

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Maastricht Centre  
for European Law



Maastricht University



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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



**Andreina De Leo** is a Early Stage Researcher (ESR) within the LIMES doctoral programme's project "EU's Shifting Borders - Scrutinizing Externalization of Migration Management and International Protection Responsibilities". She is based at the Department of International and European Law of the Faculty of Law. Her research focuses on the role of EU funding in the external dimension of EU asylum and migration policies. Andreina has a BA in Political Science, International Relations and Human Rights (University of Padua), a MA in European Legal Studies (University of Turin) and a LL.M in International Migration and Refugee Law (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). She was previously a trainee in the Asylum and Migration Programme of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), a Legal Researcher at the European Legal Support Center (ELSC), a Junior Research Associate at the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), a Legal Field Team Coordinator at Advocates Abroad, and a trainee at the Embassy of Italy in Algiers. Andreina has also worked as a pro-bono legal advisor to asylum seekers within the Refugee Law Clinic of the International University College of Turin (IUC).



**Anna de Jong** is a PhD researcher with the department of International and European Law, after having first started as a lecturer Private Law. Before joining Maastricht University she has been employed by Clifford Chance and NautaDutilh, as well as having served as a client counsellor at Rabobank Netherlands. She has a diverse educational background having first gained an LL.B. in Dutch Law (Rechtsgeleerdheid - Utrecht University), complemented by an LL.M. in international law (Globalisation and Law: specialisation Corporate and Commercial Law - Maastricht University) next to her LL.M from Duke University. Her current research focuses on the efficacy and legal history of recent European measures aimed at combatting money laundering, terrorism financing, and the destruction and looting of cultural heritage.





**Justine Richelle** is a PhD candidate at the Public Law department since February 2021, jointly with the University of Hasselt (Belgium). Her research focuses on public participation in environmental decision-making. More specifically, it explores the rules in place in Belgium, France and Ireland in light of the obligations set in the Aarhus Convention and the implementing EU law in the fields of air, water and waste. She holds a LL.B in European Law from Maastricht University, a LL.M in European Law and Market Integration from Maastricht University and a LL.M in Climate and Energy Law from the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). At the Faculty of Law, Justine is a member of the Institute for Transnational Research.



**Madalina Pleniceanu** is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Law (West University of Timisoara, Romania) and a LL.M. in European Union Law (Leiden University, The Netherlands). Madalina has a demonstrated history of working in the legal and governmental sectors. She started her career as a European Affairs Advisor during the Romanian Presidency to the Council of the European Union and worked as a Legal Assistant at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. She is a member of the Romanian Law and European Affairs Association and has published articles debating EU Law issues in reputable Romanian legal journals.



**Stavroula Kitsou** is a PhD Researcher at the Department of International and European Law. Her PhD project examines the multifaceted challenges posed by hate speech on social media for the EU legal order. Her research interests lie primarily in EU law, the protection of fundamental rights and digital governance. She is a member of the Ius Commune Research School and the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR). Stavroula holds an LL.B. from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a Masters in Media and Cultural Studies from the University of Sussex and an LL.M. in Public International Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (full scholarship), while she is a qualified lawyer at the Athens Bar Association since 2015. Stavroula has an extensive working experience in human rights institutions and organizations in

Greece and in the UK and she has been actively involved in civil society initiatives. In 2017, Stavroula joined the Golden Dawn Watch initiative where she served as a rapporteur monitoring the trial of the Golden Dawn neo-nazi party. She has been a board member of the Hellenic League for Human Rights (2017-2021), a Humanity in Action Fellow (Amsterdam 2018) and, since 2020, she is a founding member and research associate at Simeio/Signal for Researching and Confronting the Far-Right.



**Ruben Tans** started working as a double degree PhD candidate at the department of International and European Law and the University of Hasselt (Belgium) in January 2021. His research focuses on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the labour market and educational systems of Belgium and the Netherlands. By conducting a comparative analysis of the Belgian and Dutch legislation and policy on integration, he endeavours to answer the question whether the integration of the beneficiaries of international protection who have arrived in the EU after the 2015 migration crisis was successful. Ruben holds an LLB in European Law School, as well as two LLMs in European Law School and in Globalisation and Law (both cum laude) from Maastricht University. Next to his research, he is a member of the Institute for Transnational and Euregional cooperation and cross-border Mobility (ITEM) and the Ius Commune Research School. Ruben combines his work as a PhD candidate with a job at the GrensInfoPunt Maastricht, giving advice to cross-border workers.

