

UNIDROIT CENTENARY (1926-2026) ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Venue: UNIDROIT (Villa Aldobrandini, Sala Rodinò)

Rome, 8-10 July 2026

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS BIOS 8 July 2026

Opening Remarks

SPEAKERS



Prof. Ignacio Tirado

Secretary-General | UNIDROIT



Prof. Anna Veneziano

Deputy Secretary-General | UNIDROIT

Panel I - Strategic Academic Partnerships: Collaboration Programs and Institutional Engagement

Chair: Prof. Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

SPEAKERS



Prof. Louise Gullifer

Chair of Faculty of Law | University of Cambridge

Professor Louise Gullifer KC (hon) FBA is Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at the University of Cambridge, and a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. She is currently Chair of the Cambridge Law Faculty. She is co-director of the Cape Town Convention Academic Project, and has been a member of several UNIDROIT working groups and drafting committees.



Prof. Ioannis Kokkoris

Director, Queen Mary Centre for Commercial Law Studies | Queen Mary University of London

Professor Ioannis Kokkoris serves as Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London. He holds a Chair in Competition Law and Economics. He is also an Ordinary Member (Judge) of the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal. His main research interests include comparative competition law/economics and policy focusing on EU, US, BRICS and ASEAN. He is also focusing on issues of national security concerns and FDI in US, UK and EU. Professor Kokkoris has more than 100 publications.



Prof. Giacomo Rojas Elgueta

Co-director, Roma Tre-UNIDROIT Centre | University Roma Tre

Giacomo Rojas Elgueta is Professor of Private Law at Roma Tre University School of Law, and Of Counsel and Head of International Arbitration at Chiomenti. He is the author or editor of eight books and author of several articles in major Italian and U.S. law reviews. He earned an LL.M. with distinction and an S.J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and he was a Visiting Scholar at Yale Law School. He is among others President of the ICC Italia Commission on Arbitration and ADR, member of the ICSID Panel of Conciliators (appointed by the Italian Government), and Delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR.



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Prof. Stefan Vogenauer

Managing Director | Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory

Prof. Stefan Vogenauer is a Director at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory in Frankfurt, where he heads the Department 'European and Comparative Legal History'. He was Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Oxford and Director of the Oxford Institute of European and Comparative Law (2003–15). He is the sole editor of the Commentary on the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Law (2nd edn, OUP 2015), serves on the Editorial Board of the Uniform Law Review, is UNIDROIT Correspondent for Germany, and contributed as an expert to the UNCITRAL-HCCH-UNIDROIT Legal Guide on International Commercial Contracts with a Focus on Sales.



Prof. Giuseppe Ciccarone

Vice Rector | University of Rome La Sapienza

Giuseppe Ciccarone, Full Professor of economic policy at the Department of Economics and Law, is the Vice Rector and Deputy Rector for International Relations of the Sapienza University. He is the Co-Editor in Chief of *Economia & Lavoro*, serves on the advisory and editorial boards of several international journals, and is a co-founder of the CIMEO Lab at Sapienza University. He was awarded the M.Phil in Economics and the Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Cambridge, and was Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Department of Economics of Harvard University. He is the author of more than 100 publications in book and scientific journals.



Prof. Jun Li

Dean, School of Law and Economics | Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

Jun LI, Professor at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Doctor of Laws from the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Main research areas include Civil and Commercial Law, Roman Law. Dean of the School of Law and Economics of ZUEL, Vice President of the Civil Law Research Association of the Hubei Law Society, China. Visiting scholar at Sapienza University of Rome, University of Trento, and University of Salerno. Published two monographs and co-edited several academic works, including Contract Law, Chinese Civil Law, and A Commentary on the Chinese Civil Code.



Prof. Megumi Hara

Professor | Chuo University (Global Private Law Forum, Japan)

Megumi Hara is Professor of Law at Chuo University, Tokyo, specializing in property law and secured transactions. She serves/served on UNIDROIT's Working Groups on Verified Carbon Credits, the Model Law on Factoring, and the MAC Protocol to the Cape Town Convention, and has advised the Japanese government on property law and secured transactions reform.



