

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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**Maastricht Centre  
for European Law**



**Maastricht University**



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# Management Team



Bruno de Witte  
MCEL co-director



Ellen Vos  
MCEL co-director



Maja Brkan  
MCEL associate  
director



Paul Dermine  
MCEL forums coordinator  
(2018-2019)



Elin Börjedal  
MCEL forums coordinator  
(2019-2020)



Eva Bukaiova  
MCEL website coordinator  
(2019, Sept-Dec)



## New Members



**Lilian Tsourdi** joined the Department of International and European Law and MCEL as an Assistant Professor. In 2019 she was awarded an NWO VENI grant. Lilian is also a visiting professor at Sciences Po Paris and a member of the coordination team of the 'Odysseus Academic Network' for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe. Previously, she held various positions and was amongst others Lecturer at the University of Oxford (Refugee Studies Centre) and a Max Weber postdoctoral fellow at the European University Institute (EUI). She obtained her PhD from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Lilian's research interests lie at the intersection of EU Law, Public International Law, and public policy/administration with a focus on human rights, asylum, migration, and governance theories.



**Merijn Chamon** joined the Department of International and European Law and MCEL as an Assistant Professor. Previously, Merijn was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Flemish Research Foundation at Ghent European Law Institute where he also obtained his PhD in 2015. His research interests lie in particular in EU constitutional law, EU institutional law, comitology, EU agencies, EU internal market law, the law of EU external relations and EU procedural law. Apart from a wide range of academic publications, Merijn also occasionally published opinion articles in Belgian newspapers.



**Matteo Bonelli** first joined Maastricht University and MCEL in 2014 as a PhD researcher, where he defended his thesis ('A Union of Values - Safeguarding Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the EU Member States') in June 2019. After working as a post-doc researcher at the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan, he returned to Maastricht in September 2019 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of International and European Law. He researches mostly in the areas of EU constitutional and institutional law, and more specifically on democratic and rule of law crises in the EU, EU fundamental rights, and effective judicial protection in the EU.



**Carlo Colombo** joined MCEL in 2019. He is a lecturer at the Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University. He holds a Ph.D. (2015) from the University of Pavia (Italy). Carlo's research focuses on EU and comparative administrative law, particularly on the dynamics between law and governance in multi-level and multi-actor settings. His research interests span from the multi-level coordination of administrations in the field of EU state aid law to the new modes of governance in the EU and at local level. He also conducts interdisciplinary research combining different research methods.



**Francesco Spera** studied law in Rome, at the Luiss University, where he specialized in regional and administrative law, writing a thesis on comparative law which received the title of most valuable thesis. He undertook an Erasmus Placement at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, where he worked for various Italian and European institutions as a political consultant. Through a scholarship from the Puglia region, he followed the Masters in European law in Maastricht, where he was admitted to participate in the Honours programme. In the end, after a new research project in Brussels, Francesco returned to Italy, where he became a lawyer. Finally, he started on January 15, 2020, as a Ph.D. from the University of Maastricht.

Francesco's project concerns the analysis of the legality of the use of soft law in external relations by the European Union. He works in the sector plan Globalization and Law and is a member of the department of international and European law.

# Trainees

## Academic year 2018-2019

In the academic year 2018-2019, MCEL was supported by three trainees:

**Ilaria Piovesan** has completed the MA in European Public Affairs at the Maastricht University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences after having graduated (cum laude) from the LL.B. European Law School programme at Maastricht University. Her traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2017 and ended in June 2019.



**Kejda Revaj** completed the LL.M. International and European Tax Law, after having graduated (cum laude) from the LL.B. European Law School programme at Maastricht University. Her traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2018 and ended in June 2019.



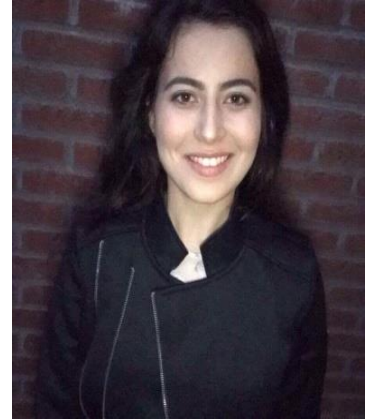
**Alexandra Zaytseva** completed the LL.B. European Law School programme. Her traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2018 and ended in June 2019.



