

ICON.S

BENELUX

ULB  
UNIVERSITÉ  
LIBRE  
DE BRUXELLES

PUBLIC LAW  
IN AN AGE OF  
CONTESTATION  
AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE

ICON.S Benelux Second Chapter Conference  
Université libre de Bruxelles  
22-23 MAY 2025

WITH THE KIND SUPPORT OF

**fnrs**  CENTRE de  
DROIT PUBLIC  
et SOCIAL  Centre de droit européen  
LA LIBERTÉ DE CHERCHER



# CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN LAW - CDE

## 10 years anniversary



The ICON.S Benelux Second Chapter Conference also marks the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the **ULB Centre for European Law (CDE)**, which has substantially contributed to the scientific organisation and financial support of the event.

The Centre for European Law traces its origins to the legal department of the Institute for European Studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). The Institute was officially inaugurated on 27 February 1964, the result of prescient and forward-looking thinking by ULB's academic leadership. Just a few years after the Treaty of Rome came into force, the University resolved to establish an institute with the mission to *"delve in depth into the area of moral and political sciences and economics, into the problems posed by the move towards an ever closer Union"*. This initiative reflected the ULB's commitment to respond to the unique demands and opportunities arising from its location in Brussels—the de facto capital of Europe—with the ambition to play a leading role on both the European and international stages. From the outset, the Institute was conceived as a hub for both teaching and research. Over the decades, the Institute for European Studies has evolved in parallel with the European Communities and, later, the European Union. Its research and teaching activities have continuously adapted to the challenges and changing landscape of European integration. In 2024, the Institute celebrated its 60th anniversary, marking its long-lasting of academic engagement with European affairs.

In 2015, the legal section of the Institute was formally replaced by the Centre for European Law, which was integrated into the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the ULB, while maintaining strong institutional ties with the Institute for European Studies. The Centre carries forward the mission of critically engaging with the development of European integration through high-quality legal research. Its work is underpinned by the rich and diverse expertise of its academic community, which includes professors, postdoctoral researchers, doctoral candidates, associate members, and scientific collaborators.

The Centre's research is structured around several core areas that reflect the evolving nature of the European Union, including:

- The EU as a constitutional system grounded in common values and the protection of fundamental rights
- The EU as an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- The EU as a space for economic, environmental and social regulation
- The EU as a global actor on the international stage

Ten years after its creation as a separate entity, the Centre for European Law has cemented its position as a focal point for scholarly analysis and high level debate on European law. Today it welcomes research collaborations with scholars at all stages of their academic careers and across all areas of European Union law.

Feel free to get in touch! [cde@ulb.be](mailto:cde@ulb.be)

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# CONFERENCE THEME & SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Western societies are changing quite quickly and profoundly in the face of events such as the rise of populism, the retreat of liberal democracy, shifting geopolitical landscapes, environmental crises and the ongoing impact of technology. These dynamics have sparked social, political, and legal conflicts across various institutional and non-institutional arenas, fuelled by diverse actors either pushing for or resisting change. This has led to significant debates on the legitimacy, adaptability, and resilience of public law in the face of evolving governance challenges.

Neither the Benelux region, nor the EU have been immune to these trends.

For example, Belgian complex federal arrangements have been the object of recurring and deep contestation from many quarters, with views for the future of Belgium ranging from moving resolutely into the direction of further devolution to ensure the autonomy or even the independence of the Belgian regions to returning to stronger central government in order to better address global issues such as climate change. The role of judges and their legitimacy in making decisions with substantial policy consequences has also been the subject of heated debates, as reflected in the discussions around the role of the Belgian Constitutional Court in the protection of socio-economic rights or in relation to the Belgian Climate Case decided in appeal in October 2023.

A similar trend can be observed in Luxembourg, where the constitutional system has been subject to amendments and adaptations, leading to the entry into force of a 'revised Constitution' in July 2023, after several years of discussions and preparatory works aiming at modernizing the Luxembourgish constitutional framework. In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders' far-right Party for Freedom (PVV) won the general election in 2023 and became the biggest party in the Lower House of Parliament, leading to a 'Dutch rule of law alert' amidst a worldwide autocratization trend. PVV joined cabinet Schoof which took office as of 2 July 2024. However, explicit agreements had to be made between the four coalition parties about 'a common baseline for safeguarding the Constitution, fundamental rights and the democratic rule of law' due to concerns about viewpoints and proposals by the PVV that clashed with the rule of law. Nonetheless, the first period of this cabinet has been dominated by severe rule of law critique on the planned government's (ab)use of state emergency law to set aside parts of the Aliens Act of 2000.

Moreover, fundamental rights such as the right of assembly and demonstration are under pressure, worldwide but also in The Netherlands. More generally, a report of the State Commission on the Rule of Law, established in the wake of the Dutch Childcare Allowance Scandal, warns that the promise of the rule of law is not being fulfilled for a significant group of citizens.

At the European level, questions of distribution of powers and conflicts about preserving values such as the rule of law have also been particularly pronounced. The turn towards climate protection was an integrating moment but the re-creation of borders and the rise of nationalistic authoritarianism is posing new challenges to Benelux and European integration. Likewise, international institutions have also been put in the spotlight. As contestation extends well beyond national borders, it has also challenged the role that international organizations should take in providing solutions to pressing societal issues, such as the war in Ukraine or the erosion of democratic and rule of law values.

Overall, the question arises whether and how public law is transforming in the face of this double trend of systemic change and contestation that characterize contemporary societies, and whether the role of public law and public institutions should be rethought and reshaped in the face of ongoing systemic changes. Further, the conference theme also invites (re)consideration of a variety of other topics and approaches that are of ongoing and widespread interest in public law, including but not limited to questions of constitutional identities and pluralism, alternative approaches to rights protection, comparative constitutional law and institutional design, and political versus legal constitutionalism, among others.