Prof. Hiroo Sono

Dean | Hokkaido University (Global Private Law Forum, Japan)

Hiroo Sono is Dean and Professor of Law at Hokkaido University, Japan. His research interests are contract law and international commercial law. He has been involved in various unification projects of UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL, and is also a member of the CISG Advisory Council (CISG-AC) and the Global Private Law Forum (GPLF) of Japan.



Prof. Oliver William

Professor | University of Luzern (PRICL Working Group)

Oliver D. William is an Assistant Professor of Private Law specializing in contract and tort law at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. He serves as a Member of the Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law (PRICL) drafting committee and acts as Rapporteur for the Principles on loss aggregation.



Prof. Giuseppe Casale

Deputy Director, ITC-ILO | International Training Centre of the ILO / University of Bologna

Prof. Giuseppe Casale former Director of the ILO (Geneva), of the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin) and of the Turin School of Development. He is currently teaching international and comparative labour law at the Department of Law of the University of Bologna and visiting scholar at Cà Foscari University Venice. He is expert at the European Commission and international organisations.



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Panel II Global Academic Perspectives: Ongoing and Future Cooperation

Chair: Prof. Anna Veneziano (Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

SPEAKERS



Prof. Geneviève Saumier

Dean, Faculty of Law | University of Montreal

Geneviève Saumier is Dean and Full Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal. Prior to that appointment in 2024, she was Peter M. Laing Professor at the Faculty of Law at McGill University. Her areas of expertise are in private international law, civil dispute resolution and judicial institutions. She was a member of the UNIDROIT Working Group on Best Practices for Effective Enforcement.



Prof. Michel Deschamps

Professor | University of Montreal

Michel Deschamps is a lawyer with McCarthy Tétrault, one of the largest Canadian law firms. He is also an associate professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Montreal, where he teaches banking law. Mr. Deschamps chairs the Quebec Bar secured transactions committee and the editorial board of the Québec Bar Law Review. He is a Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Mr. Deschamps is active in commercial law reform projects and he was involved in several UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL projects.



Prof. Yang Dong

Dean, School of Law | Renmin University of China

Prof. YANG Dong is the Dean of the Law School, and Dean of the world law school, Renmin University of China (RUC). He is a Distinguished Professor of Yangtze Scholar Program appointed by the Ministry of Education in China. He is also the Director of the Interdisciplinary Science Academic Committee, Head of the Data Element Research and Development Center, and Executive Dean of the Blockchain Research Institute at Renmin University of China.



Prof. Amarsanaa Batbold

Dean, School of Law | National University of Mongolia

Dean of the School of Law at the National University of Mongolia. He holds a Doctor of Laws degree from Nagoya University, Japan, and specializes in corporate governance, company law, and comparative law. He also serves as an arbitrator at the Mongolian National Arbitration Center.



Prof. Teresa Rodríguez De Las Heras Ballel

President of ELI | European Law Institute / Universidad Carlos III of Madrid

Full Professor of Commercial Law at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, President of the European Law Institute, and a member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She serves as Spain's delegate to UNCITRAL (WG IV, WG VI) and advises UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT as an expert on digital economy and private law projects. She currently chairs the Supervisory Authority of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol under the Cape Town Convention. She was Sir Roy Goode Scholar 2021-2022 at UNIDROIT.



Prof. Barbara De Donno

Director, Department of Business and Company Law | LUISS University

LUISS Professor of Comparative Private Law, Advisor of the Rector for Internationalisation and ENGAGE.EU Alliance, Head of the Department of Business Law, and Director of the LL.M. in Business and Company Law. Secretary General of ICC Italia. Attorney at the Rome Bar and Court of Cassation Lawyer. Former member of the National Committee for the Environmental Assessment and the National Council on Tax Judiciary. Author of publications on comparative and European business law.



