

# VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

+1(929) 229-8784 ◇ +39 339 39 84 1 82 ◇ Fiesole, Italy

[vanessa.villanuevacollao@eui.eu](mailto:vanessa.villanuevacollao@eui.eu) ◇ [GitHub](#) ◇ [SSRN](#)

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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<b>European University Institute</b> , Fiesole, Italy <i>Max Weber Fellow</i> . Mentor: Prof. Mathias Siems	2023-2024
<b>University of Roma Tre - Department of Law</b> , Rome, Italy <i>Research Fellow</i> <a href="#">South EU Google Data Governance Chair</a> Supervisor: Prof. Vincenzo Zeno-Zencovich	2022-2024
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b> , Champaign, IL <i>Senior Editor</i> Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal	2020—2023
<i>Research Assistant, College of Law</i> Prof. Verity Winship	2020-2021
Unicorn Shareholder Suits, Small Business Surveys NSF-project, Lay Perceptions of Settlement Prof. Jeremy McClane	Summer 2021
Research on Special Purpose Acquisition Companies & Business Development Companies <i>Research Assistant, Women and Gender in Global Studies</i> Prof. Colleen Murphy - Migration Game Design Working Group	2019–2021
<a href="#">Developed Migration and Research Design Literature review and bibliography</a> <i>Teaching Assistant, College of Law</i> Contracts (Prof. Ralph Brubaker)	Spring 2020
Civil Procedure (Prof. Verity Winship)	Spring & Fall 2019
<b>Università degli Studi di Genova</b> , Genoa <i>Adjunct Professor</i> , English Law, Master in Legal Translations-Department of Linguistics	2012–2021
<b>Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education</b> , Genoa <i>Researcher</i> , Trust Law. Supervisor: Prof. Maurizio Lupoi	2011–2013

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, College of Law</b> <i>Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)</i>	Exp.2024
Dissertation: Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions Chair: <a href="#">Dean Verity Winship</a> . Committee: <a href="#">Dr. Amitai Aviram</a> , <a href="#">Prof. Jeremy McClane</a> , <a href="#">Dr. Thomas Ulen</a> . Scholarship recipient — Activities: JSD representative, 2019–2023; Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning	
<b>University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor</b> ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	2021
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research - Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Certification	2020
<b>Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education</b> , Milan <i>Master of Trusts (M.A.)</i> , Awards: Full scholarship and stipend	2017
<b>University of California at Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall)</b> Berkeley, CA <i>Master of Laws (LL.M.)</i> . Relevant Coursework: Privacy law, Cybersecurity	2016

Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics, Genoa	2013
<i>Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.), Awards: EU Soc. Fund Scholarship</i>	
Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Law, Genoa	2011
<i>Laurea in Giurisprudenza [Juris Doctor (J.D.) equivalent]</i>	

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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**DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System**, 26 TULANE J. TECHNOL. & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY \_\_ (2024); University of Illinois College of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 23-14.

**Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC**, EUR. J. PRIVACY & TECHNOL. (2023) *forthcoming*

**Empirical Methods in Comparative Law: Data Talks**, 12/2 COMP. L. REV. 55 (2023); University of Illinois College of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 23-13

**New ICO Intermediaries**, 5 ITALIAN LAW JOURNAL 731 (2019), University of Illinois College of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 20-12 (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 (P. Carrière, N. de Luca, M. de Mari, G. Gasparri, T.N. Poli (2023)).

## PUBLICATIONS IN ITALIAN AND SPANISH

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

**El fideicomiso en América Latina, reflexiones para la comparación jurídica [Latin-American Trusts, reflections on Comparative Law]**, 45 ACTUALIDAD CIVIL [ACT. CIV.] 315 (2018) (Peru).

**Diritto Marittimo ed Economia [Maritime and Navigation Law]** 2015 (It.). (with P. Cremonese).

**I contratti conclusi in internet**, in IL RISARCIMENTO DEL DANNO AL CONSUMATORE [Contracts via the Internet, INDEMNIFIABLE DAMAGES ON CONSUMER CASES] TRATTATI 165 (P. Cendon, ed., 2014) (It.).

**Il Waqf: Charitable Trust dei modelli Islamici [Waqf: Islamic model of Charitable Trusts]**, 1 TRUSTS E ATTIVITÀ FIDUCIARIE [T&AF] 148 (2013) (It.).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets

In blockchain, large investors pervasively hold the concentration of power in decentralized organizations due to vote buying or acquisition of voting rights. Retail investors see cryptoassets as yield and are not interested in exercising their voting rights because coordination is still missing. However, instances of aggregation among younger generations have particularly affected corporate governance dynamics: their ability to coordinate, as demonstrated during the GameStop/Robinhood Saga. This proposal aims to exemplify how retail investors' voting rights in decentralized organizations can be incentivized through a lab experiment on cryptoinvestors' behavior.