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## CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Chiara Armeni,**  
**Chloé Brière,**  
**Paul Dermine,**  
**Mariolina Eliantonio** (Co-Chair  
ICON.S Benelux)

**Franco Peirone** (Chapter Manager  
ICON.S Benelux),  
**Emmanuel Slautsky** (Co-Chair ICON.S  
Benelux)

## YOUNG SCHOLARS EVENT

**Justine Richelle** (Maastricht  
University)

**Norman Vander Putten** (UCLouvain –  
Saint-Louis)

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

10.30 am – 12 pm	<b>Young Scholars Event</b> , <i>Room: R42.5.503, Solvay Building</i> <b>Career Pathways for Young Public Law Scholars</b> <b>Iryna Bogdanova</b> (University of Luxembourg), <b>Marie DeCock</b> (Hasselt University, Maastricht University & FWO), <b>Enguerrand Marique</b> (UCLouvain & Université Catholique de Lille), <b>Nicolas Cariat</b> (Stibbe Brussels & UCLouvain), <b>Michal Krajewski</b> (Directorate of Inquiries of the European Ombudsman), <b>Eva Van Ooij</b> (European Commission)
12 pm – 1 pm	<b>Lunch</b> <i>in the Atrium R, Solvay Building R42</i>
1 pm - 2.30 pm	<b>First Plenary Session</b> , <i>Room: R42.5.503, Solvay Building</i> <b>Welcome Addresses</b> by <b>Annemie Schaus</b> (Rector, ULB), <b>Chiara Armeni</b> (ULB, Director of the CDE) & <b>Emmanuel Slautsky</b> (ULB, Co-Chair Benelux Chapter ICON.S)  <b>The Story of Constitutions: Discovering the We in Us</b> by <b>Wim Voermans</b> (Leiden University) <u>Chair</u> : Mariolina Eliantonio (Maastricht University), <u>Discussant</u> : <b>Patricia Popelier</b> (UAntwerpen)
2.30 pm – 4 pm	<b>Parallel Sessions 1</b> ( <i>see details page 7</i> )
4 pm - 4.30 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b> <i>in the Atrium R, Solvay Building R42</i>
4:30 pm - 6pm	<b>Parallel Sessions 2</b> ( <i>see details page 9</i> )
6 pm - 7.30 pm	<b>Drinks and Celebration 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ULB Centre For European Law</b> <i>in the Atrium R, Solvay Building</i>

9.30 am – 11 am	<b>Parallel Sessions 3</b> (see details page 11)
11 am - 11.30 am	<b>Coffee Break</b> in the Atrium R, Solvay Building
11.30 am – 1 pm	<b>Second Plenary Session, Room: R42.5.503, Solvay Building</b> <b>Public Law in an Age of Digitalisation, Data Spaces and Data Requirements</b> by <b>Herwig Hofmann</b> (University of Luxembourg) <b>Chair: Emmanuelle Bribosia</b> (ULB and Belgian Constitutional Court) <b>Discussant: Jurgen Goossens</b> (Utrecht University)
1 pm – 2 pm	<b>Lunch</b> in the Atrium R, Solvay Building
2 pm - 3.30 pm	<b>Parallel Sessions 4</b> (see details page 13)
3.45 pm - 5.15 pm	<b>Parallel Sessions 5</b> (see details page 15)
5.15 pm	<b>End of the Conference</b>

## Become a member!

Membership in ICON-S is more than an association with a world-class learned society. Membership makes you a partner in defending the values of public law all around the world. Membership moreover unlocks the door for connection and collaboration with thousands of other members in every region of the world. It also entitles you to attend our annual mega-conference, to vote in our Council elections, and to participate in our exclusive Members-only activities.





Room **R42.4.108**  
**Climate Crisis and Public Authorities between Information, Participation and European Administrative Integration**  
Chair: **Piera Maria Vipiana** (University of Genoa)

**Piera Maria Vipiana** (University of Genoa) - *Climate Crisis and the Information Function of Public Administration: An Inseparable Relationship*, **Matteo Timo** (University of Genoa) - *Environmental Protection and Citizen Participation: The Perspectives of Public Debate, also in Light of Recent Italian Innovations in the Field of Public Contracts*, **Giovanni Botto** (University of Genoa) - *European Administrative Integration for Environmental Protection: The Possible Role of Distributed Ledger Technologies*

Room **R42.4.107**  
**Resistance and Cooperation in the EU Sustainable Economy**  
Chair: **Esther van Zimmerman** (UAntwerpen)

**Esther van Zimmerman, Eva Devlieghere & Felipe De Andrade** (UAntwerpen), *At the Crossroads of Innovation: Future-proofing the European Patent System towards Adaptiveness and Resilience*, **Jonas Voorter** (Hasselt University) - *Increased cooperation for systematic change: distinguishing waste from non-waste throughout the European Union for a smooth circular transition*, **Olivier Dussauge** (UCLouvain) - *Resistance in the Agri-Food Sector and the Retreat from Ecological Goals*, **Jie Ouyang** (University of Groningen) - *More but Sustainable, or Simply Less? Rethinking Sustainable Consumption in the EU*, **Ilaria Baisi** (University of Florence) - *The future of public procurement in light of the Letta and Draghi reports: how combining decarbonisation with competitiveness in the EU single market*

Room **Spaak (IEE)**  
**Enforcing Fundamental Rights in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence**  
Chair: **Marco Bassini** (Tilburg University)

**Marco Bassini** (Tilburg University) - *Content Moderation for Generative AI Outputs in the EU: Lessons from the US?*, **Giovana Peluso Lopes** (Tilburg University) - *AI-Generated Content and Freedom of Expression*, **Federica Paolucci** (Bocconi University) - *He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named: The Right to Be Forgotten in the Age of AI*, **Leona King** (KU Leuven) - *Copyright and Generative AI: Navigating the Legal Landscape*

Room **R42.2.107**  
**External Shocks, Internal Threats: Constitutional Resilience in an Age of Contestation and Systemic Change**  
Chair: **Teresa Cabrita** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis)

**Teresa Cabrita** (UCLouvain Saint-Louis) - *Judicial review in case of natural disasters: the role of the Court of Justice of the EU*, **Marleen Kappé** (KU Leuven) - *Table Manners and the Drunken Dinner Guest of Contemporary Democratic Politics: Constitutional Resilience and Constitutional Conventions in Times of Populism*, **Maciej Krogel** (University of Amsterdam) - *The Origins and Limitations of the Constitutional Discourse on Excluding the Backsliding Member States from the European Union*, **Guido Bellenghi** (Maastricht University) - *Beyond the state of emergency: Towards an analytical framework for EU institutions' emergency powers*, **Karel Brackeniers** (KU Leuven) - *Fragile Openness and Resilient Obscurity: How Crisis Challenges Transparency in International and Constitutional Law*

Room **R42.2.110**  
**Funding the Green Transition in the EU**  
Chair: **Leonie Reins** (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Discussant: **Eirini Galatsanou** (European Commission & National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), **Norman Vander Putten** (UCL Saint-Louis-Bruxelles) - *Funding the environment? A typology of instruments orienting public spending towards the green transition*, **Frederic Allemand** (University of Luxembourg) - *The Revised Stability and Growth Pact and the Green Transition*, **Theodoros Iliopoulos** (Hasselt University) - *The Finance of Renewable Energy Projects and the EU Internal Market*



