

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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| 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 | 2025-2026 |
| 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> , <i>South EU Google Data Governance Chair</i> | 2022–2024 |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Champaign, IL <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> , Legal Writing (Law500) | 2022 |
| 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

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| 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 | 2024 |
| <i>Articles Editor</i> , Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal <i>Research Assistant</i> , College of Law | 2020–2023 |
| Prof. Verity Winship (Small Business Surveys NSF-project) | 2020–2021 |
| Prof. Jeremy McClane (SPACs & Business Development Companies) | Summer 2021 |
| Prof. Colleen Murphy - Migration Game Design Working Group | 2019–2021 |
| 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

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| 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 |

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]

SELECTED ARTICLES

Cryptoexchanges as Imperfect Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW JOURNAL (*forthcoming 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*)

Decentralized (?), But Far From Disorganized: A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs (2026), *submitted to law review*

The Functions of Cryptointermediaries (2026), *submitted to law review*

Cryptoauditors (2026), *submitted to law review*

Understanding the Role of Informal Relationships, Social Norms, and Emerging Power Structures in Decentralized Governance (2025), *under peer review*

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

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)

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

The New ICO Intermediaries, 5 ITALIAN L.J. 731 (2019) (with Verity Winship)

featured in the [Legal Theory Blog](#), as very interesting and recommended

featured in [Tokenizzazioni di azioni e azioni tokens](#), CONSOB: Quaderni Giuridici (2023))

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)

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*

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 & LL.Ms. Prof. Ralph Brubaker Spring 2020
Civil Procedure. Review sessions for LL.Ms. 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

Introduction to Cryptomarkets—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law Spring 2023
In the course “Comparative Law of Digital Markets.” Instructor: Prof. Noah Vardi

AI and its impact in businesses [IA—L’impatto nelle aziende]—University of Roma Tre Fall 2022
In the course “Diritto comparato dei dati e dell’intelligenza artificiale”
[Comparative Law of Data and Artificial Intelligence]. Instructor: Dr. Sirio Zolea

Smart Contracts: Legal Issues and Restitutionary Solutions—Univ. of Illinois, College of Law Fall 2022
In the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor: Paul Kayrouz

Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law May 2022
In the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Instructor: Prof. Giorgio Resta

Blockchain and IP—University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Association (ELSA) June 2021
Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property

ON METHODOLOGY

Experiments in Legal Research—NOVA, School of Law, Lisbon Spring 2024
In the course of Methodology. Instructor: Fabrizio Esposito

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Law—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law Spring 2023
In the Methodology Seminars 2023 of the PhD in Law & Social Change

Comparative Legal Systems-University of Genoa, Department of Law 2016–2018
In the course of Comparative Law

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Cryptogatekeepers as a Response to Conflicts in DeFi
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

DeFi Premise and Promise of Decentralization and Disintermediation
NYCU, 29th International Conference on Technology Law Nov. 2025

DAOs, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study
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

A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs
National Taiwan University, 6th YCC Workshop-Comparative Business & Financial Law May 2025

Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets
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

Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance. Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions
Arizona State University, Governance of Emerging Technologies (from call for papers) May 2024
Nova School of Law, SPEED April 2024

Cryptointermediaries in Decentralized Finance
WINIR—Institutional Innovation & Evolution (from call for papers) Sep. 2023
University of Genoa & University of Roma Tre - New Trends in Corporate Governance July 2023

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| <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

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| <i>WINIR Young Scholars (WYS)</i> | |
| 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 <i>New Trends in Corporate Governance</i> , 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 - <i>Organized Events on Methodology</i> | Fall 2022–Spring 2023 |

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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| <i>ECGI: Different Types of Shareholders and Corporate Decision-Making</i> | June 2025 |
| Bocconi University - ECGI (Discussant) | |
| <i>Fireside Chat: A Fair Conversation about Blockchain Regulation</i> | May 2024 |
| EUI, The Law, Rationalism, and Complexity Working Group (Moderator) | |

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| <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) | Mar. 2023 |
| 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] | |
| <i>Decentralized Finance</i> , Berkeley Global Society (Paris) (Invited Speaker) | Sep. 2022 |
| <i>Ninth Annual Corporate & Securities Litigation Workshop - (Chicago)</i> (Invited Moderator) | Sep. 2022 |
| University of Illinois, College of Law | |
| <i>Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia (RFJ) 75th Anniversary</i> (Invited Moderator) | Nov. 2021 |
| Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE | |
| <i>25th Annual Conf.: Econ. Analysis of the Law & Institutional Change</i> (Invited Moderator) | Oct. 2021 |
| ALACDE-Latin American and Caribbean Law & Economics Association | |

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| <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

European University Institute

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| Guest Reviewer for the EJLS Special Issue on International Law and Technology | 2024 |
| Finance and Society cluster (organized event) | 2024 |

European Law Institute

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| Consultative Committee: Succession of Digital Assets Data and Other Digital Remains | since 2024 |
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University of Palermo, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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| Instituto de Análisis Económico del Derecho [Law & Economics Institute] | since 2023 |
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University of California at Berkeley, LL.M. Alumni Ambassador

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| LL.M. Program Application Reviewer | since 2023 |
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BOARD AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Law & Society Association

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| Chair, co-organizer — 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

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

Law as Science Project

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| 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)