## Academic year 2019-2020

In the academic year 2019-2020, MCEL is being supported by two trainees:

**Busra Ataman** is currently completing the final year of the LL.B. European Law School programme. Her traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2019.



**Leo Kapetanovic** is currently completing the final year of the LL.B. European Law School programme. His traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2019.





## Grants and Awards

**In January**, Lisa Waddington joined the Marie Curie Innovative Training Network DARE (Disability Advocacy Research in Europe). The Network received funding of more than 4 million euro from the EU and involves the recruitment and training of fifteen Early Stage Researchers (ESRs or PhD researchers). Three ESRs commenced work within the framework of Network in September 2019. The Principal Investigator working on the Network at Maastricht is Professor Lisa Waddington.

In addition, she was part of a tender which successfully bid to run the European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination 2019-2023. Professor Waddington is the senior expert on disability within the Network. She is also a senior expert working on the Study Supporting the Evaluation of the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020). The evaluation will be completed in 2020. Lastly, Lisa Waddington, along with Andrea Broderick, has been commissioned to write a report on the European Disability Strategy by the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament.



**In May**, Hoai-Thu Nguyen was awarded a fellowship for the academic year 2019/2020 from Democracy Reporting International in Berlin. Re:constitution is a project dealing with the exchange and analysis of democracy and rule of law in Europe, which awards 20 young scholars each year with a fellowship. The fellowship was granted in order to fund her research project entitled 'Our Mind, Our Business? - Protecting Democratic Will-Formation in the EU in the Digital Age'. She will in turn spend three months in Berlin with Democracy Reporting International and three months at the University of Zurich for her research.

**In June**, Matteo Bonelli defended with cum laude his PhD dissertation titled 'A Union of Values - Safeguarding Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the EU Member States'. Besides, he was granted an Emile Noël Fellowship position at the Jean Monnet Center of New York University, where he was working on a research project 'The past, present and future of EU membership: a constitutional analysis'.

**In July**, Andrea Ott was awarded funding from the European Commission for a Jean Monnet project. The Jean Monnet project NOVA-EU (Innovating and Transforming the European Union) will enable MCEL to organise four workshops and a final conference between 2019 to 2021. NOVA-EU aims to stimulate discussion and research into four key challenges that heavily impact the European Union's governance structure, regulatory framework, identity and, most importantly, its future. These four key challenges are the following: (1) Digitalisation, Ethics and EU Fundamental Rights, (2) Migration and EU Borders, (3) The internal and external dimension of sustainable Europe and (4) the EU Rule of Law and Democracy.

Lilian Tsourdi received an award from the NWO's (Netherlands Science Foundation) Principal Investigator VENI scheme, for the project: 'Financial Governance: Policy Implementation and Solidarity through EU funding'. In September she started with the implementation of this project.

**In November**, Andrea Broderick has been appointed as National Director, and Director on behalf of Maastricht University, in the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA/Global Campus Europe) in Venice.



## Events

MCEL Members also participated in and organised various conferences, workshops and lectures.

**In January**, Ellen Vos and Kristel de Smedt launched the H2020 REconciling sScience, Innovation and Precaution through the Engagement of Stakeholders (RECIPES) project at the opening conference in Maastricht. This project will address the topical question as to how to protect health and safety of persons and the environment whilst promoting innovation. At the conference, the eleven project partners presented the aims and phases of the project. First, RECIPES will carry out legal research on the precautionary principle and develop case studies on highly debated issues such as glyphosate, endocrine disrupters, GMOs and New Gene-Editing techniques. RECIPES will also develop scenarios for the future application of the precautionary principle and co-create new tools and approaches to the precautionary principle to help policymakers and other stakeholders to assess risks and uncertainty and allow decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis, responding to the question how to responsibly decide on precaution and innovation.