Room R42.5.502	<p><b>LGBTIQA+ Rights before the Court of Justice</b>  <b>Chair: Matteo Bonelli</b> (Maastricht University)</p>
Room R42.5.103	<p><b>Innovative regulation for times of systemic change: instruments, preconditions and impacts</b>  <b>Chair: Patricia Popelier</b> (UAntwerpen)</p>
Room R42.5.107	<p><b>Liberal Democracy in the European Union: Putting the narrative to the test</b>  <b>Chair: Josephine Van Zeben</b> (EUI)</p>
Room Gerem-ek (IEE)	<p><b>Climate Change, Vulnerabilities and the State</b>  <b>Chair: Claudia Wutscher</b> (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business)</p>
Room R42.4.103	<p><b>Litigation, Crowdfunding, and Public Interest Across Borders</b>  <b>Chair: Sharngan Aravindakshan</b> (Tilburg Law School)</p>
Room R42.4.110 ∞	<p><b>Rethinking Fundamental Rights, Accountability and Good Governance in Times of Contestation</b>  <b>Chair: Takis Tridimas</b> (University of Luxembourg)</p>

<p><b>Discussant: Alesandra Palazzo</b> (Nova University) - <i>What is at stake for EU Transgender Citizens? The CJEU in case Mirin</i>, <b>Fulvia Ristuccia</b> (Maastricht University) - <i>Benefits and limitations of using EU citizenship law to protects LGBTIQA+ rights</i>, <b>Martina Coli</b> (University of Florence) - <i>The Commission's case against Hungary's anti-LGBTIQA+ law: a constitutional evolution in the making?</i>, <b>Olivier Baillet</b> (Ramon Llull University) - <i>Mousse and Gender Identity of Customers: the GDPR, an ally against ordinary binarism?</i></p>
<p><b>Discussant: Camille Lanssens</b> (ULB), <b>Belén Garcia-Guisasola</b> (UHasselt &amp; UAntwerpen) - <i>How does the enforcement of public law change under goal-based regulation?</i>, <b>Cassandra Willems</b> (UAntwerpen) - <i>Trust in hybrid regulatory regimes: designing for beneficiaries and regulatees</i>, <b>Nathan Herrebosch</b> (UAntwerpen) - <i>Sustainability labels and certifications as alternative (to) regulation: analysis of the legal preconditions for their effectiveness</i></p>
<p><b>Luke Dimitrios Spieker</b> (Humboldt University) - <i>The federal perspective – protecting democratic values in the Member States?</i>, <b>Alberto Nicòtina</b> (University of Amsterdam) - <i>European Political Parties: 'Sein' and 'Sollen' of a Supranational Party System</i>, <b>Ana Bobić</b> (Hertie School) - <i>Questioning the EU's liberal democratic approach to central bank neutrality</i>, <b>Nathan Cambien</b> (UA Antwerpen) - <i>EU competition law as a tool to enhance democratic values?</i></p>
<p><b>Claudia Wutscher</b> (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business) - <i>Climate Change and Digitalization as Challenges to Equality and Non-Discrimination</i>, <b>Marco Gugliandolo</b> (University of Palermo and University of Messina), <i>Can we admit the existence of the Environmental State?</i>, <b>Nicolas de Sadeleer</b> (UCL) - <i>The Belgian Klimaatzaak and the Klimaseniorinnen case: a comparison</i>, <b>Ülkü Tanrıverdi</b> (UAntwerpen) - <i>Tackling Accessibility and Vulnerabilities in Smart Mobility in Flanders: Empirical Insights for Designing an Inclusive Regulatory Framework</i></p>
<p><b>Sharngan Aravindakshan</b> (Tilburg Law School) - <i>Courts and Macro-Consequences: A Study of Public Interest Litigation in the US, India and South Africa</i>, <b>Annick Pijnenburg</b> (Radboud University) - <i>Litigating Externalisation Policies: The Added Value of a Multi-Level Legal Order?</i>, <b>Ruben Veranneman</b> (KU Leuven) - <i>Crime does not pay or paying for crime? Crowdfunding of legal fees as a reward system</i>, <b>Veronica Corcodel</b> (NOVA School of Law) - <i>Solidarity Framings as Legal Opportunity Structures: Insights from EU Legal Mobilization in the Context of Migration and Asylum</i></p>
<p><b>Johan Wolswinkel &amp; Alma Besic</b> (Tilburg University) - <i>Is Open Administration Good Administration?</i>, <b>Annelieke Mooij</b> (Tilburg University) - <i>Mental Integrity in the Metaverse: How Far Does the Digital Services Act Reach?</i>, <b>Mariana Gkliati</b> (Tilburg University) - <i>Systemic Accountability: Reclaiming Responsibility in the EU's Shared Administrative Space</i></p>

Room **R42.4.110** **EU Agencies at 50 – Opportunities and Challenges in a Transforming World**  
Chair: **Miroslava Scholten** (Utrecht University)

Discussant: **Lisette Mustert** (Utrecht University), **Dana Petropoulou Ionescu** (Maastricht University) - *Imperfect norms, (im)perfectly made? Procedural guarantees and EU agencies as soft law makers*, **Zlatina Georgieva** (Utrecht University) - *Networked agency design in EU utility regulation – everyone sits at the table but some do it better*, **Ege Okakin Erbas** (Istanbul Gedik University) - *The Implications of European Agencies’ Practices on the National Laws of Third Countries: An Analysis Based on Two Different Agency Models*

Room **R42.4.108** **EU fundamental social rights in action: A changing role for the Union’s institutions**  
Chair: **Lorenzo Cecchetti** (KU Leuven)

Discussant: **Claire Marzo** (Université Paris-Est Créteil), **Lorenzo Cecchetti** (KU Leuven) - *Activating Fundamental Social Rights in the EU Law-Making Process: The Charter, the Pillar, and the Legislation*, **Yann Lorans** (Université Paris-Est Créteil) - *The Judiciary and the Legislation: A Collaborative Protection of Fundamental Rights in the EU legal system*, **Valeria Salese** (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca) - *Fundamental Social rights in action: views from Luxembourg*, **Amy Weatherburn** (KU Leuven) - *Addressing structural injustices in EU migration law and policy: are fundamental (social) rights taken seriously by the EU institutions?*

Room **R42.5.107** **The Future of Effective Judicial Review before the Court of Justice of the EU**  
Chair: **Herwig Hofmann** (University of Luxembourg)

