

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

[GitHub](#) ◇ [SSRN](#) ◇ [ORCID](#)

+1(929) 229-8784

v.villanuevacollao@gmail.com ◇ vanessa.villanueva.collao@nyu.edu

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

New York University (NYU) , New York, NY <i>Wagner Fellow</i> , Pollack Center for Law and Business	September 2026
University of New South Wales (UNSW) , Sydney, Australia <i>Senior Research Fellow-Fintech</i> , UNSW Law & Justice	2026
Bocconi University , Milan, Italy <i>Academic Fellow</i> , Department of Law	2025
European University Institute (EUI) , Fiesole, Italy <i>Max Weber Fellow</i> , <i>Visiting Fellow</i> , Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies	2023–2025
University of Roma Tre , Rome, Italy <i>Research Fellow</i> , South EU Google Data Governance Chair	2022–2024
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Champaign, IL <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> , Legal Writing (Law500)	2022
<i>Research Assistant</i> , College of Law	2019–2021
Università degli Studi di Genova , Genoa, Italy <i>Adjunct Professor</i> , English Law, Master in Legal Translation, Department of Linguistics	2012–2021
Uniforma–Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education , Italy <i>Researcher</i> , Trust Law	2011–2013

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Law <i>Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)</i> - Dissertation passed without revisions Title: <i>Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions</i> Chair: Verity Winship . Committee: Amitai Aviram , Jeremy McClane , Thomas Ulen Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning <i>Articles Editor</i> , Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal	2024
University of California at Berkeley, School of Law , Berkeley, CA <i>Master of Laws (LL.M.)</i> . Relevant Coursework: Privacy law, Cybersecurity	2016
Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics , Genoa, Italy <i>Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.)</i>	2013
Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Law , Genoa, Italy <i>Laurea in Giurisprudenza, (J.D.) equivalent</i>	2011
<i>Summer Programs</i>	
University of Michigan, ICPSR-Quantitative Methods of Social Research , Ann-Arbor, MI Categorical Data Analysis — Structural Equation Models for Latent Variables	2020, 2021
The University of Chicago, Coase-Sandor Institute for Law & Economics , Chicago, IL Summer School in Law and Economics	2018

CERTIFICATIONS

European University Institute (EUI), Teaching Training Certificate (3 ECTS), Italy	2024
Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Institute, Princeton	
Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Certification	2020

SELECTED ARTICLES

Cryptoexchanges as Imperfect Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, AM. BUS. L.J. (forthcoming 2026)

cited in *Cryptoasset Service Providers as Financial Intermediaries, Bank for Int'l Settlements* (2026)

Cryptogatekeepers as a Response to Conflicts of Interest in Decentralized Finance, 23 NORTHWESTERN J. TECH. & INTELL. PROP. 435 (2026)

Decentralized Finance's Premise & Promise of Decentralization & Disintermediation, NYCU L. REV. (forthcoming 2026)

DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System, 26 TUL. J. TECH. & INTELL. PROP. 75 (2024)

Navigating the Transatlantic AI Landscape: The EU Artificial Intelligence Act and its Ripple Effect on the US, 2024 MEDIA LAWS (2024)

Bridging Legal Psychology and Law: Different Laws and Different Cognitive Processes, COMP. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026)

Empirical Methods in Comparative Law: Data Talks, 12/2 COMP. L. REV. 55 (2023)

Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC, EUR. J. PRIVACY & TECH. (forthcoming)

The New ICO Intermediaries, 5 ITALIAN L.J. 731 (2019) (with Verity Winship)
cited in *Tokenizzazioni di azioni e azioni tokens*, CONSOB: Quaderni Giuridici (2023)
featured in *the Legal Theory Blog*, as very interesting and recommended

Le offerte iniziali e gli scambi di crypto-attività (Initial Offers and Exchanges of Crypto-Assets), CONSOB (Italian Securities & Exchange Comm'n), Comment on Final Report (2020)

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Decentralized (?), But Far From Disorganized: A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs (2026), under peer review

The Functions of Cryptointermediaries (2026), under peer review

Cryptoauditors (2026)

The Institutional Production of Governance in DAOs (2026)

