:30

Panel: 6.1 Advances in Computational Law: a Japan-Europe Exchange, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Lilla Hall
Key Cases at the ECtHR: An Empirical Approach to Case Importance Factors and Citation Patterns (Zhivko Taushanov, University of Zurich; Tilmann Altwicker, University of Zurich, Ryohei Hisano, University of Tokyo)
Comparative Analysis of Judicial Reasoning Using Legal Knowledge Graphs (Ryohei Hisano, University of Tokyo; Ryoma Kondo, University of Tokyo; Haruka Ezoe, University of Tokyo; Riona Mastuoka, University of Tokyo; Takahiro Yoshida, The Canon Institute for Global Studies; Una Schamberger, University of Zurich; Zhivko Taushanov, University of Zurich; Tilmann Altwicker, The University of Zurich)
A Geometric Framework for Multi-Scale Legal Evolution (Haruka Ezoe, University of Tokyo; Hiroki Matsumoto, The University of Tokyo; Una Schamberger, University of Zurich; Zhivko Taushanov, University of Zurich; Tilmann Altwicker, University of Zurich; Ryohei Hisano, University of Tokyo)
Chair: Tilmann Altwicker

Panel 6.2 Public Perceptions about the Legitimacy of the Law, Friday 15:00 – 16:30, Room: Senate conference room
On Our Behalf? Exploring Public Perception of Police Actions and the “State Action” Doctrine (Itay Ravid, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law)
Public Support for Sanctions under Factual Ambiguity: Experimental Evidence from the US and China (Anastasiia Panicheva, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Pieter Desmet, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Elena Kantorowicz-Reznichenko, Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Rule of Law Schemas (Jennifer Robbennolt, University of Illinois; Verity Winship, University of Illinois; Colleen Murphy, University of Illinois)
Chair: Pieter Desmet

Panel 6.3 Constitutional Country Case Studies, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Executive conference room
Legal Tradition, Ideological Diversity, and Constitutional Adjudication: An Empirical Analysis of Judicial Dissent and Citation Practices in Serbia and Montenegro (Nuno Garoupa, George Mason University; Violeta Beširević, Union University Law School Belgrade; Peter Grajzl, Washington and Lee University)
Rights-Based Adjudication in the Shadow of Judicial Bureaucracy: The 'Insider-Outsider' Effect in the Turkish Constitutional Court (Serkan Yolcu, Bilkent University; Serdar Gülener, Bursa Uludag University)
Chair: Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska

Panel 6.4 Competition Law and Digital Markets, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Lecture room P-120
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Is Merger Control a Sufficient Condition for Preventing Abuse of Dominance in Digital Ecosystems? Empirical Evidence from EU Digital Market Enforcement (Qian Li; Gijs van Dijck, Maastricht University)

The Magical Number 2 (Minus Two): An Empirical Analysis on the Efficacy of Choice Screens to Increase Competition in Digital Markets (Omar Vasquez Duque, Rutgers University)

Ex Ante Digital Regulation and Market Structure: Evidence from the EU Digital Markets Act (Rok Spruk, University of Ljubljana; Omar Vasquez Duque, Rutgers University)

Chair: Or Brook

Panel 6.5 Understanding Sentencing, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Lecture room P-109

Understanding sentencing – Proportionality, Conformity and Sources of Law in Judicial Decision-making (Linnea Wegerstad, Lund University)

What Explains Trends in Sentencing Severity in England and Wales? A Time-Series Analysis of Policy, Structural and Associated Factors (Lilly Crellin, University of Liverpool; Carly Lightowlers, University of Liverpool; Mark Green, University of Liverpool)

How Criminal Law Exploits Jury Ignorance (Matthew Kim, University of Florida)

Chair: Ines Sučić

Panel 6.6 AI Judges or Human Judges?, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Lecture room P-110

From Normative Formulation to Algorithmic Outputs: An Empirical Comparison of Formal Logic, Large Language Models, and Human Legal Reasoning in Europe (Luciana Romano Morilas, University of São Paulo; Beatriz Rosa Pinheiro dos Santos, University of São Paulo; Emanuele Seicenti de Brito, University of São Paulo; Diego de Castro Rodrigues, University of São Paulo; Ieda Pelógia Martins Damian, University of São Paulo)

Not so different, you and AI? A Conjoint experiment on the determinants of citizens' trust in AI- vs. human-assisted judicial decision making (Monika Glavina, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Pieter Desmet, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Bridging Doctrine and Practice: An Empirical Study of AI Liability (Arturas Grumulaitis, Vilnius University)

Can Robot Judges Deliver Justice? (Michał Klusek, Charles University Prague)

Chair: Mattias Derlen

Panel 6.7 Criminology and Southern European Country Case-Studies, Friday 15:00-16:30, Room: Blue Hall

Narrative priming and Investigative Monopoly. Replicating the Brenner, Koehler and Tversky Experiment in the Italian Criminal System (Francesco Trapella, University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara)

Reporting cybercrime through flagging systems: lessons from a survey of Spanish gamers (Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche; Pablo Romero Seseña, Universidad Oberta de Catalunya; Aiala Tejada García del Garayo, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche)

Sentencing homicide cases in Spain: Influence of legal and extralegal factors (Josep Tamarit Sumalla; Laura Arantegui, Pablo Romero; Alba Marsol,

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

Chair: Fernando Miro

ESELS POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday 18-6, 15:00 (Lobby Large Hall / Small Hall)

All posters listed are automatically nominated for the ESELS 2026 Poster Recognition (award ceremony during conference dinner)

The issue of criminality among Polish migrants during World War II (Damian Szczepaniak, University of Gdansk)

The Erosion of Schengen: From Temporary Border Controls to Structural Permanence
(Patricie Startlova, Charles University Prague)

From Recommendation to Judgment: Evidence on Prosecutorial Sentencing Decisions
(Alena McClure, Charles University Prague)

Queer lawfare. Strategic use of the third-party procedure before the ECtHR in SOGIESC cases (Sam Chollet, Lausanne University)

Measuring Affective Polarization in Criminal Legislation: An AI-Assisted Longitudinal Study of the Spanish Parliament (Sara Sampayo, Miguel Hernandez University; Rocío Martínez Almanza, Miguel Hernández University)

How Continental Courts in Central Europe Reason: Case Law Dominates, Text Remains Scarce, and Formalism Declines (Tomas Koref, Goethe University Frankfurt; Lena Held, Technical University Darmstadt; Ivan Habernal, Ruhr University Bochum)

Legislative inflation in Poland: an Empirical Jurisprudence approach (Mikolaj Ryskiewicz, University of Warsaw)

Platform Republics: How Platform Rules Shape the Content of App Licenses (Luka Nenadic, ETH Zurich)

Towards Comparative Analysis of Judicial Reasoning and Doctrinal Change with Dynamic Knowledge Graphs (Haruka Ezoë, Una Schamberger, Ryoma Kondo, Zhivko Taushanov, Tilmann Altwicker, Ryohei Hisano)



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