## Visiting Researchers

The following scholars stayed at MCEL as visitors, for some months in 2021:



**Joana Neto**, born in Porto, Portugal, is a graduate in Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto and a Postgraduate in Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. She obtained her Master's degree in Labour and Business Law at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) and PhD Scholarship in Research Centre on Law and Society of the Faculty of Law (Nova Law School). She worked as a Lawyer and as Parliamentary Adviser in the Portuguese Parliament. At the MCEL Forum in November, Joana presented her PhD project about employees with disabilities or illnesses: reasonable accommodation of the workplace. Some of her publications include: (2014 and 2016), Dismissal for inadaptability - Reform or legal consecration of dismissal without just cause? Almedina, 2014; (2019), "In the downstage of the legal framework for employment contracts for entertainment professionals", Editorial Novembro;), Book Review "The UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in practice. A comparative analysis of the role of courts" (Lisa Waddington and Anna Lawson), Journal of Adult Protection; (2021), Disability, illness and discrimination: the 3 D's o employment inequality, The discrimination on the grounds of disability and disease according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *Prontuário de Direito do Trabalho I*, Centre for Judicial Studies, 2021, p.181-209.



**Nuno Castelo Branco Albuquerque Matos** holds a Bachelor in Law and a Master degree in EU law (summa cum laude) from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, where he also undertook post-graduate studies in EU competition and banking law. He was an Erasmus student at KU Leuven. Currently a PhD candidate at the Global School of Law of Portuguese Catholic University, financed by an FCT scholarship, his research focuses on how to strike a balance in EU economic union integration, namely by resorting to comparative institutional analysis. He was an intern at DG Competition of the European Commission. Currently, he is a legal adviser at the Bank of Portugal (on leave), guest lecturer at the Catholic University of Portugal and a member of the Council for European Studies at Columbia University (Law Research Network). Some of his most 10 relevant publications include: Judicialisation of Economic and Monetary Union: between a rock and a soft place? (2021) 65 Deusto Journal of European Studies 73; EU multiannual financial framework 2021-2027: A lost opportunity? (2020) 38-39 Temas de Integração; Administrativisation of private enforcement of competition law? The binding effect of NCAs decision on civil courts and judicial review, Francesco Munari and Chiara Cellerino (eds), L'impatto della nuova direttiva 104/2014 sul Private Antitrust Enforcement, Aracne editrice, 2016, 135; Financing of Services of General Economic Interest, Coimbra Legal Research Press, 2015 (Master thesis, in Portuguese); The role of the BUPA Judgement in the legal framework for Services of General Economic Interest (2011) 16 Tilburg Law Review 83.





**Robin Gabled** is the Coordinator of research activities at the Institute for European Law at KU Leuven, and a Teaching Fellow for the Europeum Scholars Programme (coordinated by Oxford University). He worked as a Lecturer in Comparative Constitutional Law at Sciences Po (Reims campus, France). He holds a PhD in law from the European University Institute in Florence, a Master's degree in Political Theory from Sciences po Paris, a Master's degree in pluridisciplinary European studies from the IEE-ULB in Brussels (magna cum laude), and an LL.M in Comparative, European and International law from the EUI. His research focuses on constitutional theory, EU constitutional and fundamental rights law, euro-crisis law and responses to the Covid-19 crisis, and methodologies of legal and pluridisciplinary research. His stay in Maastricht takes place in the framework of a re:constitution post-doctoral fellowship to conduct work on the tools available to EU institutions to induce the compliance of Member States with different sets of requirements via "pressure".

**Marek Pivoda** is a visiting researcher coming to MCEL from the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

# Trainees

Academic year 2020-2021

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

In the academic year 2021-2022, MCEL is being supported by three trainees:

**Eliza Wójcik** is a second-year student of LLB European Law School. She is a Polish student at Maastricht University and her traineeship began in the summer of 2021.



**Margot Robins** is studying law at Maastricht University. Currently, she is completing the second year of of the LL.B. European Law School programme. Her traineeship at MCEL commenced in September 2021.



**Natália Racková** is a Slovak LL.B. Candidate in European Law at Maastricht University in her final year. In the second semester of the academic year of 2021/2022, she is also a visiting student at the University of Edinburgh. Her traineeship at MCEL with Jean Monnet Project NOVA-EU (Innovating and Transforming the European Union) commenced in September 2021.