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Prof. Paola Iamiceli

Professor / University of Trento

Paola Iamiceli is a full-time Professor of Private Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento, and President of the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises. She has been a member of several research project groups at the EU and international level, including UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD WGs on Contract Farming (2012-15) and Collaborative Legal Structures for Agricultural Enterprises (2022-26). Her current research focuses on sustainability due diligence, governance of global supply chains and online platforms, business networks, artificial intelligence and fundamental rights, unfair commercial practices in consumer and business law, EU contract law, and non-profit organisations.



Prof. Mathias Siems

Professor / European University Institute

Mathias Siems has been Professor of Private Law and Market Regulation at the EUI since January 2019. He previously taught at Durham University, the University of East Anglia, the University of Edinburgh and the Riga Graduate School of Law. He was also a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School and a Jean Monnet Fellow at the EUI. He is a graduate of the universities of Munich and Edinburgh.

Topic I UNIDROIT's work and generally transnational law and its role in research and legal education

CHAIR



Prof. Walter Doralt

Vice Dean / University of Graz

Prof. Walter Doralt holds the Chair for Civil Law, European Private Law and Comparative Law at the University of Graz, where he serves as Vice Dean and Dean of Research. A founding member of the European Law Institute and long-standing member of its Council, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. His research focuses on civil law, corporate and commercial law, European private law, comparative law, private international law, and the economic analysis of law.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Jean-François Riffard

Dean / Université Clermont Auvergne

Jean-François Riffard is Professor of Private Law at the University of Clermont Auvergne and Dean of its School of Law. His research focuses on civil law, secured transactions, comparative law and international commercial law. He is actively involved in UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL, contributing to major international instruments, including the MAC Protocol and the Model Law on Secured Transactions. He also advises international organisations on legal reforms and promotes the harmonisation of private law through his publications and academic engagements.



Prof. Souichirou Kozuka

Professor / Gakushuin University

Souichirou Kozuka (PhD, Tokyo) is Professor of Law at Gakushuin University, specialised in commercial law. He has recently focused on the law of digital technologies and published many articles in English, as well as in Japanese. Prof. Kozuka has also served on several governmental committees in Japan, including as chair of the Multistakeholder Meeting to Facilitate the Use of Immersive Technologies. He has been a correspondent of UNIDROIT since 2001.



Prof. Matthias Lehmann

Professor / University of Vienna

Matthias Lehmann is Full Professor of Private Law, Private International Law, and Comparative Law at the University of Vienna. His primary research interests focus on the international and comparative dimensions of financial law and cross-border dispute resolution.



Prof. David Amable Morán Bovio

Professor | University of Cádiz

Businessmen family member. Ph.D. (Univ. Seville) 1985 (Prof. Olivencia mentor) FPI Grant (1980-1984). Ass. Prof. (1987-2001) Full Prof. (2001) Research Grants (MPI, Hamburg): DAAD (1994), AvHS (1996-1997), Madariaga (2005-2006), Gastgebers: Profs. Herber, Drobnig, Basedow. UNCITRAL Spain Representative (1989-2014). UNIDROIT correspondent (1994).



Prof. Pedro Mendoza Montano

Professor | Francisco Marroquín University

LL.M. Columbia University. Senior partner at IURISCONSULTI-Abogados y Notarios. Professor in Contracts and International Business Law at Francisco Marroquín University in Guatemala City. UNIDROIT Correspondent in Guatemala.

CHAIR



Prof. Chao Xi

Dean, Faculty of Law | Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Chao Xi is Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He is internationally recognised for his research and scholarship in corporate law and governance, securities regulation, financial regulation, and empirical legal studies, with a particular emphasis on China and comparative law. He also serves in a number of public roles, including as a member of the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Ángel María Ballesteros Barros

Professor | Universidad Pablo de Olavide

Associate Professor of Private International Law at Pablo de Olavide University (Seville, Spain). Expert in cross-border insolvency and international civil procedure, with active participation in UNCITRAL Working Group V on Insolvency Law and projects of the Hague Conference on Private International Law concerning judgments and jurisdiction.