WORK IN PROGRESS

DAOS, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study, draft

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms, writing in progress

The New Frontier of Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics, writing in progress

DATASETS

CRYPTOAUDITORS 2026 - Specialized Auditing Firms in DeFi. [doi.org/10.3886/E243009V2]
ICO DATASET 2019 - 2,194 Initial Coin Offerings during the 2019 boom. [doi.org/10.3886/E217142V2]

BLOG POSTS

Bringing Accountability Back to Decentralized Finance, COLUM. L. SCH. BLUE SKY BLOG (June 2025)

From Code to Contract: How Legal Wrappers Are Reshaping DAO Governance, OXFORD BUS. L. BLOG, OBLB (May 14, 2025)

The EU AI Act: A Global Game-Changer or a Roadblock for Innovation in the US?, OXFORD BUS. L. BLOG, OBLB (March 4, 2025)

Rodolfo Sacco: The professor, the partisan, the man, ASCL BLOG (April 2022)

Auditing Crypto-Financing, DUKE L., THE FINREG BLOG (Mar. 10, 2020) (with Verity Winship)

Auditing Initial Coin Offerings and Smart-Contracts, CUHK, Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, Machine Lawyering (Mar. 3, 2020) (with Verity Winship)

SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science, GETS & Arizona State University 2024
GETS conference Grant

Early-Stage Research (ESR) & Max Weber Programme Grants, European University Institute 2023
[Project: Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets](#)

Mask Network Grant. Project: The Tech Book 2023

CULPJ- Consortium for Undergraduate Law & Justice Research Programs Grant 2022
Travel grant for the Global Meeting on Law & Society at Lisbon

Supplemental Summer Block Grant, University of Illinois-Graduate College. Dissertation Grant 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES

Instructor - [Introduction to the Legal System](#), Bocconi University Spring 2025

Adjunct Instructor - Legal Writing, University of Illinois, College of Law July–Aug. 2022
Small section within the course “Law500”. Prof. Shannon Moritz

Teaching Assistant - University of Illinois, College of Law
Contracts. Review sessions for JDs & LLMS. Prof. Ralph Brubaker Spring 2020
Civil Procedure. Review sessions for LLMS. Prof. Verity Winship Spring–Fall 2019

LECTURES

ON CORPORATE LAW & TECHNOLOGY

Corporate Technologies’ Impact on Corporate Boards

U. of Westminster. Company & Corporate Law. Instructor: Prof. Ioannis Glinavos Spring 2024

EUI. Seminar “Introduction to Corporate Governance”. Instructor: Prof. Mathias Siems Fall 2023

The US Approach to Sustainable Corporations—EUI—Department of Law Fall 2023
Seminar “Introduction to Corporate Governance”. Instructor: Prof. Mathias Siems

<i>Introduction to Cryptomarkets</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law In the course “Comparative Law of Digital Markets.” Instructor: Prof. Noah Vardi	Spring 2023
<i>AI and its impact in businesses [IA—L’impatto nelle aziende]</i> —University of Roma Tre In the course “Diritto comparato dei dati e dell’intelligenza artificiale” [Comparative Law of Data and Artificial Intelligence]. Instructor: Dr. Sirio Zolea	Fall 2022
<i>Smart Contracts: Legal Issues and Restitutionary Solutions</i> —Univ. of Illinois, College of Law In the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor: Paul Kayrouz	Fall 2022
<i>Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law In the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Instructor: Prof. Giorgio Resta	May 2022
<i>Blockchain and IP</i> —University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Association (ELSA) Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property	June 2021
ON METHODOLOGY	
<i>Experiments in Legal Research</i> —NOVA, School of Law, Lisbon In the course of Methodology. Instructor: Fabrizio Esposito	Spring 2024
<i>Interdisciplinary Approaches to Law</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law In the Methodology Seminars 2023 of the PhD in Law & Social Change	Spring 2023
<i>Comparative Legal Systems</i> -University of Genoa, Department of Law In the course of Comparative Law	2016–2018

