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Management Team



Bruno de Witte MCEL co-director



Ellen Vos MCEL co-director



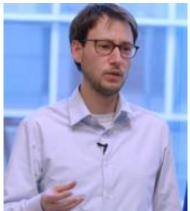
Annalisa Volpato
MCEL seminars coordinator



Matteo Bonelli
MCEL website coordinator



Elin Börjedal
MCEL forums coordinator



Merijn Chamon
MCEL reports coordinator



Valentina Golunova MCEL website coordinator



New Members



Aida Halilovic holds a BA (cum laude) in Political Sciences and Public Administration from University of Padova, Italy, and a MSc (cum laude) in International and European Studies from University of Trento, Italy. Since September 2020, Aida is working as an Early-Stage Researcher within the LIMES project 'The role of EU agencies in the management and guarding of borders in the EU', which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant. She is a doctoral researcher at the Department of International and European Law of Maastricht University and at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business of Roskilde University (Denmark). Aida's research discusses the legal, political, and administrative architecture that overlies the management and guarding of borders in the EU. Aida's monograph will address the main issues and controversies arising from the complex, and at times fuzzy, institutional setting and governance model that emerged from the recent reforms in the Area of Freedom. Security and Justice (AFSJ), focusing in particular on the special role of EU agencies in shaping the European border regime. Aida's interests primarily lie in the areas of International and European law, International and European politics, Human and minority rights as well as Security and migration studies.



Pauline Melin first joined the Department of International and European Law and MCEL in 2015 as a PhD researcher. Upon completion of her PhD in 2018, she continued to work as a lecturer until 2019. After a long maternity break, Pauline is back to the Department and MCEL as an assistant professor. Her research was focused on the external dimension of social security coordination during her PhD. After that, Pauline's research extended to issues of migration law, external relations and social law.





From 1 May 2020 **Dr. Herke Kranenborg** holds the newly established chair in European Data Protection and Privacy Law. Herke Kranenborg is a member of the Legal Service of the European Commission working in the area of privacy and data protection. From 2008 to 2013 he worked for the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) in Brussels and between 2001 to 2008 he worked at the Europa Institute of the University of Leiden. Since 2010, he has been an affiliated senior researcher at the Institute for European Law of the KU Leuven. Herke will teach the European Data Protection and Privacy Law course in the European Law School Master's programme as well as the new ECPC Advanced Master's programme in Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Management and also, he will be involved in the executive education of ECPC.



Trainees

Academic year 2019-2020

In the academic year 2019-2020, MCEL was 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.



In the academic year 2020-2021, MCEL was supported by three trainees:



Alexander Merkulov is in his final year of the LLB European Law School with a minor in Business Law. He is a Cypriot student at Maastricht University, and his traineeship at MCEL began in the summer of 2020.



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



Maija Maunu is in her final year of the LL.B European Law School with a minor in Business Law. She is a Finnish student at Maastricht University, and her traineeship at MCEL with the Jean Monnet project NOVA-EU (Innovating and Transforming the European Union) began in the summer of 2020



Grants and PhD Degrees

In May, MCEL member Assistant Professor Vigjilenca Abazi in collaboration with the Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff - Eurocadres, was awarded a grant by the European Commission to work on the project 'Whistleblowing in European companies: Industrial relations for successful implementation of reporting channels'. Through the in-depth enquiry of 14 States (EU member states and accession states), this project will facilitate the implementation of the recently adopted EU Directive on Whistleblower Protection as it offers a guider by design on establishing adequate and suitable reporting channels.

In June, Matteo Bonelli received the 2020 Dissertation Prize from the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation for his PhD research 'A Union of Values – Safeguarding Democracy, the Rule of Law, and Human Rights in the EU Member States'. The PhD was written in Maastricht under the supervision of Prof. Monica Claes and Bruno De Witte and was defended in June 2019.