**Walter Bruno** (University of Luxembourg) - *Waterproofing the Court: the institutional role of the Court of Justice of the EU and its authority between systemic changes and systematic threats*, **Tanja Hilpold** (University of Luxembourg) - *The 2024 reform of the EU judicial system and the future role of the Court of Justice*, **Luca Prete** (Court of Justice of the European Union), *The obligation of national courts of last instance to refer questions to the Court of Justice of the EU*, **Takis Tridimas** (University of Luxembourg), *The many faces of effectiveness*

Room **Spaak (IEE)** **The Accountability Void: Challenges in Access to Justice at EU External Borders**  
Chair and discussant: **Mariana Gkiati** (Tilburg University)

**Sarah Tas** (Maastricht University) - *Composite procedures in the Schengen area: an ever-complex judicial review?*, **Spyridoula (Sissy) Katsoni** (Tilburg University) - *Multiple Attribution of Conduct in Frontex Operations*, **Talha Gunay** (Leiden University) - *Borders of Judicial Protection: Ensuring the Right to an Elective Remedy for Returnees in Joint Return Operations Organized by Frontex*, **Andreina De Leo** (Maastricht University) - *The quest for accountability in EU border externalization practices in Libya: Any room for the EU Court of Justice?*

Room **R42.4.103** **From enforcement to administrative and constitutional reconfiguration of Member States: the EU-led rise of authoritative independent administrative authorities at national level**  
Chair: **Pieter Van Cleynenbreugel** (ULiège)

Discussant: **Julien Bois** (ULiège) - *The Most Dangerous Branch? The EU-led Constitutionalisation of Independent Public Authorities and the Reshuffling of the Balance of Powers in Member States*, **Pieter Van Cleynenbreugel** (ULiège) - *The principle of impartiality in administrative decision-making: towards an emerging EU fundamental rights standard?*, **Katarzyna Jancewicz** (ULiège) - *When the legal confronts the social: the competent authorities, the golden algae and the 2022 ecological disaster in the transboundary Oder River*, **Pietro Mattioli** (ULiège) - *At the crossroads of scientific expertise and democracy: the case of the Xylella fastidiosa outbreak*

Room  
**R42.5.**  
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**Trust, Legitimacy and Multilevel Governance: The Bootstrapping Challenge in Multitiered/Multilevel Systems**  
Chair: **Esther van Zimmeren** (UAntwerpen)

**Esther van Zimmeren** (UAntwerpen) - *Mutual Trust, Legitimacy, and the Internal Market: An Analysis through the Lens of Social Sciences Trust/Distrust Literature*, **Patricia Popelier** (UAntwerpen) - *Trust in Multi-Tiered Systems: A Legal Perspective*, **Bjorn Kleizen & Daanish Naithani** (UAntwerpen) - *Trust and Legitimacy in Specialised Courts: A Theoretical Framework for Understanding Institutional Authority*, **Céline Romainville** (UCLouvain) - *A constitutional perspective on trust*

Room  
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**New Trends in EU Fiscal and Economic Policy**  
Chair: **Paul Dermine** (ULB)

**Paul Dermine** (ULB), *Borrowing as a new modality of EU action*, **Paolo Recaldini** (College of Europe) - *The Impact of Geopolitics on the EU Industrial Policy: From Market Integration to International Competition*, **Dominik Łukowiak** (University of Warsaw) - *Systemic Gamechanger within the EU Public Finance*, **Dilara Aydogus** (UCL) - *From Constitutional to Monetary Pluralism: Rethinking Europe in Light of the Early-Fed*

Room  
**R42.4.**  
**107**

**Digital Governance and Freedom of Expression**  
Chair: **Jacob van de Kerkhof** (Utrecht University)

**Jacob van de Kerkhof** (Utrecht University) - *The DSA's Tower of Babylon: on the Digital Services Coordinator and Freedom of Expression*, **Tanja Porčnik** (University of Hamburg) - *Human-AI Interactions in Lawmaking: Human Agency and Legal Subjectivity for AI Systems*, **Justyna Sarkowicz** (Jagiellonian University) - *Legal Representative of the Service Provider as the Authority Recognizing and Enforcing the European Production Order in the Context of the Principle of Mutual Recognition of Judicial Decisions*

Room  
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**Rethinking Gender, Rights, and Reproductive Justice**  
Chair: **Alicia Haripershad** (Max Planck Institute & KU Leuven)

**Alicia Haripershad** (Max Planck Institute & KU Leuven) - *A Spotlight on the Historic Role of the Law in Entrenching Race and Gender: Lessons from South Africa and Zambia between 1880 and 1930*, **Maria Kalogirou** (Paris Nanterre University & Clermont Auvergne University) - *Reproductive rights at stake, European Union in response?*, **Paulina Jabłońska & Karolina Śliwecka** (Kraków University) - *Contestation and Call for (Re)Consideration: On the Abortion in Public Law*, **Christian Alexander Paula Aguirre** (ULB & Central University of Ecuador) - *The Maricx-Cuir Transitional Justice: A reflection on experiences from Colombia, Ecuador, and Argentina in South America*

Room  
**R42.4.**  
**502**

**Just Transition in the European Union: Legal and Political Science Perspectives**  
Chair: **Bruno de Witte** (Maastricht University)

**Claire Dupont** (UGent) - *From a just to a fair transition: shifting political narratives in EU climate politics*, **Chiara Armeni** (ULB) - *Climate Inequalities and the EU Climate Transition: Three Legal Approaches*, **Laura Kaschny & Leonie Reins** (Erasmus University Rotterdam) - *Bridging Ambition and Access: Affordability in Europe's Energy Future*, **Tiago Moreira Ramalho** (ULB) - *Schumpeter in Silesia? Eco-social Risks, Green Workfare, and the Problem of Just Transition*

Room **R42.4.502**  
**Mutual Recognition in European Administrative Law: Balancing Judicial Protection and Fundamental Rights**  
Chair: **Mariolina Eliantonio** (Maastricht University)

**Rónán Riordan & Valentina Golunova** (Maastricht University) - *Mutual Recognition in the Enforcement of the Digital Services Act*, **Lavina Kortese** (Utrecht University) - *Regulating Recognition & its Contradictory Effects on Mutual Recognition, Legal Certainty, and Judicial Protection*, **Pietro Mattioli** (University of Liège) - *Balancing Mutual Recognition and the Precautionary Principle in Pesticide Authorisation Procedures: New Developments from Court of Justice*

Room **R42.4.108**  
**Changing Complexities in Investments and Taxation**  
Chair: **Cedric Jenart** (UAntwerpen)