## Activities

**In January**, Vigjilence Abazi interviewed Samantha Feinstein from Government Accountability Project based in Washington D.C. about recommendations for the new Biden administration on whistle-blower protections. The [podcast](#) offers insights on the priorities for the first 100 days of the Biden administration and legislative changes to follow during his term.

Merijn Chamon gave a presentation on ‘Should we abolish the Joint Board of Appeal?’ in the framework of the Lex Talks organized by the European Securities and Markets Authority.

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**In February**, MCEL co-organized an online workshop entitled: “The GDPR and International Organisations: Issues of EU Law and Public International Law”. The workshop brought together data protection experts and prominent experts from the worlds of both EU law and international law. This workshop examined legal issues concerning the impact of the GDPR on international organisations.

Lilian Tsourdi gave an invited [online lecture](#) on the role of EU agencies and shifting executive power in EU’s migration policy. The talk was part of a lecture series in the framework of the ‘Separation of powers for 21st century Europe (SepaRope)’ project jointly implemented by the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance at UvA, the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights (ECI), and the Centre for European Research at the University of Gothenburg



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**In March**, Lisa Waddington spoke at the Online seminar: Exponential Inequalities, organised by the Oxford Human Rights Hub (Oxford University). The presentation was given with Professor Anna Lawson on the topic of: The relevance of equality law for people with disabilities in times of crisis (joint presentation with Professor Anna Lawson).



Later that month, Andrea Ott acted as a Discussant of Panel at the 6th Jean Monnet Doctoral Workshop.

Vigjilence Abazi spoke on Whistleblower protection during a variety of events such as 'Whistleblower Protection across the EU', Whistleblowing International Network together with Transparency International and Eurocadres and 'Whistleblowing in the European Union', NATO, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Lilian Tsourdi was invited to participate in an expert roundtable as part of the 'European Perspectives on Taking Forward the UN75 Declaration: From Reflection to Innovation & Action' event, organised by the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Stimson Center, Academic Council on the UN System, Plataforma CIPÓ, and Leiden University.

Merijn Chamon gave a presentation for the Academy of European Law on EU agencies and the short-selling doctrine

Bruno De Witte gave an online lecture at the University of Amsterdam on 'The European Council: Above and Outside the EU's Separation of Powers'. The lecture was part of a series in the framework of the 'Separation of Powers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe (SepaRope) project

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**In April**, MCEL and GLaw-Net members Giulia Gentile, Mariolina Eliantonio and Matteo Bonelli hosted the workshop 'Article 47 of the EU Charter and effective judicial protection: The Court of Justice's perspective'. During the workshop, senior and junior academics specialising in EU law discussed various aspects of the impact of Article 47 Charter on the EU constitutional order.

Andrea Ott participated as a co-convenor and round table discussant at the CLEER Conference on Informal Law-Making in EU External Relations Law.

Sarah Schoenmaekers organised and spoke in a conference titled: 'Towards Cultural Standardization? The interplay between (inter)national and European economic law and culture: how much 'culture' is left?'

Lilian Tsourdi gave an online lunchtime seminar regarding the links between the state of asylum provision in the EU and challenges to the rule of law based on recent research for the McLaughlin College.

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**In May**, Annalisa Volpato was invited as speaker to the conference "Novel food tra sicurezza e sostenibilità" organised by University of Parma.

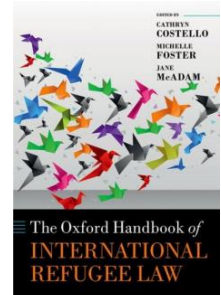
Giulia Gentile was invited as a speaker with the presentation titled "Faraway, so close! The principle of effective judicial protection and the constitutional traditions common to the Member States' at the 2021 Young FIDE Seminar, Leiden University.

Lisa Waddington participated in a podcast on @NewBooksLaw in which she and Anna Lawson discussed their edited collection 'The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice: A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Courts'.

As a result of an open and competitive selection process, Lilian Tsourdi has joined the Editorial Board of the 'International Journal of Refugee Law', the leading peer-reviewed journal on law relating to forced migration published by Oxford University Press.