**In March**, Maja Brkan, Bruno de Witte and Šejla Imamović presented at the conference 'The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Member States', which took place at Oxford University. Maja Brkan and Šejla Imamović presented on 'EU Member States' Approaches towards Article 52 of the Charter: Twenty-Eight Shades of Interpretations?' and Bruno de Witte held a presentation titled 'What did ten years of a supranational bill of rights do to the federal balance in Europe?'. Zvezda Vankova delivered a seminar on Circular Migration at the Law faculty of Lund university. She presented the findings of her PhD book which sheds light on the different legal and policy instruments that have been adopted to implement circular migration policies within the EU and their consequences for the rights of migrant workers. Lisa Waddington presented the work that the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) has done on disability assessment in Europe at the Disability High Level Group at the European Commission in Brussels. Andrea Broderick gave a keynote on the technology-related obligations contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at an EU Cost Action in Bucharest.

**In April**, MCEL hosted an event jointly with the Centre for European Research in Maastricht (CERiM) on 'Brexit: Legal and Political Implications. The event featured two main panels of experts. The former concerned 'Brexit in the light of the EU and Member States' constitutional principles' and was chaired by Maja Brkan. The first presentation on 'Brexit - Constitutional Decisions of the UK and the EU' was given by Thomas Beukers, Senior Legal Advisor of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently Diane Fromage discussed the 'Scrutiny of the Brexit process within the EU27: National parliaments and the EP' and Bruno De Witte talked about 'The Impact of the Withdrawal Agreement on EU Law'. Finally, Laura Dohmen from the Faculty of Law discussed 'The UK's participation in EU agencies post-Brexit'. The latter panel was chaired by Bruno De Witte and concerned the interplay between political science and international law in light of Brexit. The first two presentations were 'The Politics of Brexit' by Thomas Christiansen and 'Why Brexit shouldn't be the end of the referendum?' by Lea Raible from the Faculty of Law. The latter two presentations were given by John Cotter on 'Like trying to pick up mercury with a fork': The Good Friday Agreement, Brexit, and the 'Irish' Border Problem' and Jure Vidmar, professor of Public International law here in Maastricht, on 'Brexit as Functional Secession'.

Ellen Vos and Natassa Athanassiadou presented their preliminary findings of the study *Conflicts of Interests and EU agencies* before the European Parliament during the meeting of the PETI committee.

**In May**, Andrea Broderick was invited to give her regular (approximately twice yearly) lecture at the Europäische Rechtsakademie (ERA) in Trier, Germany. Her seminar on this occasion focused on EU disability non-discrimination law, and specifically the concepts of 'disability' and 'reasonable accommodation' in EU law and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The seminar was provided for the benefit of legal practitioners and members of non-governmental organisations. Furthermore, Lilian Tsourdi convened the panel 'The rise of agencification in EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice: multidisciplinary perspectives' with the participation of Profs. Valsamis Mitsilegas, Juan Santos-Vara, Drs. Niovi Vavoula and Ariadna Ripoll-Servent as part of the 2019 Biennial Conference of the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) in Denver, USA. Zvezda Vankova delivered a guest lecture on European migration law at Ghent University.





**In June**, together with several colleagues, Andrea Broderick organised the Annual Toogdag for the Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research, which took place in Maastricht. The event was co-organised with Prof. Fons Coomans, Dr. Roland Moerland and Claire Boot. Monica Claes, Bruno Witte and Diane Fromage organised the conference: 'National constitutional identity 10 years on'. The conference offered a reflection on the use of the national constitutional identity clause ten years after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and proposed a new evaluation of this concept, as well as a new analysis of its functions



**In September**, The MCEL Opening Event of the academic year 2019/2020 took place and was devoted to the precautionary principle in EU law and policy. The precautionary principle, which is a general principle of EU law, allows for

regulatory action to prevent risks to health and the environment even if there is scientific uncertainty surrounding the existence of the risks, its causes or the magnitude of its effects. Opponents of the principle claim that it is likely to hinder innovation, leading to the EU missing out on the benefits of new technologies and having a negative impact on industry gains and employment. This criticism has led to the industry proposing the so-called 'innovation principle' which is welcomed by DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

These claims were critically addressed in the opening event where Bruno de Witte briefly introduced the precautionary principle. Ellen Vos together with Kristel de Smedt presented the first findings of their ongoing EU Horizon 2020 RECIPES project, discussing the legal dimensions of the precautionary principle and its use in secondary legislation and case law of the Court. Marjan Peeters elaborated on the precautionary principle in the context

of climate change and the role of the Court of Justice of the EU in this regard. Finally, Geert van Calster from KU Leuven critically analysed the so-called innovation principle and how it poses challenges to the precautionary principle. After that the audience engaged with the speakers on questions such as the role of precaution beyond the health and environmental domain. Sabrina Röttger-Wirtz chaired the discussion.