Prof. Miklós Király

Professor | ELTE Eötvös Loránd University

Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest, Hungary. He has published several monographs on the case law of the European Court of Justice, the impact of European integration on culture, and the unification of contract law.



Prof. Slobodan Vukadinovic

Professor | The Union University School of Law

Slobodan Vukadinović, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the Union University School of Law in Belgrade; and an External Research Associate at the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade. He previously served as an adviser in the Legislative Sector of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and has contributed to legislative drafting and expert analyses within UNDP, OSCE and EU-funded projects.



Dr. Dang Hai Mai

Researcher | Vietnam National University

Dr. Dang Hai Mai is a Lecturer at the Faculty of International Law, VNU University of Law. His research focuses on international law, international environmental law, sustainable development, and transnational legal education. He has written on international trade law, cybercrime, environmental governance, and legal reform in Vietnam.



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9 July 2026

Topic II The impact of UNIDROIT's work and generally of legal standard-setting institutions on lawmaking, domestically and internationally

CHAIR



Prof. Orkun Akseli

Professor | University of Manchester

Professor Orkun Akseli is Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Manchester Law School. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Elon University Law School, USA in 2022. He has published extensively on the modernisation and harmonisation of secured transactions law. He is an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law and a member of Turkish Bar.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Sheelagh McCracken

Professor | University of Sydney

Dr Sheelagh McCracken is Professor of Finance Law at the University of Sydney Law School and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She is an Australian correspondent of UNIDROIT and a member of the Advisory Committee of the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre.



Prof. Bingwan Xiong

Professor | Renmin University of China

Professor Xiong teaches contract law and digital law at Renmin Law School, where he serves as the subject convenor of the civil and commercial law division. He sits in the directory boards of China's Society of Civil Law and Society of Cyber and Information Law. His works have appeared in leading Chinese law journals and peer-reviewed English law journals. He graduated from Renmin University of China (LL.B., LL.M., and Ph.D.) and Harvard Law School (LL.M.)



Ms. Xiaoyu Liu

Researcher | Renmin University of China

PhD Candidate in Civil and Commercial Law, School of Law, Renmin University of China
Research interests: Civil law



Prof. Oleksandr Biryukov

Professor | National University of Kyiv

Oleksandr Biryukov, Doctor of Law, Professor at Private International Law Department of the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Fulbright Scholar; is UNIDROIT Correspondent, the World Bank Task Force member, CERIL Conferee, World Bank & IMF Consultant.



Prof. Jing Li

Professor | East China University of Political Science and Law

Dr. Li Jing is an Associate Professor of the School of International Law at ECUPL. She is a member of Chinese Academy on Private International Law and Chinese Institute of International Law. Her research focuses on the areas of Conflict of Laws, International Civil Litigation Law and Transnational Disputes Resolution. Her most recent articles have dealt with the civil jurisdiction in Chinese Civil Procedure law and International commercial Arbitration.



Ms. Chenting Zhao

Researcher | East China University of Political Science and Law

Ms. Chenting Zhao is a PhD candidate / researcher at the School of International Law, East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL), holding an LL.M degree from the Gould School of Law, University of Southern California. Her research focuses on private international law and foreign relations law.



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Prof. Juliana Rodríguez Rodrigo

Professor | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Full Professor of Private International Law, Carlos III University of Madrid (Spain). Author of 6 monographs, 43 articles in specialist journals and 79 book chapters (128 publications). Director of International Family law Master, Carlos III University of Madrid (Spain) and Deputy Director of International Business Master, Carlos III University of Madrid (Spain). Commissioner at the Spanish Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation, and Spain's delegate to the 51st Session of UNCITRAL, in 2018.



Dr. Bruno Sousa Rodrigues

Researcher | Sciences Po – École de Droit

Bruno Sousa Rodrigues is a Lecturer at Sciences Po Paris. He currently serves as President of the Sciences Po Arbitration Society and as a Director of the Clube dos Arbitralistas Lusófonos. His most recent publication is the book *The Transnational Codification of International Arbitration: Uniformisation under the Shadow of War and Commerce*, published by Brill | De Gruyter in 2025.