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**In June**, Lilian Tsourdi convened the regional launch of The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law (OUP, 2021). This online event was hosted by MCEL, and cosponsored by the European Society of International Law (ESIL), and Oxford University Press (OUP). It focused on one of the key challenges facing international refugee law, externalisation of protection obligations, and included the participation of Handbook authors and respondents.



The fourth workshop 'EU Rule of Law and Democracy' of the Jean Monnet NOVA-EU project took place on the 24 and 25 June 2021. It was coordinated by Prof. Andrea Ott and organised by MCEL members Matteo Bonelli, Monica Claes, Karolina Podstawa and Bruno De Witte. The workshop brought together young and senior researchers from several EU countries who reflected on the rule of law as a common EU value, the role of judicial and political actors in protecting EU values, and on new perspectives on democracy and the rule of law in the EU. Edith Zeller, Kees Sterk and Paul Nemitz joined the event as keynote speakers.

Lisa Waddington presented on „The Prohibition of Disability Discrimination with regard to Healthcare in the European Union at the European Disability Forum Workshop on Access to Health.

Merijn Chamon was interviewed by Devex regarding EU institutions in a power struggle over Africa, the Caribbean, Pacific pact to clarify the legal background of the political standoff between the Commission and the Member States.

On 4 June, Lilian Tsourdi delivered a keynote lecture titled “The effective judicial protection of asylum seekers under the Dublin III Regulation” in a workshop targeting expert asylum and migration judges organised in the framework of the EU-funded “TRIAL project” coordinated by the Centre of Judicial Cooperation of the European University Institute (EUI).

On 7 June, Merijn Chamon gave a presentation on the Opinion 1/19 proceedings in an ERA Seminar on “Current Reflections on EU Gender Equality Law”.

On 10 June, Lilian Tsourdi was a panellist in the event „The externalisation of EU migration policies in light of EU constitutional principles and values a global actor to trust?” co-organised by the ESIL interest group on the EU as a Global Actor and the University of Salamanca

On 11 June, Merijn Chamon gave a talk for the Law Faculty’s Open Air Festival

On 22 June, Lilian Tsourdi presented at the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament the co-authored policy report: “The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean” as one of the study’s expert co-authors.

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**In July**, Sabrina Röttger-Wirtz, Mariolina Eliantonio and Annalisa Volpato, organised the panel „Global Standards and EU Law: Challenges for EU Public Law” within ICON-S Mundo Conference on 6-9 July 2021. Annalisa and Mariolina presented work on “Standards on the move: Global standards and EU Transport Policy”.

Lisa Waddington was partaking in „Annual Conference Inequality in a time of global crisis: what have we learned about effective & proportionate responses?” organised by Berkeley Centre on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law.

Lilian Tsourdi convened a panel titled „Constitutional Principles and Migration Law and Practice in the EU, US and Canada: Influence and Cleavages” in the framework of the Annual ICON-S conference. The panel was chaired by Bruno De Witte and featured, apart from Lilian’s presentation, the presentations of Professors Sabi Ardan (Harvard

University), James Simeon (York University/Toronto), Iris Goldner-Lang (University of Zagreb) and Boldizsár Nagy (Central European University).

Two MCEL members were awarded an NWO Hestia Impulse grant by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). Lilian Tsourdi (project leader) and Nasrat Sayed (laureate) received it 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 a 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 operationalize policy objectives. Dr Vigjilence Abazi (Project Leader) and Arif Aksu (laureate) for their research project titled ‘Whistleblowing as Private Law Enforcement – Strengthening Public Health, Privacy and Anticorruption’. This project promotes knowledge on how whistleblowing can be used to advance law enforcement in the areas of public health, privacy protection and anti-corruption.

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**In September**, Matteo Bonelli organised an event on UM Campus Brussels on „Article 47 of the EU Charter and effective judicial protection – the national courts“ perspectives“.

Lilian Tsourdi was a panellist in the event „The New Pact on Migration and Asylum: Dead or Alive?“ co-organised by the Odysseus Academic Network and the Royal Institute for International Relations (Egmont Institute).

Sarah Schoenmaekers participated in a number of conferences as a speaker: „De Afwezigheid van een krachtig Europees taal en- cultureel beleid: Hup paardje hup voor Grensoverschrijdende Samenwerking of wordt het paard achter de wagen gespannen?“, organized by Algemeen Nederlands Verbond, C-mine Genk; „Public Procurement in Times of Crisis: The Limitations and Opportunities of Cross-border Procurement during the Covid-19 Crisis and Recommendations for the Future, Conference on Transformative effects of Covid-19 on Globalisation & Law (TEGL)“, Organized by University of Amsterdam, Maastricht University, Tilburg University and the Open University, and „The role of eco-design and ecolabels in procurement and life-cycle costing, Sustainability and European Public Procurement organized by Global Electronics Council and ERA, Academy of European Law.