**In October**, Maja Brkan discussed her paper 'European Democracy and Free Elections in the Age of Artificial Intelligence' during the 4th European Privacy Law Scholars Conference (PLSC Europe), at the University of Amsterdam. Marjan Peeters organised an expert workshop aiming to lift off sustainable academic travelling at the UM Campus Brussels



**In November**, Maja Brkan was a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Law of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where she further deepened her research on the interplay of EU fundamental rights, democracy and technology. Lilian Tsourdi convened a panel on agencification in the area of freedom, security and justice in Finlandia Hall, Helsinki. Sarah Schoenmaekers was invited to attend a conference at Université Paris-Est Créteil, where she presented a paper on 'The influence of Dutch public law principles on public procurement contracts in the Netherlands'.

Annalisa Volpato and Ellen Vos organised an expert workshop to discuss the revised rules for the risk assessment on food and for the governance and operation of the European Food Safety Authority with academics and practitioners at the UM Campus in Brussels. In addition to Annalisa and Ellen also Natassa Athanassiadou and Sabrina Röttger-Wirtz gave presentations during this workshop. As part of her VENI project, Vigjilencia Abazi organised a one-day workshop bringing together leading scholars, experts, practitioners as well as whistleblowers in order to tackle the issue of whistleblowing from a multi-disciplinary perspective and address both theoretical and practical views.

Andrea Ott co-organised a research workshop on 10 years Eastern Partnership at UM Campus Brussels. Furthermore, she delivered a lecture at the 5th CLEER summer school on EU external relations law at UM Campus Brussels, which she co-organised. At the EUI in Florence, Paul Dermine presented a paper on 'The future of fiscal governance in the Eurozone'.

Marjan Peters organised a workshop on environmental law with the title of 'Minimising the impact of aviation emissions: what way forward?'. Finally, Ana Ramalho was appointed EU Copyright Counsel at Google in Amsterdam.

**In December**, Ellen Vos, Mariolina Eliantonio, Merijn Chamon and Esther Versluis organised the conference 'EU Agencies as 'Inbetweeners'?: The Relationship between EU Agencies and Member States' as part of the TARN network. The conference aimed at addressing the question of how the relation between EU agencies and Member States is shaped in various policy areas.



The EU agencies conference also hosted the launch of the book edited by H. Hofmann, E. Vos and M. Chamon, *The External Dimension of EU Agencies and Bodies. Law and Policy*, Edward Elgard 2019.

Furthermore, as part of the Maastricht-Europe Days, Ellen Vos organised the Maastricht EU Agencies debate in the Premiere Room of the Lumiere Cinema that hosted 160 persons. At this event Jukka Malm, deputy Director ECHA, Berndt Koerner, deputy Director Frontex, Alberto Spagnolli, senior policy advisor EFSA, Monique Goyens, DG European Consumer Organisation BEUC and Alex Brenninkmeijer, Member of Court of Auditors discussed with the audience the ways that EU agencies can improve the lives of EU citizens and how EU agencies can help to bring Europe closer to its citizens.



Also in the framework of the Maastricht-Europe Days, Maja Brkan conducted an interview with Roy op het Veld (Editor in Chief of De Limburger) and Danielle Arets (Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Eindhoven) on the threats of fake news and political advertising for the European democracy. Maja Brkan also gave a guest lecture at the University of Helsinki, titled 'Targeted political advertising and data-driven political campaigns: a threat to European democracy?'.

From 6 to 14 December 2019, Andrea Broderick represented Maastricht University in Pretoria, South Africa, as the EMA Director and National (Dutch) Director of the European Master Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (Venice). Together with all participants of the Assembly of the former which was founded in 2002, Andrea discussed the transition from the organ formerly known as the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) into the Global Campus of Human Rights' (GCHR).