## **The Functions of Cryptointermediaries**

In this work, I aim to introduce blockchain technological foundations, the role of code, economic incentives, and the structure and features needed to understand emergent intermediary functions in Decentralized Finance (DeFi). This paper debunks the myths of complete decentralization of processes and disintermediation claims, uncovering the persistence of intermediaries in DeFi. By defining cryptointermediaries, it becomes possible to analyze and compare their function in DeFi with the one performed by intermediaries in traditional finance. Through interviews with blockchain companies and case studies, this work explores the structure of the cryptoenterprise, the actors that interact with cryptointermediaries, and the absence of internal governance mechanisms. This absence calls for a need for new types of financial gatekeepers who would be known as cryptogatekeepers.

## **Cryptogatekeepers as a Response to Conflicts of Interest in Decentralized Finance**

This work aims to contribute to the foundational understanding of Decentralized Finance by analyzing the conflicts of interest that emerge from the structure of the cryptoenterprise. It explores cryptogatekeepers as a source for external corporate governance. Cryptogatekeepers could enhance market fairness by preventing misconduct and improving the internal governance of cryptoenterprises. To this end, this work elaborates on the best practices to mitigate conflicts of interest in DeFi. With the performance of specific functions and duty design, cryptogatekeepers in DeFi could potentially become institutional stabilizers and would be particularly useful given the interconnected cross-border nature of these transactions. It further illustrates how existing regulatory frameworks, reputation, and gatekeeping theories could enforce these best practices.

## **Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms**

In this paper, I will argue that algorithms should be integrated into the board structure of data-driven enterprises because of the unmanageable volumes of data they generate. Thus, data governance frameworks are crucial for management but especially for board decision-making. How do we include data governance in the boardroom? I will illustrate how the boardroom can implement data governance by creating a hybrid model: an “algorithm” alongside the human board composition. This proposed boardroom model includes a legal entity (a Data Governance Firm—DGF) for designing an algorithmic board member consistent with the corporation’s purpose. The DGF’s role in developing an algorithmic seat transforms the corporation and its constituencies into complex intersectional relationships based on data. Therefore, rather than being a nexus of contracts, modern corporations and their constituencies can be included in datasets showing a nexus of data.

## **The New Frontier of Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics**

Biotech companies have resorted to blockchain and unregulated vehicles, such as initial coin offerings, as a cheap way of monetizing DNA during the funding stage. This paper will explain how biotech blockchain companies have promised investors control over genetic data but obscured other dynamics within the company ownership structure. Not only do token holders lack voting rights, but they are also in a new vulnerable position: the company has possession of their genetic data. At the same time, traditional shareholders surreptitiously gain more power and control. My analysis will shed light on the relationship between shareholders who invested capital and token holders whose interests depend on the human genetic capital shared with the company and the emerging implications.

## **BLOG POSTS**

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

*Auditing Crypto-Financing*, Duke Law, 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).

## GRANTS

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<i>Early-Stage Research (ESR) Grant, EUI</i>	2023
<i>Max Weber Programme Grant, EUI</i>	
Project: Decentralized Governance. Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets	
<i>Mask Network Grant</i>	2023
Project: The Tech Book	
<i>CULPJ- Consortium for Undergraduate Law &amp; Justice Research Programs Grant</i>	2022
Travel grant for the Global Meeting on Law & Society at Lisbon	
<i>Supplemental Summer Block Grant, Graduate College-University of Illinois</i>	2020
Dissertation Grant	

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<i>Corporate Governance Impact on Corporate Boards</i> —European University Institute	Fall 2023
<i>The US Approach to Sustainable Corporations</i>	
Seminar “Introduction to Corporate Governance”. Instructor: Prof. Mathias Siems	
<i>Introduction to Cryptomarkets</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law	Spring 2023
Within the course “Comparative Law of Digital Markets”. Instructor: Prof. Noah Vardi	
<i>AI and its impact in businesses [IA—L’impatto nelle aziende]</i> —University of Roma Tre	Fall 2022
Within the course “Diritto comparato dei dati e dell’intelligenza artificiale” [Comparative Law of Data and Artificial Intelligence]. Instructor Dr. Sirio Zolea.	
<i>Smart Contracts: Legal Issues and Restitutionary Solutions</i> —Univ. of Illinois, College of Law	Fall 2022
Within the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor Paul Kayrouz.	
<i>Adjunct Instructor - Legal Writing, University of Illinois, College of Law</i>	July-Aug. 2022
Small section within the course “Law500”, Profs. Moritz & McDade	
<i>Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law	May 2022
In the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Prof. Giorgio Resta.	
<i>Blockchain and IP</i> —University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Ass’n (ELSA)	June 2021
Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property	
<i>Comparative Legal Systems</i> -University of Genoa, Department of Law	2016-2018
Within the Course of Comparative Law	