CHAIR



Prof. Wenhua Ji

Professor | University of International Business and Economics

Dr Wenhua Ji is a professor at the School of Law, UIBE in Beijing, China. His research covers international economic law, international commercial transactions, dispute resolution and global economic governance. Dr Ji holds several prestigious positions, including UNIDROIT Correspondent for China, Co-Chair of the WTO Chairs Programme and Vice-President of the WTO Law Research Society of the Chinese Law Society.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Marc-André Renold

Director, Art-Law Centre | University of Geneva

Marc-André Renold is honorary professor at the University of Geneva. He created its Art-Law Centre and established its UNESCO Chair on the international law of the protection of cultural heritage of which he is now co-holder. Marc-André Renold participated in the negotiation of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. He is also a practicing attorney at law.



Prof. Marcilio Toscano Franca-Filho

Professor | Federal University of Paraíba

Marcilio Franca is Professor of Art Law and Cultural Heritage Law at the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB) and Prosecutor at the Prosecution Office of the Court of Accounts of the State of Paraíba, Brazil. Leader of the Cultural Heritage Task Force. International Arbitrator. Permanent member of the UNIDROIT Working Group on Orphan Cultural Objects. Visiting professor at the Universities of Turin, Pisa, Ghent, and Toulouse. Gulbenkian Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence.



Prof. Hao Liu

Professor | Shandong University

Dr. Hao Liu is an Associate Professor of International Cultural Heritage Law at Shandong University. His research focuses on cultural heritage law, restitution, and interdisciplinary heritage protection. He has served as a legal expert in revising national legislation on cultural relics protection and assisted the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia in drafting its Host Country Agreement.



Prof. Sharon Shakargy

Professor | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Judge Harry M. Fisher Professor of Private International and Interreligious Law at the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Focuses on private international law, family law, and comparative law. Held visiting appointments at the Max Planck Institute Hamburg, LMU Munich, University of Virginia, the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (London), and others.



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Prof. Natalia Alenkina

Professor | American University of Central Asia

Dr. Natalia Alenkina (Ph.D. in Law) is an Associate Professor at the American University of Central Asia and currently teaches at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

Dr. Alenkina is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic and is accredited by the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic as an expert in law and human rights. She is also a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR and serves as the Ambassador of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre in Kyrgyzstan.

Topic III Challenges and opportunities in ensuring enforceability of transnational law across jurisdictions

CHAIR



Prof. Ulrich Schroeter

Professor | University of Basel

Ulrich G. Schroeter is Professor of Law at the University of Basel (Switzerland) and Justice of the Supreme Court of Liechtenstein. His academic work covers matters of international trade law and commercial law (in particular the 1980 Vienna Sales Convention (CISG)), Swiss and German contract law, arbitration, treaty law and financial markets regulation.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Dr. Matthias Weller

Director, Institute for German and International Procedural Law | University of Bonn

Professor Dr Matthias Weller, Mag.rer.publ., MAE, is the Director of the Institute for German and International Civil Procedural Law and the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Professor at the University of Bonn. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Cambridge, and was Joseph Story Fellow of Private International Law at the Harvard Law School. His research includes international civil litigation and arbitration, transnational commercial and comparative law, general contract law, civil procedural law as well as art and cultural property law.



Prof. Sandeepa Bhat

Dean | West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences

Prof. (Dr.) Sandeepa Bhat is working as a Professor of Law, Dean - Post Graduate Studies and the Director of the Centre for Aviation and Space Laws at the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. He holds the unique feat of being the first Indian to be inducted as the UNIDROIT Correspondent for India. Dr. Bhat has published 13 books and more than 75 articles. He is a listed arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Space Enterprise, IASL, Moscow and a member of the Indian Space Research Organization's Expert Group for drafting the National Space Act for India.