Paul Dermine, PhD researcher at the Law Faculty, has been awarded a Max Weber Fellowship by the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. The Max Weber Programme is the largest international and most innovative postdoctoral programme in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe. In the academic year 2020-21, Paul thus went to Florence to continue his research in the field of EMU law and Eurozone governance, and to start a new project on the politicisation of the European Commission.

In July, Lilian Tsourdi (project leader) and Nasrat Sayed (laureate) were awarded an NWO Hestia Impulse grant by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) for their 18-month research project titled "External Financial Governance: 7 Migration Management and Solidarity with Non-EU Countries through EU Funding". Lilian and Nasrat use an original combination of legal and empirical analysis to examine the role of EU funding in migration governance, and more specifically how it can enhance global responsibility sharing and operationalise policy objectives.

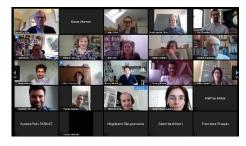
In October, Zamira Xhaferri defended her PhD thesis on 'Delegation of Rulemaking Powers to the European Commission: Law and Practice'

In October, Paul Dermine defended his PhD thesis on 'The New Economic Governance of the Eurozone - A Rule of Law Analysis' and was awarded the doctorate cum laude.



Activities

In May, MCEL devoted two online seminars to the discussion of the content and future implications of the judgment of the German Constitutional Court of 5 May 2020 on the European Central Bank's market interventions. In the first seminar Phedon Nicolaides, Marijn Van der Sluis and Diane Fromage spoke, together with Mattias Wendel from the University of



Leipzig. The second seminar, was organised with the collaboration of the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan and featured MCEL members Matteo Bonelli and Paul Dermine.

In June, Marijn van der Sluis provided evidence to the Dutch Parliament on the topic of the German Constitutional Court's ruling on the ECB.

Marjan Peeters, was appointed as expert by the European Economic and Social Committee. In this role she will help the committee with developing its advice to the European Parliament and the Council concerning the proposal from the European Commission for a new Climate Law.

In September, Sarah Schoenmaekers spoke on Green Public Procurement at the Summer Course of ERA (Academy of European Law) in which she addressed the role of SMEs in sustainable public procurement at the Online Seminar on European Public Procurement Law': an invitation-only online workshop for procurement and policy professionals on European public procurement law and how it can be leveraged for sustainability, facilitated by the Academy of European Law (ERA) and supported by the Green Electronics Council (GEC - Portland, United States). During this webinar Sarah addressed the role of eco-design and ecolabels in procurement procedures.



Merijn Chamon, Mariolina Eliantonio and Annalisa Volpato organized a Workshop on Boards of Appeal. In the two-day workshop, reputed academics and young scholars specialised on EU law, as well as practitioners working with or in the Boards of Appeal of the EU agencies discussed several issues in relation to the functioning of these specific mechanism serving as the first-tier review bodies for challenging decisions adopted by a number of EU agencies. The first day was devoted to the discussion of a number of case studies, in principle one for each agency with a Board of Appeal. In the second day of the workshop, the speakers focused on 'horizontal' issues, analysing the relevant crosscutting problems from the perspective of EU constitutional, institutional and procedural law. The presentations formed the basis of a series of chapters that will be part of a volume edited by the workshop's organizers.

Merijn Chamon gave a presentation to the KU Leuven Institute of European Law in the framework of its LLM Clinic series dedicated to "Contemporary issues of EU constitutional law: instruments of EU law and governance". The presentation elaborated on the limits to delegation under Article 290 TFEU.

In October, Mariolina Eliantonio, Merijn Chamon and Annalisa Volpato hosted the 2020 Forum of the Review of European Administrative Law (REALaw) The aim of the Forum was to discuss how the traditional functions of administrative law are challenged by the multi-level and multi-dimensional nature of the European administrative space. During the Forum, young scholars presented their research and received comments from senior experts in the field. The Forum was organized around four overarching themes: (i) the challenges of multilevel cooperation in the European administrative space, (ii) the digital multi-level European administration, (iii) transparency and participation in the European multilevel administrative space and (iv) the challenges of judicial review in the European multilevel administrative space.