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

<i>Cryptogatekeepers as a Response to Conflicts in DeFi</i> LSA Conference, San Francisco	May 2026
NBLSC, University of Las Vegas Nevada, William S. Boyd School of Law	May 2026
University of Milano-Bicocca, Cryptoasset Lab Conference 2026	Jan. 2026
University of Catania, SIDE/ISLE, Italian Society of Law & Economics Conference	Dec. 2025
<i>DeFi Premise and Promise of Decentralization and Disintermediation</i> NYCU, 29th International Conference on Technology Law	Nov. 2025
<i>DAOs, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study</i> WINIR, Institutions, Entrepreneurship & Shared Prosperity, VSE-Prague	Sep. 2025
NBLSC, UCLA School of Law, Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law & Policy	June 2025
EUI-MWP, Weird Capitalism	May 2025
LSA Conference-Chicago, Technology, Innovation & AI in the Corporate Space	May 2025
La Sapienza University, SIDE/ISLE-Italian Society of Law & Economics	Dec. 2024
<i>A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs</i> National Taiwan University, 6th YCC Workshop-Comparative Business & Financial Law	May 2025
<i>Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets</i> University of Pittsburgh, WINIR Institutional Resilience & Recovery	Sep. 2024
BlockchainGov Research Workshop	July 2024
Bocconi University, Corporate Governance and Reputation	July 2024
EUI-MWP, Navigating Trends in Financial Markets & Corporate Governance	July 2024
EUI-MWF Conference. The Return of Authority in Digital Governance	June 2024
University of Westminster-CETI	Mar. 2024

<i>Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance. Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions</i>	
Arizona State University, Governance of Emerging Technologies (from call for papers)	May 2024
Nova School of Law, SPEED	April 2024
<i>Cryptointermediaries in Decentralized Finance</i>	
WINIR—Institutional Innovation & Evolution (from call for papers)	Sep. 2023
University of Genoa & University of Roma Tre - New Trends in Corporate Governance	July 2023
<i>Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms</i>	
WINIR—Polycentric Governance & the Challenges of the 21st Cent.(from call for papers)	Sep. 2022
ISCTE—University Institute of Lisbon, LSA—Global Meeting (from call for papers)	July 2022
<i>The New Frontier in Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics</i>	
Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline	Oct.2021
Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH (from call for papers)	
NBLSC, University of Tennessee at Knoxville	June 2021
LSA—Chicago Annual Meeting (from call for papers)	May 2021
Machine Lawyering Conference: Human Sovereignty and Machine Efficiency in the Law	
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (from call for papers)	Jan. 2021
<i>Conflicts of Interest in DeFi: The Duties of Cryptointermediaries</i>	
Rijeka Doctoral Conference 2021—University of Rijeka	Dec. 2021
10th National SJD Roundtable—Georgetown University Law Center	April 2021
<i>Empirical Methods in Law: Data Talks</i>	
SIDE-Italian Society of Law & Economics.	Dec. 2021
Panel: Comparative Law & Economics (from call for papers)	
ASCL-Annual Conference. Panel: Law & Methodology (from call for papers)	Oct. 2020
AIDC/YCC Conference “New Topics and Methods in Comparative Law Research”	June 2020
Panel on Systemology (from call for papers)	
<i>New ICO Intermediaries</i>	
LSA—Annual Meeting, Roundtable: Exploring Cryptocurrencies & other Related Markets	May 2020
University of Luxembourg	Nov. 2019

CONFERENCES AND SPEAKER SERIES ORGANIZED

WINIR Young Scholars (WYS)	
WYS Workshop, VSE-Prague, “Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Institutions”	Sep. 2025
WYS Workshop, “AI & Institutions”	May 2025
WYS Workshop, University of Pittsburgh, “Bridging Divides”	Sep. 2024
WYS Workshop, “Technology and Institutional Change”	Sep. 2023
Inaugural WYS Workshop, “Technology & Society”	May 2023
EUI, MWP Conference, “Continuity or Rupture: Towards an Interdisciplinary Inquiry”	June 2024
EUI & Law & Science, “Capitalist Law” presentation of Katharina Pistor’s Book (co-sponsored by the EUI Finance & Society Cluster)	Mar. 2024
Symposium New Trends in Corporate Governance, Universities of Genoa & Roma Tre	July 2023
South EU Google Data Governance Chair	
“Data Protection and Consumer Protection Conference” - Roma Tre University	Mar. 2023
“The Future of Data Protection Conference” - Roma Tre University	Mar. 2022
Law as Science Project - Organized Events on Methodology	Fall 2022–Spring 2023