Prof. Antonella Forganni

Professor | ESSCA School of Management

Antonella Forganni is Professor of Law at ESSCA School of Management and Research Expertise Leader in Space Policy of the EU*Asia Institute. Based on the Angers campus, she is affiliated with the Department of Economics, Law and Society. Her academic research and teaching activities focus on Space Law and Policy, European Union Law, and International Public and Private Law. She has held several management roles, including serving as Head of Department.



Mr. Mohammad Abushehab

Researcher | An Najah National University

Mohammad Abushehab is a lecturer at An-Najah National University in Palestine and an external PhD candidate at the Utrecht University School of Law. His research focuses on international commercial arbitration, Palestinian arbitration law, the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, and the role of public policy in arbitration. He is also a practising lawyer and partner at Abushehab & Associates Law Firm, where his professional work focuses on commercial, corporate, and arbitration-related matters.



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Prof. Iryna Dikovska

Researcher / Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Law

Iryna Dikovska is a Senior Researcher Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. For more than 20 years, she worked at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, where she went from assistant to professor of private international law and where she, earned a PhD in law in 2002 and habilitated in 2014. She was a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Supreme Court of Ukraine until 2025. Her current research focuses on the impact of armed conflict on private international relations.

Topic IV Legal analysis of UNIDROIT's instruments

Chair: Prof. Megumi Hara (Chuo University)

SPEAKERS

Prof. Rolf H. Weber

Professor / University of Zurich

Prof. Dr. Rolf H. Weber is professor of international business law at Zurich University and a practicing attorney-at-law in Zurich. Furthermore, he is member of the Legal Expert Group for UNIDROIT Principles on the Legal Nature of VCC. Prof. Weber publishes on financial market regulations, information technology, Internet- and Blockchain law, on busi-ness, sustainability and trade law.

Prof. Antonio Merchán Murillo

Professor / Universidad de Cádiz

Prof. Antonio Merchán Murillo is Associate Professor of Private International Law at the University of Cádiz, Spain. His research focuses on the impact of digital transformation on cross-border legal relations, with particular attention to digital identity, electronic residence, artificial intelligence, smart contracts, digital assets and blockchain technologies. He has published several works on Private International Law and new technologies, including a recent monograph on this subject.

Dr. Carlos Domínguez Padilla

Researcher / Universidad de Cádiz

Carlos Domínguez Padilla is a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Commercial Law, University of Cádiz (Spain). He holds a PhD in Legal and Political Sciences from Pablo de Olavide University (2025, cum laude), with research on artificial intelligence and cross-border electronic contracting from a private international law perspective. His research focuses on private international law, international commercial law, digital assets, artificial intelligence, and electronic commerce.

Prof. Daniel Peña Valenzuela

Professor / Universidad Externado de Colombia

Daniel Peña Valenzuela is a Colombian lawyer and Emeritus Professor at Universidad Externado de Colombia, specializing in electronic commerce and emerging technologies. He holds advanced degrees from Université Grenoble Alpes (DESS) and University College London (LLM), with further studies at The Hague Academy and ICC Arbitration Academy. An active arbitrator and WIPO domain name panelist. Author of multiple books on internet law, digital regulation, and intellectual property, he is also Founding Partner of Peña Mancero Abogados.

Prof. Márcio Ferro Catapani

Professor / Federal University of São Paulo

Professor of Commercial Law at UNIFESP. Ph.D. in Commercial Law (USP), and LL.M. in Commercial Law (PUC/SP). Former research fellow at UNIDROIT and ISDC. Federal Judge. Served as Chief Judge of the São Paulo Federal District Court and as advisor to the Federal Regional Court of the 3rd Region and the Superior Court of Justice.



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Prof. Camila Villard Duran

Professor | ESSCA School of Management

Camila Duran is an Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Bachelor in International Management at the ESSCA School of Management. She is also a Brazilian Lawyer. She works on issues related to international economic law; regulation of money, finance, and crypto-assets; international monetary and financial laws; and gender equity in finance.