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**In October**, Herke Kranenborg was appointed as part time professor of European Data Protection and Privacy Law. He will be connected to the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC). He gave an inaugural lecture titled “The state of data protection in the European Union – 20 years after the Lindqvist case”. Prof. Kranenborg placed the seminal Lindqvist ruling of the EU Court of Justice of 2003 (C-101/01) in the current legal context.

On 22 October Lilian Tsourdi co-convoked, with Dr. Niovi Vavoula and Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas of the Queen Mary University of London, a hybrid workshop: "Intertwining Criminal Justice and Immigration Control in the EU: Theoretical, Interdisciplinary, and Practical Perspectives" at UM Campus Brussels. The workshop was a collaboration between MCEL, GlawNet Research Network, and the Law Faculty of the Queen Mary University of London.

Lisa Waddington organised the Seminar on EU Law and Policy Promoting Diversity and presented a paper on EU Equality Strategies and Action Plans, both part of the 143rd annual conference of the Japan Association of Social Policy.



On 28 October, Merijn Chamon and Lilian Tsourdi gave presentation during the event „Separation of Powers within Contemporary Europe: Power Shifts in Trade, Migration and EMU” organised by the University of Amsterdam (UvA).

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**In November**, Lilian Tsourdi, on behalf of the Maastricht Young Academy, co-organised with Lumiere cinema a public screening of the film “Midnight Traveller”, followed by a debate-event on seeking asylum in Europe and the perils of such journeys which she moderated. The event targeted the local community in Maastricht.

On 13 November 2021 Lilian was a panellist in the 15th Autumn Conference of the German Network Migration Law titled „The Future of Migration Law - beyond Eurocentrism and New Nationalism?”.

Mariolina Eliantonio co-organized with Paul Stephenson the first of a series of events entitled Fire place talk. This first event was about the major changes brought by the Maastricht Treaty and the current open challenges. It was organized at Maastricht University Campus Brussels.

Matteo Bonelli gave one of the keynote speeches for the annual Ius Commune conference in Maastricht University. He discussed the infamous Daily Mail covers and the judicial independence case law of the Court of Justice from ASJP to the recent Polish and Hungarian cases.

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Final Jean Monnet NOVA-EU workshop  
Innovating and transforming the European Union: The key challenges

**In December**, the final workshop of the Jean Monnet project NOVA-EU (Innovating and Transforming the European Union) took place. The project, that was based at MCEL and directed by Andrea Ott, addressed between 2019 to 2021 four key challenges that heavily impact the EU's governance structure, regulatory framework, identity and, most importantly, its future.

Lisa Waddington presented her research in a discussion on ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities as consumers of digital services and platforms through the Digital Services Act (DSA). Her research mapped European and national strategies in relation to digitalization and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as well as disability strategies, and how they address digitalization. This event was organized by the European Parliament Renew Europe group, with the support of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

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Merijn Chamon gave a presentation on Opinion 1/19, protocol 21 and the ERTA doctrine in the Conference 'Opinion 1/19, Istanbul Convention: Exploring legal themes and consequences' organized by Groningen University.

Valentina Golunova participated to a PLSC-style discussion at the Digital Legal Lab 2021 about one of her papers.

## 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 2021:



**In January**, the first seminar of the year featured **Jeremias Adams-Prassl**, who is a Fellow of Magdalen College, and Deputy Director of the Institute of European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford. He delivered a presentation entitled: “Black Box Boss – Artificial Intelligence, Discrimination and Data Protection at Work”. In his presentation, he discussed the fundamental challenges to the existing regulatory regimes posed by the rise of ‘People Analytics’ which is the automation of traditional management functions from hiring to firing. MCEL member **Maja Brkan** acted as a discussant

**In February**, the second MCEL research seminar featured **Ludwig Kramer**, who is a visiting Professor at University College London and a Professor in European and German environmental law at the University of Bremen. Professor Kramer delivered a presentation entitled: “The European Green Deal”. **Marjan Peeters** acted as discussant during the meeting.