Lucia Martinez Lorenzo participated as a speaker in the ReaLaw forum. Her presentation was titled 'Cross-border interest in the framework of public procurement legislation' in the panel chaired by Dr. Annalisa Volpato 'Digital multilevel administration'.

Lilian Tsourdi was a speaker at Annual Consultative Forum of the EU Agency European Asylum Support Office (EASO). She analysed the role that EASO has played in the development of the Common European Asylum System over the past ten years, and how its activities have evolved.

Lilian Tsourdi delivered a keynote lecture (in the form of a webinar) titled "EU's 'Refugee Crisis' as a Crisis of EU Values and Governance". The lecture is part of the 'European



Values, Citizenship & Belonging' series convened by the Chair in European Values at the University of Antwerp, Prof. Heleen Touquet.

Lisa Waddington and Andrea Broderick presented their Study on The Post-2020 European Disability Strategy at a Workshop on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities hosted by the Petition's Committee of the European Parliament. The Study had been commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The Study reflected on the progress made, and strengths and weaknesses of the current European Disability Strategy, which comes to an end this year. The Study made 30 recommendations concerning the new Strategy to the European Commission, Parliament and other EU institutions, Member States and other key stakeholders, structured around three themes: the design of the new Strategy, including its scope and content; the infrastructure needed to embed the new Strategy at EU and Member State level; and the implementation and monitoring of the new Strategy. Other participants in the workshop included the European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, who said the Commission would take the Study into account in preparing the new Strategy, and the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, who referred to the value of the Study for preparing the new Strategy.

Lilian Tsourdi convened an inter-institutional webinar with Salvo Nicolosi, Assistant Professor in Utrecht and RENFORCE member. The MCEL/RENFORCE webinar brought together academics and policy-makers to comment the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The Pact's constitutional design, its reception by the co-legislators (Council and European Parliament), the evolving role of EU agencies at the external borders, co-operation with third countries, solidarity, and emergency management were some of the issues that were debated. The webinar was attended by over 100 participants.

In November, Andrea Broderick, was appointed as a Board Member of the Executive Committee of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), Venice. Her role in the Executive Committee is in addition to her roles as the Dutch Director of the EMA Programme and as EMA Director on behalf of Maastricht University.

Merijn Chamon presented a paper (co-authored with prof. Marise Cremona) on 'Mandatory Joint Representation of the EU and its Member States Following AMP Antarctique?' at the Geneva workshop on 'The EU and its Member States' Joint Participation in International Agreements'

Merijn Chamon gave the introductory presentations of the three day ERA Seminar on 'Delegated and Implementing Powers in Practice'.



In December, Andrea Ott, Hildegard Schneider, Lilian Tsourdi and Zvezda Vankova coorganised a workshop in the form of a webinar on 'Migration and EU Borders' as part of the Jean Monnet NOVA project coordinated by Andrea Ott. This 2-day workshop assessed the evolution of the asylum, migration, and external border control policies, including relevant EU legislation, the impact of constitutional principles, the role of courts and judicial dialogue, and shifting implementation patterns.



Research seminars

The MCEL research seminars are monthly research events for which distinguished scholars are invited to talk about current developments within the law. The following research seminars took place in 2020:

In **January**, the first Research Seminar of the year featured Dr. Marta Morvillo from the University of Amsterdam. The title of her presentation was: Glyphosate effect: has the glyphosate controversy affected the EU's regulatory epistemology?





In **February**, **Ben Smulders**, Principal Legal Advisor in the trade team of the Commission Legal Service and Head of Cabinet to First Vice President Frans Timmermans from 2014 to 2019 gave a presentation on the Rule of Law in the EU Context.

In **March**, **Stefan Theil** gave a presentation, discussing air pollution in Europe as an example of regulatory failure and of industry resistance to environmental regulations in light of recent case law of the Court of Justice.