**Cedric Jenart** (UAntwerpen) - *Regional taxing powers through the prism of sub-nationality in an age of systemic change : the case of Belgium*, **Marta Vicente** (Universidade Católica Portuguesa) - *Against oversimplifications in international investment law: the role of the fair and equitable treatment standard in an era of deglobalization*, **Antonio Marinello** (University of Siena) - *Global trends in taxation and rule of law*, **Lucien Rigaux** (ULB) - *Redistribution in response to the crises in Belgium. The birth of EU fiscal redistribution to the rescue of Belgium's inertia?*

Room **R42.4.107**  
**About courts leaving their comfort zones: judicial responsibility in times of executive overreach and increasing complexity**  
Chair: **Stéphanie De Somer** (UAntwerpen)

Discussant: **Lynn Hillary** (University of Amsterdam) - *Crisis and force majeure in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum*, **Stéphanie De Somer** (UAntwerpen) - *Lay judges in administrative law: an inevitable next step for effective judicial review?*, **Floris Fonteyn** (UAntwerpen) - *The 'external relations dilemma': the judiciary and external relations*, **Jasper Van Steenberghe** (UAntwerpen) - *Freedom of speech of judges: A European Human Rights perspective to the Belgian and Dutch approach*, **Mieke Verrelst** (UAntwerpen) - *The judicial review of evidence in asylum and migration decisions*

Room **R42.4.100**  
**The transformations of direct effect in EU law**  
Chair and Discussant: **Bruno De Witte** (Maastricht University)

**Lorenzo Cecchetti** (KU Leuven) - *Still waters run deep: Should the direct effect of EU primary law be understood in plural terms?*, **Clara Labus** (LUISS), *Direct effect of EU international agreements: who is gatekeeping the EU legal order?*, **Fien Van Reempts** (UAntwerpen) - *The Effectiveness of Union Directives in Horizontal Situations through National Law: a Tacit Transformation?*, **Matteo Bonelli** (Maastricht University) - *Do we still need direct effect?*

Room **R42.2.110**  
**Human Rights, Contestation and Resilience**  
Chair: **Romain Mertens** (Université de Namur)

**Romain Mertens** (University de Namur) - *The autonomy of religious organisations in an age of change and contestation: comparative approaches from Belgium, France and the United Kingdom*, **Mikolaj Wolanin** (Warsaw University) - *Stability of the Education System in the Age of Contestation. Critical assessment of the closure of secondary schools in Poland*, **Alina Gentimir** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University) - *Human rights between protection and restriction - two sides of the same coin: which side is better?*, **Amin Labbafi** (University of Helsinki) - *The Law-Space-Governmentality Nexus: Unpacking Cities' Camouflaged Autonomy*

Room **R42.4.**  
**103**

**The Three Branches and the Protection of Human Rights: Legislation, Implementation, and Jurisprudence in Balance**  
Chair: **Nathalie Schnabl** (the Open Universiteit)

**Nathalie Schnabl** (the Open Universiteit) - *Government and citizens: the menselijke maat?*, **Nicky Touw** (the Open Universiteit) - *From process to Utopia*, **Luísa Netto** (Leiden University) - *Looking for Rights in the Dutch Child Benefit Scandal Cases*

Room **R42.5.**  
**103**

**Courts, Contestation and Non-Judicial Redress**  
Chair: **Jasper Krommendijk** (Radboud University)

**Jasper Krommendijk** (Radboud University) - *Denial or dutifulness: Dutch courts and decisions of international human rights courts*, **James Kelly** (Concordia University) - *Constraining the Court: Understanding Judicial Power and Policy Implementation in the Canadian Federation during the Charter Era*, **Olena Markova** (Lincoln University) - *Non-Judicial Redress Mechanisms in the UK: Comparative Analysis*, **Sarah Lee** (KU Leuven) - *Contested Courts: Patterns of Survival/Failure*, **Alexandra Nouvel** (EUI) - *Judicial Power and Legal Adaptation: How the CJEU Shapes Public Law in an Era of Systemic Change*

Room **R42.5.**  
**107**

**Governing the EU: Transformation and Continuity**  
Chair: **Marco Bevilacqua** (LUISS)

**Marco Bevilacqua** (LUISS) - *Consequences from the Potential Budgetarisation of EU Administrative Law*, **Antonia-Evangelia Christopoulou** (Erasmus University Rotterdam) - *Who gets a seat on the table on urgent matters? The case of the Omnibus Simplification Package*, **Giulio Rivellini** (LUISS) - *The rise of street-corner bureaucracy within the EU civil service*

Room **R42.2.**  
**107**

**Democratic control and the algorithmic administrative state**  
Chair: **Jurgen Goossens** (Utrecht University)

**Juliette Ermers** (Utrecht University) - *Parliamentary control in the algorithmic administrative state*, **Jarik ten Cate** (Utrecht University) - *The role of the formal legislature in algorithmic asylum- and visa procedures*, **Jasper Kars** (Utrecht University) - *A Delphi study into the interplay between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and democracy: Mapping opportunities and threats*, **Laura de Vries** (the Open Universiteit) - *Algorithmic Decision-Making systems in Dutch municipalities: who gets to decide?*

Room **Spaak**  
**(IEE)**

**Politics and Expertise in Crisis Response**  
Chair: **Emiel De Poortere** (UGent)

**Emiel De Poortere** (UGent) - *The Precautionary Principle in Belgian Administrative Law: Towards a New General Principle of Good Administration*, **Pedro Pereira de Moraes Pacheco** (LSE) - *Justifying Epistemic Discretion*, **Danaja Fabcic** (VUB) - *Who advises and who decides? An EU perspective on crisis response and responsibility*

Room Spaak (IEE) **The relationship between judges and policy makers in an age of contestation**  
Chair: **Mathieu Leloup** (UGent)

Room R42.5.103 **Access to social protection in the light of cross-border mobility**  
Chair and Discussant: **Pauline Melin** (Maastricht University)

Room R42.5.107 **Assessing the Enduring Effects of EU Crisis Measures: Constitutional and Legal Shifts in Response to Conflicts**  
Chair: **Chloé Brière** (ULB)

Room R42.4.110 **Strategic Climate Litigation Against Climate Corporations in Europe**  
Chair: **Alberto Nicotina** (UAntwerpen & University of Amsterdam)

Room R42.2.107 **Enforcement in the European Digital Policy: Challenges, Opportunities, and Paths Forward**  
Chair: **Giovanni de Gregorio** (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

