

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Roma Tre - Department of Law *Rome*
Research Fellow [South EU Google Data Governance Chair](#). Supervisor: Prof. Vincenzo Zeno-Zencovich 2022-2024

University of Illinois - College of Law *Champaign, IL*
Adjunct Instructor - Legal Writing, Profs. Moritz & McDade July-Aug. 2022

Teaching Assistant
Contracts (Prof. Ralph Brubaker) Spring 2020
Civil Procedure (Prof. Verity Winship) Spring & Fall 2019

Research Assistant
College of Law
Prof. Verity Winship 2020-2021

Unicorns Shareholders Suit, Small Business Surveys NSF-project, Lay Perceptions of Settlement
Prof. Jeremy McClane Summer 2021

Research on Special Purpose Acquisition Companies & Business Development Companies
Women & Gender in Global Studies
Prof. Dr. Colleen Murphy - Migration Game Design Working Group 2019-21
[Developed Migration and Research Design Literature review and bibliography](#)

Senior Editor
Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal 2020—ongoing

Università degli Studi di Genova *Genoa*
Adjunct Professor, English Law, Master in Legal Translations-Department of Linguistics 2012-2021
Guest Lecturer, Comparative Law course-Department of Law 2016-2018

Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education *Genoa*
Researcher, Trust Law. Supervisor: Prof. Maurizio Lupoi 2011-2013

EDUCATION

Juris Science Doctor (J.S.D.) candidate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Expected 2023
Thesis: Conflicts of Interests in Decentralized Finance: Duties of Crypto-Intermediaries
Chair: [Dean Verity Winship](#). Committee: [Dr. Amitai Aviram](#), [Prof. Jeremy McClane](#), [Dr. Thomas Ulen](#).

Partial tuition scholarship recipient — Activities: JSD representative, 2019-2022;
Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning

University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research 2021
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research 2020
- Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Certification

Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education *Milan*
Master of Trusts (M.A.), Honors/Awards: Full tuition scholarship and stipend 2017

University of California at Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall) *Berkeley, CA*
Master of Laws (LL.M.). Relevant Coursework: Privacy law, Cybersecurity 2016

Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics *Genoa*
Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.), Honors/Awards: EU Social Fund Scholarship 2013

Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Law *Genoa*
Juris Doctor (J.D.) 2011

WORKS IN PROGRESS

DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System

DeFi, or Decentralized Finance, is the technological distribution of financial services empowered by blockchain. This alternative market deals with the same processes of traditional finance involving the creation, management, and investment of money and financial assets. However, the fundamental difference in DeFi gravitates around the multiple financial intermediaries substituted with applications in permissionless systems that automatize cryptoassets trade (a kind of digital asset). This article explores the characteristics of DeFi and the relevant players, evidencing how decentralization and disintermediation are misnomers in innovation technology in Web 3.0, the transactions, and the legal issues (and regulatory gaps) from the US perspective.

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms

In this paper, I plan to 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 to include data governance in the boardroom? This article illustrates how data governance can be implemented in the boardroom by creating a hybrid model: an “algorithm” next to the human board composition. This 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 is to transform 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 while funding the company. This paper explains 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 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. This paper’s 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 from this scenario.

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

The technology around genomics has moved at a swift pace while reducing the entire sequencing costs. Biotech advancement increased the demand for gene sequencing services and data storage, creating privacy risks and making de-identification difficult. To mitigate those risks, genomic startups have turned to cryptographic technologies like Blockchain. However, Blockchain is not a panacea, and privacy issues in genomics are a concern that is hardly addressed from a bioethical or philosophical perspective. The most challenging obstacle plaintiffs face in privacy lawsuits is assessing the injury—the connection between privacy threats and concrete harms. This paper explains why genomic companies that use Blockchain expose their users to specific harms that fall outside agencies and regulations radars by providing some examples of injuries-in-fact.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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).

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 Patrizia Cremonese).

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

CONFERENCES AND SPEAKER SERIES ORGANIZED

- Symposium: New Trends in Corporate Governance - University of Genoa & Roma Tre University *Genoa*, 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

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms

- [WINIR—Polycentric Governance and the Challenges of the 21st Century](#) (from 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](#), Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH: European Protection Law of Individuals in Relation to New Technol. Roundtable (from call for papers) Oct.2021
- [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 Crypto-Intermediaries (Thesis proposal)

- [Rijeka Doctoral Conference 2021—University of Rijeka](#) Dec. 2021
- 10th National SJD Roundtable—Georgetown University Law Center April 2021

Empirical Methods in Law: Data Talks

- [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)

New ICO Intermediaries

- [Exploring cryptocurrencies and other related markets-roundtable](#). Law & Soc’y Nat’l Conference May 2020
- University of Luxembourg Nov. 2019

GUEST LECTURES

- Introduction to Cryptomarkets—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law* Spring 2023
- Guest lecturer 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
- Guest lecturer 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—University of Illinois, College of Law* Fall 2022
- Guest lecturer 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
- Guest Lecturer in the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Prof. Giorgio Resta.
- Blockchain and IP—University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Ass’n (ELSA)* June 2021
- Guest Lecturer at the Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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

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).

EXPERIENCE

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| Law Office of Paolo Ghiara. Associate. Genoa | 2017–2018 |
| SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees | 2015–2016 |
| Regional Project Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, quality of social housing buildings initiative. Genoa | |
| 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 |

MEMBERSHIPS

- [AALS](#)—Association of American Law Schools; [AIDC](#)—Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato
- [American Society of Comparative Law](#); [ALACDE](#)—Latin American & Caribbean Law & Economics Ass'n
- [Berkeley Global Society](#) - 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 - Working Group for WINIR Young Scholars Committee.

LANGUAGES

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