In September, the first research seminar of the academic year hosted a lecture by Jasper Krommendijk (Associate Professor of international and European Law at Radboud University in Nijmegen) on his Veni-research project funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO): 'It takes two to tango. The preliminary reference dance between the CJEU and national courts (2017-2021).



In November, the MCEL research seminar featured Luca Prete, référendaire at the Court of Justice of the EU and a member of the Centre for European Law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Faculty of Law and Criminology. He delivered a presentation focusing on "Recent case-law of the CJEU on the rule of law". The main focus of his presentation was on the role of the infringement action in dealing with the rule of law crisis,



in light of the recent cases before the Court and the 2020 Rule of Law Report of the European Commission. During the event, Matteo Bonelli acted as discussant.



In December, Christiaan Timmermans, former judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union, spoke about the role of the 'Article 255 committee', that is the committee that vets candidates for appointment to the Court of Justice on whether they comply with the conditions of independence, experience and knowledge required for that position. Timmermans was the chair of that committee for a number of years. Marijn

van der Sluis acted as his discussant.



Forums

MCEL also organises forums where members - PhD scholars as well as more senior scholars - present their current research or discuss current developments in the law.

In **January**, the first forum of the year featured **Lilian Tsourdi** who introduced her new VENI project and who gave a presentation on one of her recent research articles that she was finalising.





In the **February** Forum, **Catalina Goanta** and **Carlo Colombo** delivered a presentation entitled: "Constitutional Challenges of digital platforms under EU law: Airbnb Ireland". They commented on the recent AirBnB case before the Court of Justice and discussed some proposals in light of the forthcoming Digital Services Act.

In October, MCEL held its first research forum of the academic year during which **Vigjilenca Abazi** presented on whistleblowing in the European Union. In the first part of the presentation, Vigiilenca analysed the EU Whistleblower Directive. In the second part, she showed that whistleblowing in the EU has prominence much beyond the EU Whistleblower Directive.



In November, the MCEL forum featured MCEL member Maarten Stremler. He delivered a presentation on 'The Constitutional Politics of EU Constitutional Oversight'. This presentation examined the nature and significance of the EU response to certain developments in Hungary and Poland, including far-reaching judicial reforms, which run counter to

European values. Maarten argued that constitutional oversight of the Member States by the EU can best be understood as a depoliticisation effort in which the Commission and the Court in particular seek to create and ensure stable background conditions under which EU law can function smoothly.



In December, Herke Kranenborg spoke about the three rulings of the Court of Justice from the summer of 2020 dealing with privacy and data protection (Schrems II, Privacy International, La Quadrature du Net). Herke is a member of the European Commission's legal service but now also, since May 2020, a (part-time) Professor of European Data Protection and Privacy law at Maastricht University, and member of MCEL.





Publications by MCEL Members

Edited Books



Abazi, V., Adriaensen, J., & Christiansen, T. (Eds.) (2020). *The Contestation of Expertise in the European Union*. Palgrave. European Administrative Governance

ISBN: 9783030543679



Chamon, M., & Govaere, I. (Eds.) (2020). EU External Relations Post-Lisbon: The Law and Practice of Facultative Mixity. Brill | Nijhoff. Studies

in EU External Relations Vol. 16

ISBN: 9789004421974



Eliantonio, M., & Cauffman, C. (Eds.) (2020). *The legitimacy of standardisation as a regulatory technique: A cross-disciplinary and multi-level analysis*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

ISBN: 9781789902945



Ferri, D., & Broderick, A. (Eds.) (2020). Research handbook on EU disability law. Edward Elgar Publishing. Research Handbooks in European Law series

ISBN: 9781788976411





Hardt, S., Heringa, A. W., & Nguyen, H-T. (Eds.) (2020). *Populism and Democracy*. Eleven International publishing.

ISBN: 9789490947231



Peeters, M., & Eliantonio, M. (Eds.) (2020). Research handbook on EU environmental law. Edward Elgar Publishing. Research handbooks in European law

ISBN: 9781788970662



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