**Mathieu Leloup** (UGent) - *Parliament, the judiciary, and the absence of a standard obligation in Article 7bis of the Belgian Constitution*, **Cedric Jenart** (UAntwerpen) - *Armed with Rights: Can Human Rights Law Force Defense Spending?*, **Aube Wirtgen** (VUB) - *The indirect legislative order in climate litigation: democracy "overruled"?*

**Bram Laschet** (Maastricht University) - *Health System Financing and the 'Threat' of Cross-Border Healthcare: the Case of the Netherlands*, **Nikos Parthenopoulos** (Maastricht University) - *Reassessing the export rules of family benefits within the EU: Indexation as the poison or the cure?*, **Marthe Delodder** (VUB) - *Socio-fiscal welfare and the EU right to free movement: bridging the gap*, **Gerard Evaraet** (KU Leuven) - *Shrinking circles of solidarity: pushing the boundaries of the concept of an 'unreasonable burden'*

Discussant: **Fabio Giuffrida** (European Commission), **Julia Burchett** (ULB), *Eurojust's Expanded Role in the Fight Against Impunity for Core International Crimes*, **Lorenzo Grossio** (University of Turin) - *The Criminalisation of Violations of Union Restrictive Measures and the Principle of Proportionality: Framing Limits to Functionalism in EU Substantive Criminal Law*, **Yuliya Miadzvetskaya** (ULB) - *The evolution of the EU sanctions toolbox: post-invasion sanctions as a case-stud*, **Ellen Contrainé** (UGent) - *Question of the use of new financial instruments to respond to armed conflicts and the evolution of the European Peace Facility*

**Christina Eckes** (University of Amsterdam) - *Lawful actions, regulatory gaps, and democratic consequences in corporate cases*, **Simon Waswa** (University of Amsterdam) - *The role of International Law norms in corporate climate cases*, **Clara Kammeringer** (University of Amsterdam) - *Hearing the Outside Voice: The Role of Non-Citizens in Corporate Climate Lawsuits*, **Chiara Treglia** (LUISS Rome) - *Strategic Climate Litigation and Green Finance: Strengthening Corporate Accountability in the EU Green Bond Market*

**Lisette Mustert** (Utrecht University) & **Sarah Tas** (Maastricht University) - *Towards a Patchwork of Data Protection and Supervision under the Data Governance Act*, **Marco Almada** (University of Luxembourg) - *Three enforcement challenges in the EU AI Act*, **Maria Magierska** (Maastricht University) - *Searching the Way Out of the Maze: GDPR Cross-border Enforcement Struggle*, **Belle Beems** (Radboud University) - *Enforcing the DMA in a complex regulatory landscape*



Room **R42.2.110**  
**Rule of Law and the Vulnerable Position of Migrants: a Dutch Case Study**  
Chair: **Evelien Brouwer** (Utrecht University)

**Jonas Bornemann** (University of Groningen) - *EU law as a justification for efforts undermining the rule of law and migrants rights*, **Karen Geertsema** (Nijmegen University & Radboud University) - *The judiciary and upholding the rule of law for the vulnerable legal position of migrants*, **Evelien Brouwer** (Utrecht University) - *Technology, rule of law, and powers of the executive: smartphone data extraction in the Netherlands*, **Viola Bex-Reimert** (Utrecht University) - *A test for rule of law and democracy: the Dutch 'asylum emergency measures' proposal*

Room **R42.4.502**  
**Book launch: Europeanisation of Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: The Aarhus Convention in the Balkans**  
Chair: **Bojana Todorović** (University of Belgrade)

**Luc Lavrysen** (UGent), **Danilo Auricchio** (European Commission), **Mariolina Eliantonio** (Maastricht University), **Roberto Caranta** (University of Turin)

Room **R42.4.108**  
**New paradigms for the state's institutional framework**  
Chair: **Johan Wolswinkel** (Tilburg University)

**Johan Wolswinkel** (Tilburg University) - *Consistency and Participation in Administrative Decision-Making: Exploring An Alternative Road though Open Government Legislation*, **Corina Heri** (Tilburg University) - *Representative rights-based climate litigation: Actio popularis or assemblage?*, **Maria Francesca Cavalcanti & Rodrigo Kaufmann** (Tilburg University) - *Representation in multiethnic communities – Between presence and absence*, **Gerhard van der Schyf** (Tilburg University) - *Tradition and Constitutional Change: The Case of Constitutional Review across the Kingdom of The Netherlands*, **Murat Erdoğan** (Tilburg University) - *The 'Ordoliberalization' in Constitutional Law: An Investigation on the Effects of Debt Brake Rule and its Strict Interpretation by the German Constitutional Court*

Room **R42.4.107**  
**EU Constitutional Values**  
Chair: **Franco Peirone** (Maastricht University)

**Franco Peirone** (Maastricht University) - *The Annual Rule of Law Report: A Soft-Law Mechanism or a Governance Tool in Disguise?*, **Sabrina Napolitano** (CEDIE- UCL) - *European Rule of Law Framework in an Age of Contestation and Systemic Change*, **Alberto Atelli** (LUISS) - *European society and Federalism: Rethinking sovereignty through Article 2 TEU*, **Giulia La Torre** (UNIGE & ULB) - *A Tale of Two Primacies: The Rule of which Law?*

Room **R42.4.103**  
**Constitutionalism and Populism in an Age of Contestation**  
Chair: **Jakub Sawicki** (EUI)

**Jakub Sawicki** (EUI) - *"Like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep". The legal disunification as the consequence of the constitutional crisis in Poland*, **Patryk Kukliński** (Warsaw University) - *Populist Media or Populist Law? Reflections on the "Enemy Creation". Strategy and Penal Populism in Europe*, **Katarzyna Cłapińska** (University of Warsaw) - *Populism as a threat to the modern constitutionalism*, **Marco Galimberti** (Edinburgh Napier University) - *Populism in an age of contestation: a human rights perspective*



Room **R42.2.110**  
**Non-Aligned Climate Cases: What Role in Europe?**  
Chair: **Christina Eckes** (University of Amsterdam)

**Christina Eckes** (University of Amsterdam) - *Looking through a jurisdictional lens at a global phenomenon: non-climate aligned cases*, **Renske Natté** (University of Amsterdam) - *Climate Science in Non-Aligned Climate Cases*, **Rena Hänel** (University of Amsterdam) - *Blurring the lines: Non-Climature Aligned Cases in EU law between Climate Justice and Corporate Pushback*, **Clara Labus** (LUISS Rome) - *‘Just Transition’ cases as non-aligned climate litigation in the EU: No one left behind?*