## Research seminars

The MCEL research seminars are monthly research events where distinguished scholars discuss current developments of EU law. The following research seminars took place in 2019:

**In January**, the research seminar hosted two main speakers. The first was Advocate General Gerard Hogan. He took office at the Court of Justice of the EU in September 2018, and recently delivered his opinion in a high-profile copyright case (Case C-299/17). Previously, he served as a Judge of the Irish High Court and the Irish Court of Appeal where he was involved in several crucial privacy cases.

The second speaker, acting as discussant, was Eleni Kosta. She is Professor of Technology Law and Human Rights at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society (Tilburg University). Eleni is conducting research on privacy and data protection, specialising in electronic communications and new technologies. The title of their presentation was 'Data Privacy after Tele2 Sverige' and featured a discussion regarding the most recent developments in the field of law, privacy and technology.

**In February**, the research seminar featured a presentation by Prof. Elise Muir, former Associate Director of MCEL, and currently Head of the Institute for European Law of the KU Leuven and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe.

She presented the main findings of her newly published book 'EU Equality Law: The First Fundamental Rights' Policy of the EU'. The subject of the presentation focused on the main components of this legal framework, arguing in particular that the boundaries between EU primary and secondary law are increasingly blurred in this field.

**In March**, the guest of the research seminar was Willem Janssen, Assistant Professor in Public Economic law at the law department of Utrecht University, and a researcher at the Public Procurement Research Centre, with a presentation titled: 'The right to self-organisation: harnessing the Member States from the influence of EU public procurement law?' The main point of discussion was the lack of discretion in public procurement matters afforded to the Member States as a consequence of European Directives on the matter.

**In May**, MCEL hosted Joanne Scott, Professor of EU Law at the European University Institute. Her presentation addressed the question of 'The Global Reach of EU Environmental Law: Is Complicity the New Effects?' and was followed by a discussion led by Marjan Peeters.

The main focus of the discussion was on the EU's environmental footprint and on the legislative measures aimed at reducing it. One of the ways to do so are true territorial extensions, by which the EU legislates in environmental matters in third countries. It was

argued that such measures are lawful where carefully designed, as they may also be justified in order to prevent the EU from being complicit in environmental wrongdoing in third countries.



**The Global Reach of EU Environmental Law:  
Is Complicity the New Effects?**

**In October**, the research seminars resumed with a talk by Pieter van Cleynenbreugel from the University of Liege. The speaker discussed one of the most pressing and longstanding issues of European integration, namely the horizontal direct effect of rights stemming from EU law. In his talk, titled 'The horizontal application of free movement rights: caught between Union legislature and the Court of Justice?', he discussed the personal scope of Treaties and secondary law provisions with regard to freedom of movement obligations between private parties.



**In November**, Julio Baquero Cruz, currently employed at the European Commission's legal service, presented his most recent and acclaimed book 'What's left of the Law of Integration?'. In the book the Spanish scholar discusses some of the most fundamental issues of the European integration process such as Union citizenship, the principle of primacy, equality and human dignity; the scope of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and many more. He also argues for an increased use of international law as a softer alternative to Union law. The lecture concerned in particular a solidarity and human rights perspective in the development of European integration and its application to present events



**In December**, the last research seminar of 2019 featured Janja Hojnik from the University of Maribor. The lecture, titled 'Freedom of pricing in the light of EU internal market law: single prices for the single market?', outlined some of the ambiguities found in regulatory endeavours by the EU legislators in tackling direct and indirect price discrimination depending on the nationality or residence of European consumers. This was put also in context with the freedom of contract of the parties, which seems to be diminished despite the presence of such practices.



# Research Forums

MCEL also organises monthly forums where members - PhD scholars as well as more senior scholars - present their current research or discuss current developments relating to EU law.

**In January**, the first research forum of 2019 hosted Natassa Athanasiadou. Two recent judgments by the ECJ and the General Court respectively, namely *C-57/16 Client Earth* and *T-540/15 De Capitani* were discussed. These judgments addressed the conditions for the exercise of the EU fundamental right of access to documents in ongoing legislative procedures and, more specifically, in the stages of those procedures that normally take place behind closed doors e.g. within trilogues. Such right to access of documents has been strengthened as opposed to previous case law, which might have repercussions on the decision making process.