**In March**, during the third research seminar, **Mary Guy**, a lecturer in law at Lancaster University, presented part of her research on healthcare reform. Her presentation was entitled: “Towards a European Health Union - What Role for Member States?”, building on her article in the EJRR’s December 2020 special issue on COVID-19. She provided an assessment of Article 168(7) TFEU to argue that Treaty changes to redress the balance between EU and Member State competence regarding national healthcare systems may be uncalled for given both the flexibility afforded by the provision and the complexity and diversity of Member State healthcare systems. Sabrina Wirtz acted as discussant during the meeting.

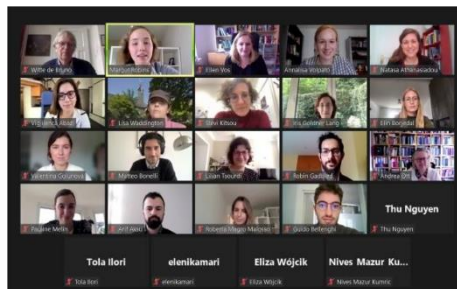


**In April**, the fourth seminar was one of a special kind since it was also the book launch of Dr. **Dilek Kurban**'s monograph: "Limits of Supranational Justice: The European Court of Human Rights and Turkey's Kurdish Conflict" (Cambridge University Press, 2020) 'based on the PhD dissertation which she defended at Maastricht University earlier on. Dilek is a Fellow and Lecturer at the Hertie School in Berlin. The book launch was chaired by Monica Claes and featured Rick Lawson and Françoise Tulkens as discussants.

**In May**, MCEL hosted **Virginia Passalacqua**, a postdoctoral researcher for the RENFORCE project at Utrecht University, delivered a presentation entitled: Legal Mobilization via Preliminary Reference: Insights from the Case of Migrant Rights, drawing on her article with the same title. **Lilian Tsourdi** acted as discussant during the meeting.



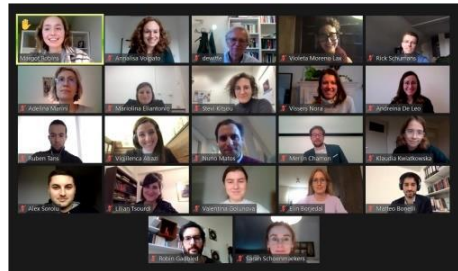
**In June**, the sixth MCEL Research Seminar featured **Pavlos Eleftheriadis**, who is a professor of Public Law at the University of Oxford. He is the author of Legal Rights (OUP, 2008) and A Union of Peoples (OUP, 2020), as well as the co-editor with Julie Dickson of Philosophical Foundations of EU Law (OUP, 2012). Pavlos delivered a presentation entitled: "A Union of Peoples: A Theory of EU law". **Bruno de Witte** acted as discussant during the meeting.



**In September**, MCEL opened the academic year 2021/2022 with a Zoom conference on the theme of the Multifaceted Effects of Covid-19 on EU Law. The first aspect discussed was the EU response to the health crisis with Professor Iris Goldner Lang and her presentation on the „law of fear“ and free movement of persons in the EU in the time of COVID-19. The second aspect, the EU response to the economic crisis, was firstly addressed by Bruno de Witte and his presentation “the recovery plan: the legal engineering of an economic policy shift”. Finally, Natasa Athanasiadou’s presentation on the institutional dynamics of the adoption of the recovery plan concluded the event.



In **October**, after the summer break, the seventh seminar featured **Oana Ştefan**, Reader in European law and Assistant Director for the Centre of European Law at King's College London. She delivered a presentation about the role of soft law as an instrument to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. **Mariolina Eliantonio** acted as discussant.



In **November**, MCEL had the pleasure to host Professor **Violeta Moreno-Lax** from Queen Mary University London. The topic of her presentation elaborated on a co-written paper about the different uses and conceptualisations of “autonomy” in EU law and public international law.

In **December**, for the last research seminar of 2021, MCEL had the pleasure to host **Tamara Harvey**, a Jean Monnet Professor of EU law at the City University of London. Tamara presented about the EU response to Covid-19 crisis from the point of view of the basic principle of health law, namely autonomy, equality, solidarity and “do no harm”.