Room **R42.2.107**  
**Conflict and New Challenges in International Law**  
Chair: **Sofia Vandenbosch** (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law)

**Sofia Vandenbosch** (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law) - *Challenging Arms Exports to Israel: A Comparative Legal Perspective*, **Riccardo Vecellio Segate** (University of Groningen) - *The invisible disposability of “military-age” male noncombatants meets the legally sanctioned women-and-children rhetoric: Defining an epistemic obligation for feminist scholars in law to advocate for all noncombatants to be protected equally*, **Nordine Latreche** (Université Paris-Est Créteil) - *The Conflict in Gaza as a War Against the City. The Concept of Urbicide Through the Lens of International Law*

Room **R42.5.103**  
**Models of Citizenship and Democracy in the EU**  
Chair: **Benedetta Arrighini** (ULB)

**Benedetta Arrighini** (ULB) - *Unpacking Mutual Trust to understand the Mounting Distrust In the EU legal order*, **Gillian More** (KU Leuven) - *A multi-layered effort: the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the regularisation of residence of UK nationals and their families in Belgium post-Brexit*, **Emanuela Costanzo** - *The Transformation of Citizenship: From National Citizenship to European material Citizenship*, **Anita Kovacs** (ULiège) - *Citizenship Against Democracy? Consequences of Un-Muting Hungarians Beyond the Borders on the EU’s Rule of Law Crisis*

Room **R42.5.107**  
**Systemic Challenges to EU AI Regulation: Innovation-Friendly Regulatory Framework in Service of (Effective?) Fundamental Rights Protection**  
Chair: **Ljupcho Grozdanovski** (ULiège)

**Ljupcho Grozdanovski** (ULiège) - *‘The impossible burden to prove’ - Procedural fairness through the lens of evidence in AI liability cases*, **Noémi Bontridder** (ULiège) - *The shifting approach to uncertainty in the European regulation of technological transformations*, **Jérôme De Cooman** (ULiège) - *Yet another revolution grounded on tradition: regulating ‘new’ technologies by following a ‘tried-and-true’ product safety logic*, **Anca Radu** (EUI) - *Reframing the right to an individual decision in the face of (harmful) AI systems*

Room **R42.4.502**  
**Conditionality and EU Values: Actors, Procedures and Effectiveness**  
Chair: **Matteo Bonelli** (Maastricht University)

Discussant: **Paul Dermine** (ULB), **Olga Ceran** (Leiden University) - *Safeguarding academic freedom in the EU: the past, present, and future of funding conditionality*, **Ilaria Gambardella** (KU Leuven) - *Ensuring fundamental rights in EU funds: the role of national administrations in implementing the horizontal enabling condition on the Charter*, **Jaime Luque Lora** (Maastricht University) - *Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight in the Enforcement of Conditionality*, **Pauline Thinus** (ULB) - *Hungary’s approach to rule of law spending conditionality procedures: cost calculation strategies on compliance*

Room  
**R42.4.**  
**108**

**The Expanding Influence of European Fundamental Rights Law on Domestic Constitutional Systems**

Chair: **Cedric Jenart** (UAntwerpen)

**Emilia Sandri & Georgios Athanasiou** (UAntwerpen) - *Opening Pandora's Box: the Real Madrid judgment and the risks of unleashing national identity on judicial cooperation*, **Dietrich Rosiers** (UAntwerpen) - *Human Rights of the King*, **Floris Fonteyn** (UAntwerpen) - *European fundamental rights law: opposing or accommodating external relations as a 'judicial review-free islet'?*

Room  
**R42.4.**  
**107**

**Rethinking the relationship between scale and public law: future perspectives and challenges for local governments**

Chair: **Emmanuel Slautsky** (ULB)

**Carlo Colombo** (Sciences Po Paris & Maastricht University) - *EU Law and the City: Untangling a Co-Constitutive Relationship*, **Marie DeCock** (UHasselt, Maastricht University & FWO) & **Laura Dumont** (UHasselt) - *Inter-Local Cooperation as an Answer to Problems of Scale: A Comparative Law Study at The Interface Between Public and Private Law*, **Alina Franci** (ULB) - *Secondary Cities at Stake: The Influence of Scale on Public Law and Urban Climate Governance and Policies*, **Laura Deruytter** (VUB) & **Elizaveta Gjurova** (UGent) - *Multidisciplinary Insights on 'scale' from a Political Science and Financial Geography Perspective: the Case of Inter-Municipal Cooperation*

Room  
**R42.4.**  
**110**

**Internationalisation or Re-nationalisation?: Examining National Measures on Student Mobility in the Benelux-Germany Region**

Chair: **Hanneke van Eijken** (Utrecht University)

**Hanneke van Eijken & Lavinia Kortese** (Utrecht University) - *Dismantling the Dutch Case: The Proposed Limitations to Student Migration under EU Law*, **Victoria Hooton** (Max Planck Institute) - *The Road Less Travelled: assessing the case law on exportability of German student maintenance assistance*, **Sarah Schoenmaekers** (Maastricht University) - *Student mobility in Flanders: the protection of the Dutch language in higher education in Belgium*

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## WIM VOERMANS



Wim Voermans is Professor of Constitutional and Administrative law at Leiden University. His current research and teaching focuses on the theory and practice of constitutional law (worldwide), on comparative constitutional law and European law. Wim Voerman's research takes a special interest in the working and (social, economic and political) effects of constitutional law - based on his thesis of constitutional law working as literature. He studies constitutional legitimacy issues, overall observance and performance of constitutional systems.

## PATRICIA POPELIER



Patricia Popelier is full professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp and director of the research group of Government and Law. She is also Senior Research Fellow at the University of Kent, Centre for Federal Studies. Her main research topics are federalism and multilevel governance, constitutional review, legislative studies, and issues of legitimacy and legal certainty. She is the author of more than 300 publications in the field of public law, including the monograph *Federal Dynamics. A New Theory of Regional Authority and Cohesion* (Routledge 2021).

## MARIOLINA ELIANTONIO



Mariolina Eliantonio is Professor of European and Comparative Administrative Law and Procedure at the University of Maastricht. Her research is focused on the enforcement of European law before national and EU courts. She does research specifically on the theme of access to court before national and European courts (with a special focus on environmental matters), on the Europeanisation process of national procedural administrative law and on the judicial review of the new modes of governance. She is Co-Chair of the ICON.S Benelux Chapter.