**In February**, MCEL hosted the academic debate 'The Spitzenkandidaten Process: Past Experience and Challenges Ahead' which brought together experts in law, political science and students to discuss the upcoming EP elections and the future of the Spitzenkandidaten system. The debate included several speakers such as MCEL



members Thomas Christiansen and Diane Fromage, as well as a number of student from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. Thomas Christiansen gave a presentation on 'Promises, Problems and Prospects' of the Spitzenkandidaten system, whilst Diane Fromage did on 'The Second Spitzenkandidaten Experiment: First Conclusions and a few Recommendations for the Future European Election'. Students Eva Mariničová (Master's, European Studies, Fasos), Gabrielė Stranivinskaitė (Master's, European Law School, Faculty of Law), Marc Wilkens (Master's, European Law School, Faculty of Law), Timothy Noelanders (Bachelor's, European Law School, Faculty of Law) gave on the other hand, a presentation on 'Spitzenkandidaten: Success and Failures'.

**In March**, the research forum featured a presentation by Karolina Podstawa titled 'Post-conditionality human rights policy of the European Union - the risks and the opportunities of the new EU-African Alliance'. The presentation discussed the replacement of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and a group of African, Caribbean and Pacific states with the EU-African Alliance. The said agreement featured also one of the most developed examples of human rights conditionality in EU external relations practice. The speaker pointed out that this will not



however be present in its entirety in the new agreement, meaning that alongside opportunities in other fields risks in the area of human rights might also materialize.

**In April**, Mariolina Eliantonio and Paul Dermine presented on ‘Composite administrative procedures in the EU: Recent developments – The cases of the European System of Central Banks and the Single Supervisory Mechanism’.

This forum session addressed the issues of accountability and interplay with national authorities of composite bodies such as the Single Supervision Mechanism (SSM) and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), in the light of two recent ECJ rulings on the SSM (C-219/17 *Berlusconi and Fininvest*) and the ESCB (C-202/18 and C-238/18, *Rimsevici and ECB*), where the Court attempted to clarify the accountability lines that structure these administrative frameworks, and the division of tasks that ought to prevail between the supranational and national levels of judicial control.

**In May**, John Cotter gave a presentation titled ‘The Harmful Persistence of Formal-Style Judging in the ECJ’s post-Marshall Rulings’. The speaker pointed out that in the realm of legal theory already in 1986 the ECJ Judge Thymen Koopmans suggested that European lawyers, and by implication the ECJ, ought to take a more minimalist conception of the lawyer’s role. The reason for this is that the European integration process had shifted from institutionalism to a more instrumentalist approach, where the law serves the Community’s ends. From the examination of case law, it was argued that the Court moved from Grand-Style to Formal-Style judging, reaching its height in Marshall in 1986. John Cotter further argued that the continuing dominance of a Formal-Style approach (and the minimalism it appears to accompany) has contributed to what has been a diminution of legal certainty and EU-law effectiveness.

**In June**, the MCEL visiting researcher Cosimo Tommasi from the University of Ferrara gave the presentation ‘The right of access in the European Union: transparency or administrative opacity?’. At the forefront of the presentation was the Regulation (CE) n. 1049/2001, which allows any person to request any EU-institution document for any reason, thus fostering democratic needs of participation and accountability. However, in speaker’s view, the European right of access distributes public goods in an inegalitarian fashion and does not actually balance the public interest in disclosure.

**In September**, the first members’ forum after the summer break hosted the presentation of Mariolina Eliantonio, who introduced the ‘Sector Plan for the Law Faculty’, on which the Law Faculty will concentrate its research efforts in the coming years. We had the pleasure to welcome our three new Assistant Professors, Merijn Chamon, Annalisa Volpato and Matteo Bonelli. The three speakers presented on how their future research relates to the Sector Plan.

**In November**, the second forum in the new academic year featured Merijn Chamon, with a presentation titled “EU constitutional law and the challenge of mixed agreements”. Since the EU does not have plenary treaty making power, the internal division of competences within the EU remains relevant when the EU looks to conclude international agreements with third countries or international organisations. This characteristic of EU constitutional law has made such 'mixed agreements' a typical feature of EU external action. The presentation looked at the law and politics of mixity in light of the Court's latest external relations jurisprudence.