Prof. Mario Gustavo Carrizo Adris

Professor | Universidad Argentina de la Empresa

Mario Gustavo Carrizo Adris is a Lawyer and Doctor of Law (University of Buenos Aires, highest distinction), specialized in Private International Law, Comparative Law, and Regional Integration Law. He is Professor in undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in Argentina and abroad, and has extensive experience in research and academic leadership. He completed advanced studies at UNIDROIT, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and Private International Law, the Hague Academy of International Law, and the WTO. In 2002, he was awarded a joint research scholarship from UNIDROIT and UADE.

10 July 2026

Topic IV (cont.) Legal analysis of UNIDROIT's instruments

CHAIR



Prof. Antonio Leandro

Professor | University of Bari

Antonio Leandro (PhD in International and EU Law, Sapienza University of Rome) is a Full Professor of Public and Private International Law at the Department of Law, Aldo Moro University of Bari. Observer for UNIDROIT at the HCCH Experts Group on Carbon Markets, and in the UNIDROIT Working Group on 'Legal Nature of Verified Carbon Credits', he is also a fellow of the Roma Tre-UNIDROIT Centre for Transnational Commercial Law and International Arbitration. He was appointed as an expert by the European Commission DG Justice in groups dealing with Insolvency, restructuring, and EU Civil Procedural Law.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Mary Jude Cantorias Marvel

Dean, College of Law | De La Salle University-Dasmariñas

Atty. Marvel brings over 20 years of teaching experience in law schools and extensive administrative expertise. She earned her Master of Laws from the University of Missouri-Columbia, USA, in 2010. She completed her Bachelor of Laws at Arellano University School of Law and her Bachelor of Science at the University of the Philippines, Diliman and holds various certifications in her field. Concurrently, Dean Marvel serves as Partner and Lead of the Dulog Legal-Pro Bono Services arm of DivinaLaw.



Prof. Carmen Tamara Ungureanu

Professor | "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University

Carmen Tamara Ungureanu is a Professor of International Commercial Law and European Private International Law at the Faculty of Law of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania. She is a doctoral supervisor in International Commercial Law and the Director of the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law.



Prof. Nicolas Kyriakides

Professor | University of Nicosia

Dr Nicolas Kyriakides is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Procedural Law Unit at the University of Nicosia. Alongside his academic work, he is a partner at a leading law firm in Cyprus while he is involved in various policy related projects in Cyprus and beyond. He is the lead editor of the books Cyprus Civil Procedure and European Account Preservation Order: A multi-jurisdictional guide with commentary. Dr. Kyriakides studied law in Athens, holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford, LLM degrees from UCL and NYU, and was a Visiting Researcher at Harvard Law School.



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Dr. Nicholas Mouttotos

Researcher / University of Bremen

Dr Nicholas Mouttotos is a Scientific Associate at the Institute for Commercial Law, University of Bremen, where his research focuses on private international law, consumer protection, transnational law, and civil procedure. He holds a PhD in Law from Maastricht University. He has been a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, the former Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law and at UNIDROIT. He is the Principal Investigator of JUST-IN (Justice in Context), a Horizon Europe project on judicial independence in Europe.



Prof. Nataša Petrović Tomić

Professor / University of Belgrade

Dr. Nataša Petrović Tomić is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade and currently serves as Vice Dean for scientific research. In 2023, she was elected President of the Association of Business Lawyers of the Republic of Serbia. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of "Insurance Trends", a leading national journal in the field of insurance. Professor Petrovic Tomic is a leading expert in the fields of corporate, regulatory, and insurance law, and a trusted expert of the National Bank of Serbia and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.



Dr. Mirjana Glintić

Researcher / Institute of Comparative Law, Belgrade

Mirjana Glintić, PhD, is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade, Serbia, where she began her academic career in 2011. She serves as a lecturer in training programs for insurance brokers and agents conducted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia under the patronage of the National Bank of Serbia. Since 2024 she is the Senior Editor of "Insurance Trends", a leading national journal in the field of insurance. In 2020 she was appointed as a local representative of the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ).