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

<i>Digital Assets and Intermediation</i> European Securities and Markets Authority - ESMA (Invited Presenter)	July 2026
<i>ECGI: Different Types of Shareholders and Corporate Decision-Making</i> Bocconi University - ECGI (Discussant)	June 2025
<i>Fireside Chat: A Fair Conversation about Blockchain Regulation</i> EUI, The Law, Rationalism, and Complexity Working Group (Moderator)	May 2024
<i>Artificial Intelligence & Institutional Change - WINIR Conference</i> (Invited Moderator)	Sep. 2023
<i>Fintech & Financial Innovation - WINIR Pre-Conference Workshop</i> (Invited Moderator)	Sep. 2023
<i>Inaugural WINIR Young Scholars Workshop</i> (Invited Moderator)	May. 2023
<i>Introduction to the Law & Economics Institute-IAED-</i> (Invited Speaker) Universidad de Palermo (Argentina) “El análisis económico del derecho como catalizador de la igualdad de género” [The Economic Analysis of Law as a Catalyst for Gender Equality]	Mar. 2023
<i>Decentralized Finance</i> , Berkeley Global Society (Paris) (Invited Speaker)	Sep. 2022
<i>Ninth Annual Corporate & Securities Litigation Workshop - (Chicago)</i> (Invited Moderator) University of Illinois, College of Law	Sep. 2022
<i>Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia (RFJ) 75th Anniversary</i> (Invited Moderator) Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE	Nov. 2021
<i>25th Annual Conf.: Econ. Analysis of the Law & Institutional Change</i> (Invited Moderator) ALACDE-Latin American and Caribbean Law & Economics Association	Oct. 2021

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<i>Law Office of Paolo Ghiara</i> . Associate-Transactional (Contract Law), Genoa	2017–2018
<i>SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees</i> . Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, Genoa	2015–2016
<i>ClaimsConsult s.a.s.</i> . Average Adjuster, marine and cargo claims specialist, Genoa	2015
<i>Kuehne and Nagel S.R.L.</i> . Intern, Genoa	2012
<i>Private practice</i> . Mediator, Labor Law, Immigration Law, tertiary sector, Genoa	2001–2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

ACADEMIC SERVICE

<i>Banking & Finance Law Review</i> - Reviewer	since 2026
<i>European University Institute</i> Guest Reviewer for the EJLS Special Issue on International Law and Technology	2024
Finance and Society cluster (organized event)	2024
<i>European Law Institute</i> Consultative Committee: Succession of Digital Assets Data and Other Digital Remains	since 2024
<i>University of Palermo</i> , Buenos Aires, Argentina Instituto de Análisis Económico del Derecho [Law & Economics Institute]	since 2023
<i>University of California at Berkeley, LL.M. Alumni Ambassador</i> LL.M. Program Application Reviewer	since 2023

BOARD AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Law & Society Association

Chair — CRN46: Corporate and Securities Law in Society	2026–2027
Co-organizer — CRN46: Corporate and Securities Law in Society	2025–2026

WINIR—World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research

Reviewer Journal of Institutional Economics - JOIE	since 2025
WINIR Young Scholars Committee	since 2022

Law as Science Project

Advisor & Project Lead (Interdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Legal Studies)	since 2024
Coordinator & Editor (Legal Method Lab)	2022-2024

Berkeley Global Society

Board Member—Editor of blog posts and social media posts (X/Twitter)	2020–2023
--	-----------

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

[American Society of Comparative Law](#); [European Law Institute](#); ALACDE-Latin American & Caribbean L. & Econ. Association; [SIDE-Italian Society of Law and Economics](#); [AIDC-Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato](#); SIRD-Società Italiana per la Ricerca nel Diritto comparato

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native); English (fluent); Italian (fluent); French (basic knowledge)