**In December**, the last research forum of the year hosted presentations by two PhD candidates. The first one featured Alessandra Favi from the University of Florence, who discussed ‘The Construction of a Common European Standard for the Effective Judicial Protection of Asylum Seekers’.

The second presentation, given by Mathias Müller concerned freedom of environmental information. His research question essentially discussed the extent to which such information, whether held by public or private authorities, shall be made available. In particular, he addressed the circumstances under which documents indicating compliance shall be given.

# Publications by MCEL Members

## Books

- Abazi, V. (2019). *Official secrets and oversight in the EU: Law and practices of classified information*. Oxford University Press. Oxford Studies in European Law
- Broderick, A. and Ferri, D. (2019). *International and European disability law and policy: text, cases and materials*. Cambridge University Press.

## Edited Books

- Backes, C. & Eliantonio, M. (Eds.) (2019) *Cases, Materials and Text on Judicial Review of Administrative Action* (pp. 53-114). Hart Publishing. Ius Commune Casebooks for the Common Law of Europe.
- Christiansen, T. and Fromage, D. (Eds.) (2019). *Brexit and Democracy*. (The Role of Parliaments and Citizens). Palgrave.
- Fromage, D., & van den Brink, A. (Eds.) (2019). *Parliaments in EU Economic Governance: Powers, Potential and Practice*. Routledge.
- Hirsch Ballin, E., van der Schyff, G. and Stremler, M. (Eds.) (2019). *Judicial Power: Safeguards and Limits in a Democratic Society*. (European Yearbook of Constitutional Law 2019). The Hague: Asser Press.
- Hofmann, H., Vos, E., Chamon, M. (Eds.) (2019). *The External Dimension of EU Agencies and Bodies*. (Law and Policy). Cheltenham, Edward Elgar.

## Chapters in Books

- Abazi, V. (2019). Access to Information in Polycentric Governance. In J. van Zeben, & A. Bobić (Eds.), *Polycentricity in the European Union* (pp. 254-275). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108528771.013>.
- Abazi, V. (2019). Whistleblowing in Europe: A New Era of Legal Protections. In P. Czech, L. Heschl, K. Lukas, M. Nowak, & G. Oberleitner (Eds.), *European Yearbook on Human Rights 2019* (pp. 91-111). Intersentia.

- Athanasiasidou, N. (2019). Independent regulatory authorities at the EU and Member State level: towards different notions of 'independence'?. In J.-B. Auby (Ed.), *Le futur du droit administratif/The future of administrative law* (pp.199-218). LexisNexis.
- Athanasiasidou, N.(2019). Ordinance 122/2010 for the recognition of professional qualifications for lawyers (Directive 2005/36). In Konstantinos, G. and Ioannis, K. (Eds.), *Lawyer's Professional Law, Commentary* (pp. 533-550). (in Greek) Nomiki Vivliothiki Publications.
- Broderick, A. (2019). Emerging Trends in the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights: The Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities. In Shivaun Quinlivan, Gauthier de Beco and Janet Lord (Eds.), *The Right to Inclusive Education in International Human Rights Law*. Cambridge University Press.
- Chamon, M. (2019). Transparency and Accountability of EU Decentralised Agencies and Agencification in Light of the Common Approach on EU Decentralised Agencies. In Garben, S., Govaere, I., Nemitz, P. (Eds.), *Critical Reflections on Constitutional Democracy in the European Union*, (pp.245-266). Hart Publishing.
- Chamon, M., Demedts, V. (2019). Constitutional Limits to the EU Agencies' External Relations. In Hofmann, H., Vos, E., Chamon, M. (Eds.), *The External Dimension of EU Agencies and Bodies - Law and Policy*, (pp.12-33). Edward Elgar.
- Christiansen, T. and Fromage, D. (2019). Introduction. In Thomas Christiansen and Diane Fromage (Eds.), *Brexit and Democracy - The Role of Parliaments and Citizens*. In, (pp. 1-25). Palgrave.
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