

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Bocconi University , Milan, Italy <i>Academic Fellow</i> , Department of Law	2024–2025
European University Institute (EUI) , Fiesole, Italy <i>Visiting Fellow</i> , Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies <i>Max Weber Fellow</i>	2024–2025 2023–2024
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
Università degli Studi di Genova , 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, Urbana-Champaign, College of Law <i>Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)</i> - Pass without revisions Dissertation: Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions Chair: Verity Winship . Committee: Amitai Aviram , Jeremy McClane , Thomas Ulen . Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning <i>Senior Editor</i> Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal <i>Research Assistant, College of Law</i> Prof. Verity Winship Unicorn Shareholder Suits, Small Business Surveys NSF-project, Lay Perceptions of Settlement Prof. Jeremy McClane 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 <i>Teaching Assistant, College of Law</i> Contracts (Prof. Ralph Brubaker) Civil Procedure (Prof. Verity Winship)	2024 2020–2023 2020–2021 Summer 2021 2019–2021 Spring 2020 Spring & Fall 2019
University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Structural Equation Models for Latent Variables Categorical Data Analysis	2021 2020
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 [Juris Doctor (J.D.) equivalent]</i>	2011

CERTIFICATIONS

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System, 26 *TULANE J. TECHNOL. & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY* 75 (2024).

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

Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC, *EUR. J. PRIVACY & TECHNOL.* (2024) *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

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

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. This research aims to exemplify how retail investors' voting rights in decentralized organizations can be incentivized through an online experiment on cryptoinvestors' behavior.

The Functions of Cryptointermediaries

In this work, I 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 function 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 contributes to the foundational understanding of Decentralized Finance by identifying and analyzing the conflicts of interest that emerge from the structure of the cryptoenterprise. This article examines how cryptointermediaries, acting as cryptogatekeepers or a source of external corporate governance, can enhance the internal governance of cryptoenterprises by reducing vertical conflicts. It outlines best practices to address information asymmetries, pseudonymity, and oversight mechanisms for cryptointermediaries.

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms

In this paper, I 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 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

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).

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

JSD Scholarship, University of Illinois-College of Law 2018–2023

Master Scholarship and Stipend, Uniforma 2017

Master Scholarship, European Social Fund-Liguria Region 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES

Adjunct Instructor - Legal Writing, University of Illinois, College of Law July–Aug. 2022
Small section within the course "Law500". Profs. Moritz & McDade

Teaching Assistant - Contracts, University of Illinois, College of Law Spring 2020
Review sessions for LLMS and JDs. Prof. Ralph Brubaker

Teaching Assistant - Civil Procedure, University of Illinois, College of Law Spring & Fall 2019
Review sessions for LLMS. Prof. Verity Winship

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

Introduction to Cryptomarkets—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law Spring 2023
Within 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
Within 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
Within 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’ Ass’n (ELSA) June 2021
Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property

ON METHODOLOGY

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

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

Comparative Legal Systems-University of Genoa, Department of Law 2016–2018
Within the Course of Comparative Law

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

DAOs, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study
[La Sapienza University - SIDE/ISLE, Italian Association of Law & Economics](#) Dec. 2024

Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets
[University of Pittsburgh - WINIR Institutional Resilience & Recovery](#) Sept. 2024
[BlockchainGov Research Workshop](#) July 2024
[Bocconi University - Corporate Governance and Reputation](#) July 2024
[EUI - Navigating Trends in Financial Markets & Corporate Governance](#) July 2024
[MWF Conference “Continuity or Rapture”.](#)
Panel: The Return of Authority in Digital Governance-EUI June 2024
[Arizona State University - GETS Conference](#) May 2024
[University of Westminster-CETI](#) Mar. 2024

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

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

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms
[WINIR—Polycentric Governance and the Challenges of the 21st Century](#)(call for papers) Sept. 2022
[Law & Society–Global Meeting, Iscte—University Institute of Lisbon](#) (from call for papers) July 2022

The New Frontier in Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics
[Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline,](#) Oct.2021
[Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH: European Protection Law of Individuals in Relation to](#)
[New Technologies Roundtable](#) (from call for papers)
[National Business Law Scholars Conference—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

Conflicts of Interest in DeFi: The Duties of Cryptointermediaries
[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

University of Pittsburg-WINIR - Young Scholars Workshop, “Bridging Divides”	Sept. 2024
EUI, MWP Conference “Continuity or Rupture: Towards an Interdisciplinary Inquiry”	Feb.–June 2024
EUI & Law & Science, “Capitalist Law” presentation of Katharina Pistor’s Book, co-sponsored by the EUI Finance & Soc’y Cluster	Mar. 2024
WINIR - Young Scholars, Call for Papers: “Technology and Institutional Change”	Sept. 2023
Symposium <i>New Trends in Corporate Governance</i> -Univ. of Genoa & Roma Tre Univ.,	July 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 Project - Organized Events on Methodology	Fall 2022–Spring 2023

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

<i>Fireside Chat: A Fair Conversation about Blockchain Regulation</i>	May 2024
EUI The Law, Rationalism, and Complexity Working Group (Moderator)	
<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
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

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Law Office of Paolo Ghiara. Associate. Genoa 2017–2018

SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees. Genoa 2015–2016
Regional Project Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, quality of social housing buildings initiative

ClaimsConsult s.a.s. Average Adjuster, marine and cargo claims specialist. Genoa 2015

Kuehne and Nagel S.R.L. Intern. Genoa 2012

Private practice Mediator, Labor Law, Immigration Law, tertiary sector. Genoa 2001–2011

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

ACADEMIC SERVICE

European University Institute

[Guest Reviewer for the EJLS Special Issue on International Law and Technology](#) 2024

[Finance and Society cluster](#) (organized event) 2024

Department of Law, December and February Papers (discussant) 2023–2024

European Law Institute

[Consultative Committee: Succession of Digital Assets Data and Other Digital Remains](#) 2024

University of California at Berkeley, LL.M. Alumni Ambassador

LL.M. Program Application Reviewer 2023–2024

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

JSD Representative 2019–2023

BOARD AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Law as Science Project

Advisor & Project Lead ([Interdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Legal Studies](#)) 2024-current

Coordinator & Editor ([Legal Method Lab](#)) 2022-2024

WINIR—World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research

WINIR Young Scholars Committee 2022-current

Berkeley Global Society

Board Member 2020–2023

Editor of [blog posts](#) and social media posts ([Twitter](#)). 2020–2022

OTHER MEMBERSHIP

[AALS—Association of American Law Schools](#); [AIDC—Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato](#)
[American Society of Comparative Law](#); [ALACDE—Latin American & Caribbean L.& Econ. Ass'n](#)
[European Law Institute](#); [Law & Society Association](#); [SIDE-Italian Society of Law and Economics](#)

LANGUAGES

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