# 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 **Giulia Gentile** who had recently joined MCEL. Giulia's presentation covered her research titled 'Effective judicial protection - of what and for whom? An evolutionary perspective on Article 47 of the EU Charter' which discusses the new stream of cases on Article 47 of the Charter and the potential (and the drawbacks) of an application of Article 47 disconnected from EU rights.



**In February**, **Merijn Chamon** and **Sabrina Röttger-Wirtz** presented some recent case law from the Court of Justice. Sabrina's presentation covered Case C- 352/19 P *Région de Bruxelles-Capitale v Commission* involving the re-approval of glyphosate, the pesticide active substance that has kept the CJEU busy with a whole line of case law. Merijn's presentation covered the joined cases C-597/18 P, C-598/18 P, C-603/18 P and C-604/18 P, *Council v. Chrysostomides*, where the Court of Justice had to rule on the General Court's findings that the Eurogroup is an EU body whose (in)action could result in the non-contractual liability of the Union.

**In March**, the third MCEL Research Forum featured PhD researcher Valentina Golunova. Valentina's presentation presented her doctoral research theme titled: Intermediary liability and freedom of expression in the algorithmic age: swaying the balance?

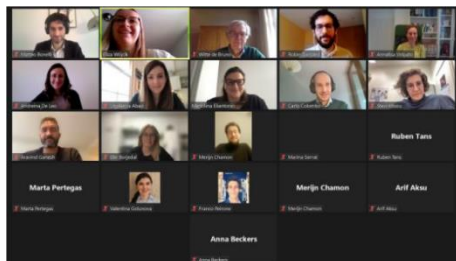


**In May**, the fourth research forum featured **Lavinia Kortese**. Lavinia delivered a very interesting presentation entitled: *The Free Market and the Regulation of Professions in the EU: The Point of No Return?* The objective of this contribution is to analyse the “point of no return” where the economic reasoning at the root of the call for less stringent regulation proves to be detrimental to the free movement objective it is trying to achieve.

**In June, Elin Börjedal** presented on the topic “Positive Obligations under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights”. Some of the questions addressed were whether the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights gives rise to positive obligations and if so, who the duty bearers of such obligations are and what the consequences of such obligations are. These questions are also dealt with in Elin’s PhD project, provisionally entitled "Positive Obligations under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Division of Labour." During her presentation, Elin discussed some preliminary findings and took the MCEL Members along on her thought process of the different components of her thesis.

**In September**, the academic year 2021/2022 started with the first Research Forum. In this meeting, the MCEL members shared their current research activities and research plans for the coming year, including book publications, the organisation of workshops and applications for funding.

**In October, Joana Neto**, a visiting researcher at MCEL gave a presentation on her PhD project entitled “Employees with disabilities or illnesses: reasonable accommodation of the workplace”. Professor **Lisa Waddington** and Anna Lawson, professor of Law at the University of Leeds, presented their paper: “Disability in times of emergency: exponential inequality and the role of reasonable accommodation duties”. This paper is a contribution to the project and forthcoming book “Exponential Inequalities: Equality Law in Times of Crisis.”



**In November**, the third Research Forum was a joint session of MCEL and GLawNet and took place on 9 December. At this Forum, **Robin Gadbled**, a visiting PhD researcher at MCEL and GLawNet presented on the topic of “pressure” in the EU constitutional legal order.

# Publications by MCEL Members

## Books

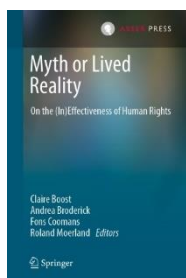


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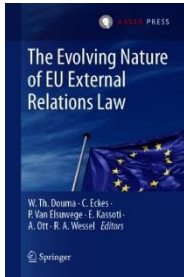


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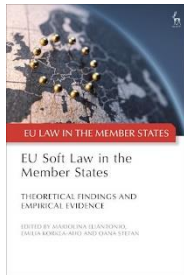
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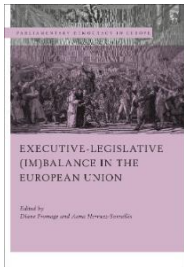
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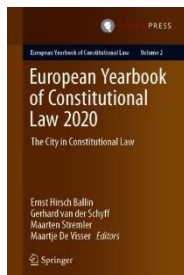
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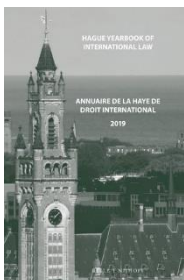
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