Ms. Duygu Ercan

Researcher / Istanbul University

Res. Assist. Duygu Ercan is a Research Assistant in the Department of Private International Law at Istanbul University Faculty of Law, where she is currently pursuing her PhD. Her main research interests include private international law, international commercial arbitration, and cross-border intellectual property law. She is the author of a peer-reviewed monograph and several scholarly articles in her fields of specialization.

CHAIR



Prof. Alberto De Franceschi

Professor / University of Ferrara

Alberto De Franceschi is Full Professor of Private Law, Consumer and Market Law, Digital Law and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Ferrara. He is Dean of Social Sciences, Law and Economics at European Academy of Sciences and Arts; Delegate of Italy at OECD, UNCITRAL, HCCH; Editor in Chief of the Journal of European Consumer and Market Law.

SPEAKERS



Prof. Valesca Raizer Borges Moschen

Professor / Federal University of Espírito Santo

Valesca Raizer Borges Moschen is a full professor at the Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES), Brazil, and holds a PhD in Law from the University of Barcelona. She coordinates the LABCODEX Research Group (UFES/CNPq) on the Codification of Private International Law and is a FAPES Research Productivity Fellow. She is a member of ASADIP, ABDI, IBDP, ABMCJ/ES, the International Academy of Comparative Law, and "Elas no Processo," and serves as UNIDROIT Correspondent in Brazil.



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Mr. Nicola Carraro

Knowledge Analyst and Researcher, SEE Lab (Space Economy Evolution Laboratory) | SDA Bocconi School of Management

Nicola Carraro is a Knowledge Analyst and researcher at SEE Lab, where he works on space economy and institutional governance. He has a background in International Relations and Supranational Institutions and completed a Master's programme in Space Institutions and Policies. He gained experience at the Italian Space Agency, within the Office for International Cooperation and Space Diplomacy, and at the Embassy of Mexico in Italy. His work focuses on the evolution of space governance and policy frameworks.



Mr. Oscar Adrian Robalino Florett

Knowledge Analyst, SEE Lab (Space Economy Evolution Laboratory) | SDA Bocconi School of Management

Oscar Adrian Robalino Florett is a Knowledge Analyst at SEE Lab, where he works on space policy and European governance. After earning a Master's degree in International Relations from Sapienza University of Rome, he specialised in space institutions through the Advanced Course in Space Policies and Institutions at SIOI. He gained experience at the Italian Space Agency's Directorate for International Affairs and with diplomatic missions in Rome. His research focuses on the regulatory evolution of the space economy.



Ms. Wanqi Li

Researcher | Renmin University of China

Ms. Wanqi Li is a PhD candidate at the Law School of Renmin University of China. Her research focuses on international economic law, international investment law, and data law. She is particularly interested in the legal challenges posed by digital assets and data governance.



Dr. Katrien Steenmans

Researcher | University of Copenhagen

Dr Katrien Steenmans is a postdoc at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) on the Circular Supply Chains (CirCus) project investigating the legal risks of adopting extended producer responsibility and liability within private law and waste law to promote circular economies. She was previously an Assistant Professor at Coventry Law School, as well as a researcher at King's College London and University College London (all UK).



Prof. Jong Hyeok Lee

Professor | Seoul National University

Jong Hyeok Lee is Associate Professor of Transnational Commercial Law and Private International Law at Seoul National University School of Law. He served as an intern at UNIDROIT and currently serves as Correspondent for the Republic of Korea. He leads the Korean Research Group on International Sales Law (KRISL), and his research also encompasses stolen or illegally exported cultural objects.



Prof. Sonda Faccio

Professor | University of Trento

Prof. Sonda Faccio is an Associate Professor of International Law at the School of International Studies and the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento. She is an attorney at law admitted to the Bar of Verona, Italy. Her research focuses on international investment law, international arbitration, conflict of laws, and arms trade regulation. She has published on issues including indirect expropriation, state regulatory powers, and sustainable development in investment law. She is representing the School of International Studies at the University of Trento (observer) at the UNCITRAL WG III.