

CONFERENCE ON THE ORIGINS OF UNIDROIT

Co-organised by UNIDROIT, Sapienza University of Rome & Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie

Venue: Sapienza University of Rome
- Law Faculty - Aula Calasso

21 April 2026

9.00-10.00 - OPENING REMARKS

Speakers:

Antonella Polimeni (Rector, Sapienza University of Rome)

Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

Luisa Avitabile (Dean of Law Faculty, Sapienza University of Rome)

Mirzia Bianca (Director, Legal Science Department, Sapienza University of Rome)

Oliviero Diliberto (Director of Higher Education Programme on Roman Law, Sapienza University of Rome)

Keynote:

Arthur Hartkamp (Emeritus Professor, Radboud University; Emeritus Doyen of UNIDROIT Governing Council)

10.00-11.30 PANEL I - The origin of UNIDROIT: the crisis in the first half of the 20th century and the role of an international institution for the unification of private law

Chair:

Natalino Irti (Emeritus Professor, Sapienza University of Rome)

Speakers:

Andrea Di Porto (Emeritus Professor, Sapienza University of Rome): on Vittorio Scialoja

Luigi Capogrossi Colognesi (Emeritus Professor, Sapienza University of Rome): on Pietro De Francisci

Ferruccio Auletta (Professor, LUISS, Rome): on Mariano d'Amelio

Meiling Huang (Professor, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law): on non-European jurists in the early years of UNIDROIT

11.30-11.45 COFFEE BREAK

11.45-13.15 PANEL II – UNIDROIT and the early contribution of civil lawyers in shaping uniform law.

Chair:

Herbert Kronke (Emeritus Professor, Heidelberg University; former Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

Speakers:

Stefan Vogenauer (Director, MPI Frankfurt): on Ernst Rabel

Philippe Dupichot (Professor, Sorbonne University, Paris): on Henri Capitant

Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General, UNIDROIT): on Alfredo Rocco (TBC)

Marie Goré (Professor, Panthéon-Assas University, Paris): on René David

13.15-14.45 LUNCH

14.45-16.15 PANEL III - UNIDROIT and common law doctrines: some salient examples

Chair:

Roy Goode (Emeritus Professor, Oxford University; UNIDROIT Governing Council Member ad honorem)

Speakers:

Peter Winship (Emeritus Professor, Southern Methodist University): on Karl Llewellyn

Michele Graziadei (Professor, University of Turin): on F.H. Lawson

Joachim Bonell (Emeritus Professor, Sapienza University of Rome): on E. Allan Farnsworth

Herbert Kronke (Emeritus Professor, Heidelberg University; former Secretary-General, UNIDROIT): on Clive Schmitthoff

16.15-18.00 Roundtable the effects of transnational law on domestic law

Chair:

Stefania Bariatti (Professor, La Statale University of Milan; UNIDROIT Governing Council)

Speakers:

Carlo Angelici (Emeritus Professor, Sapienza University of Rome)

Guido Ferrarini (Emeritus Professor, University of Genoa)

Louise Gullifer (Professor, University of Cambridge)

Sharon Ong (Director-General, Singapore Ministry of Law; UNIDROIT Governing Council)

18.00-18.15 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Maria Chiara Malaguti (President Emerita, UNIDROIT)

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