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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<i>Cryptointermediaries in Decentralized Finance</i>	
<a href="#">WINIR—Institutional Innovation &amp; Evolution</a> (from call for papers)	Sept. 2023
<a href="#">University of Genoa &amp; University of Roma Tre - New Trends in Corporate Governance</a>	Jul. 2023
<i>Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms</i>	
<a href="#">WINIR—Polycentric Governance and the Challenges of the 21st Century</a> (call for papers)	Sept. 2022
<a href="#">Law &amp; Society–Global Meeting</a> , Iscte—University Institute of Lisbon (from call for papers)	July 2022
<i>The New Frontier in Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics</i>	
<a href="#">Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline</a> ,	Oct.2021
Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH: European Protection Law of Individuals in Relation to New Technologies Roundtable (from call for papers)	
<a href="#">National Business Law Scholars Conference</a> —University of Tennessee at Knoxville	June 2021

Law & Soc’y–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>	
17th Annual Conference of the Italian Soc’y of Law and Economics (SIDE)	Dec. 2021
Panel: Comparative Law & Econ. (from call for papers).	
American Soc’y of Comparative Law “Annual Conference”	Oct. 2020
Panel Law & Methodology (from call for papers)	
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>	
Exploring cryptocurrencies & other related markets-roundtable. L.& Soc’y Conference	May 2020
University of Luxembourg	Nov. 2019

## CONFERENCES AND SPEAKER SERIES ORGANIZED

WINIR - Young Scholars Call for Papers: “Technology and Institutional Change”	Sept. 2023
Symposium New Trends in Corporate Governance-Univ. of Genoa & Roma Tre Univ., Genoa	Jul. 2023
WINIR - Inaugural Young Scholars Workshop - Call for Abstracts: “Technology and Society”	May 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 ProjectOrganized Events on Methodology	Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Invited Moderator, <i>Artificial Intelligence &amp; Institutional Change - WINIR Conference</i>	Sep. 2023
Invited Moderator, <i>Fintech &amp; Financial Innovation. WINIR Pre-Conference Workshop</i>	Sep. 2023
Invited Moderator, <i>Inaugural WINIR Young Scholars Workshop</i>	May. 2023
Invited Speaker, <i>Introduction to the Law &amp; Economics Institute-IAED-</i>	Mar. 2023
Universidad de Palermo (Argentina) “El análisis económico del derecho como catalizador de la igualdad de género” [The Economic Analisis of Law as a Catalyst for Gender Equality]	
Invited Speaker, <i>Decentralized Finance</i> , Berkeley Global Society (Paris)	Sep. 2022
Invited Moderator, <i>Ninth Annual Corporate &amp; Securities Litigation Workshop - (Chicago)</i>	Sep. 2022
University of Illinois, College of Law	
Invited Moderator, <i>Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia (RFJ) 75th Anniversary</i>	Nov. 2021
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE Invited Moderator, <i>25th Annual Conf.: Econ. Analysis of the Law &amp; Institutional Change</i>	Oct. 2021
Latin American,Caribbean and Iberic Law and Economics Association–ALACDE	

## APPOINTMENTS TO RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

Instituto de Análisis Económico del Derecho [Law & Economics Institute]	2023
University of Palermo - Buenos Aires, Argentina	

## PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

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<b>Law Office of Paolo Ghiara.</b> Associate. Genoa	2017–2018
<b>SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees. Genoa</b> Regional Project Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, quality of social housing buildings initiative	2015–2016
<b>ClaimsConsult s.a.s.</b> Average Adjuster, marine and cargo claims specialist. Genoa	2015
<b>Kuehne and Nagel S.R.L.</b> Intern. Genoa	2012
<b>Private practice</b> Mediator, Labor Law, Immigration Law, tertiary sector. Genoa	2001–2011

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- [AALS](#)—Association of American Law Schools; [AIDC](#)—Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato
- [American Society of Comparative Law](#); ALACDE—Latin American & Caribbean L.& Economics Ass’n
- Berkeley Law LL.M. Alumni Ambassador Application Reviewer (Reviewed LLM applications, 2023)
- [Berkeley Global Society](#) - Board Member (2020-2023) Editor of [blog posts](#) and social media posts ([Twitter](#)).
- [European Law Institute](#); [Law & Society Association](#)
- [Law as Science Project](#) - Coordinator & Editor ([Legal Method Lab](#))
- [WINIR](#)—World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research-WINIR Young Scholars Cmte.

## LANGUAGES

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Spanish (native), English (fluent), Italian (fluent), French (basic knowledge).