## HERWIG HOFMANN



Herwig C. H. Hofmann is a Professor of European and Transnational Public Law at the University of Luxembourg. He teaches and publishes in the areas of EU public law and comparative regulatory law. One of the research lines developed in recent years has been the influence of digitalisation and effects of AI driven decision-making procedures in public law. A key publication in this regard is the 2024 OUP book on ‘Governance of Automated Decision Making and EU law’.

## JURGEN GOOSSENS



Jurgen Goossens is full professor of constitutional law and Head of the Institute of Jurisprudence, Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Utrecht. His chair focuses on constitutional resilience in view of digital transformations and legal protection against government action.

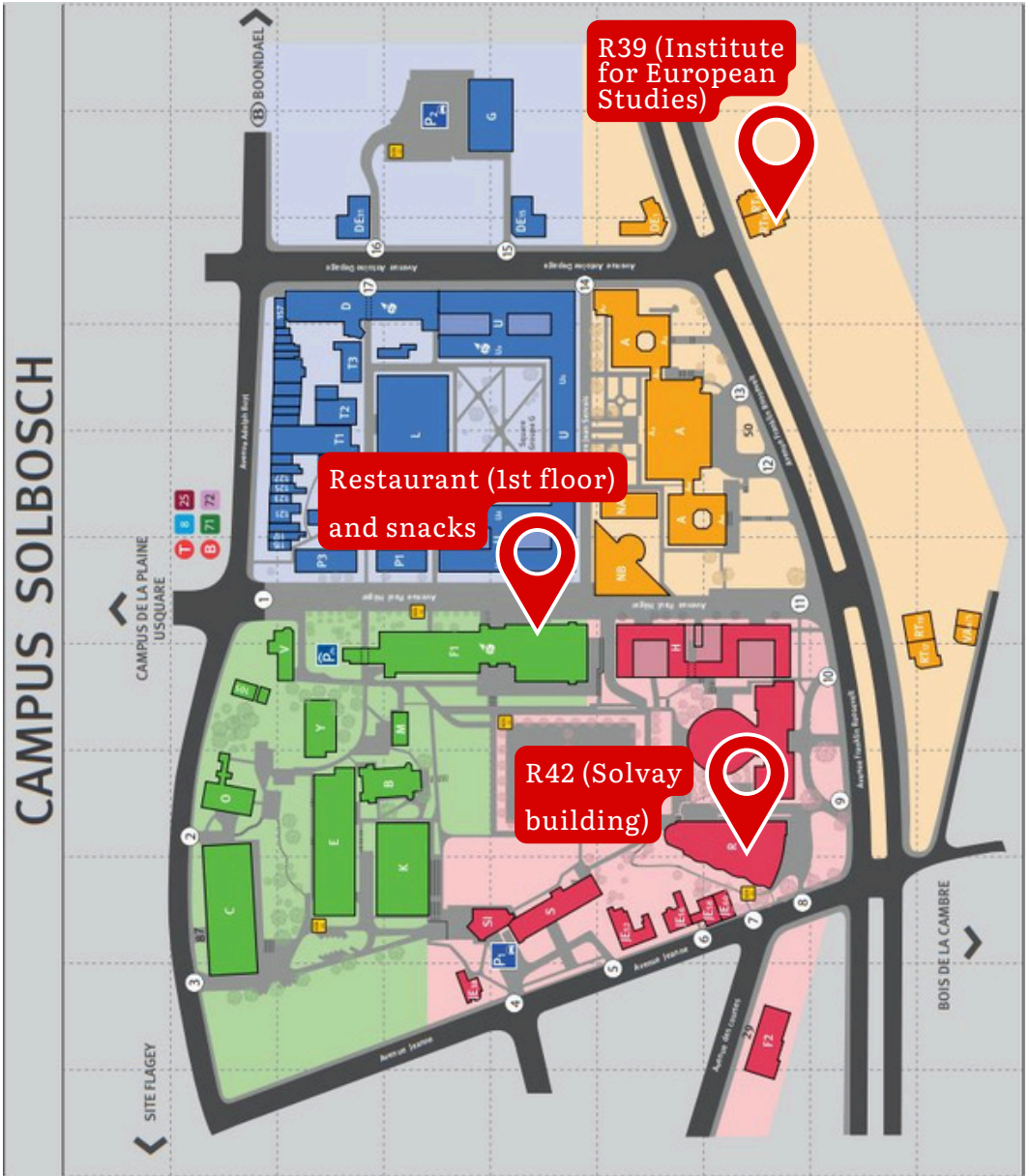
## EMMANUELLE BRIBOSIA



Emmanuelle Bribosia is Judge at the Belgian Constitutional Court and Professor of European law at the Université libre de Bruxelles. Her research activities focus on international and European human rights protection with an emphasis on equality and non-discrimination law. Emmanuelle Bribosia was the Director of the Centre de droit européen between 2007 and 2018.

## MAP OF SOLBOSCH CAMPUS

R42 (Solvay Building) to R39 (Institute for European Studies) ±5min walk



# CONTACTS & LOGISTICS



## CONTACT

Email: [icon.s.benelux2025@ulb.be](mailto:icon.s.benelux2025@ulb.be)

## LOGISTICS - ULB SOLBOSCH CAMPUS

### From Brussels Airport (Zaventem)

- Train to Brussels Central Station (±20 min), then Bus 71 (Direction Delta) to ULB
- Train to Boondael Station, then Tram 8 (Direction Louise) to ULB or Tram 25 (Direction Rogier) to ULB
- **Taxis are available at the airport, or Uber/Bolt (Parking, floor 4)**

### From Brussels South Station (Gare du Midi)

- Metro lines 2 or 6 (Direction Elisabeth) to Porte de Namur, then Bus 71 (Direction Delta) to ULB
- Metro lines 2 or 6 (Direction Elisabeth) to Louise, then Tram 8 (Direction Roodebeek) to ULB
- Tram 10 to Churchill, then Tram 7 (Direction Heysel) to Cambre étoile, ±10min walk

### From Brussels Central Station

- Bus 71 (Direction Delta) to ULB

### Closest public transport stops

- ULB (Tram 8, 25 / Bus 71, 72)
- Cimetière d'Ixelles (Bus 95) ±10 min walk
- Buyl (Tram 7, 25) ±10 min walk
- Cambre étoile (Tram 7, 8) ±10 min walk
- Delta (Metro 1, 5) ±15 min walk

### Useful Tools & Info

- STIB/MIVB app or <https://www.stib-mivb.be>: Brussels public transport planner
- SNCB/NMBS app or <https://www.belgiantrain.be>: National trains
- **Google Maps also works well for real-time directions in Brussels**
- **You can pay with debit card directly in most metros, trams and busses**



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Université libre de Bruxelles  
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