

# VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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<b>Bocconi University</b> , Milan, Italy <i>Academic Fellow</i> , Department of Law	2024–present
<b>European University Institute (EUI)</b> , Fiesole, Italy <i>Visiting Fellow</i> , Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies	2024–2025
<i>Max Weber Fellow</i>	2023–2024
<b>University of Roma Tre</b> , Rome, Italy <i>Research Fellow</i> , <a href="#">South EU Google Data Governance Chair</a>	2022–2024
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b> , Champaign, IL <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> , Legal Writing (Law500)	2022
<b>Università degli Studi di Genova</b> , Genoa, Italy <i>Adjunct Professor</i> , English Law, Master in Legal Translation, Department of Linguistics	2012–2021
<b>Uniforma–Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education</b> , Italy <i>Researcher</i> , Trust Law	2011–2013

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Law</b> <i>Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)</i> - Dissertation passed without revisions Title: <i>Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance, Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions</i> Chair: <a href="#">Verity Winship</a> . Committee: <a href="#">Amitai Aviram</a> , <a href="#">Jeremy McClane</a> , <a href="#">Thomas Ulen</a> Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning	2024
<i>Senior Editor</i> , Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal	2020–2023
<i>Research Assistant</i> , College of Law	
Prof. Verity Winship (Small Business Surveys NSF-project)	2020–2021
Prof. Jeremy McClane (SPACs & Business Development Companies)	Summer 2021
Prof. Colleen Murphy - <a href="#">Migration Game Design Working Group</a>	2019–2021
<b>University of California at Berkeley, School of Law</b> , Berkeley, CA <i>Master of Laws (LL.M.)</i> . Relevant Coursework: Privacy law, Cybersecurity	2016
<b>Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics</b> , Genoa, Italy <i>Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.)</i>	2013
<b>Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Law</b> , Genoa, Italy <i>Laurea in Giurisprudenza [Juris Doctor (J.D.) equivalent]</i>	2011
<i>Summer Programs</i>	
<b>University of Michigan, ICPSR-Quantitative Methods of Social Research</b> , Ann-Arbor, MI Structural Equation Models for Latent Variables	2021
Categorical Data Analysis	2020
<b>The University of Chicago, Coase-Sandor Institute for Law &amp; Economics</b> , Chicago, IL Summer School in Law and Economics	2018

## CERTIFICATIONS

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

## DATASETS

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**ICO DATASET 2019** - 2,194 Initial Coin Offerings during the 2019 boom. [[doi.org/10.3886/E217142V2](https://doi.org/10.3886/E217142V2)]  
available at <https://vvillanuevacollao-datasets.blogspot.com/p/ico-dataset-2019.html>

## SELECTED ARTICLES

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*Cryptogatekeepers as a Response to Conflicts of Interest in Decentralized Finance*, NORTH-WESTERN J. TECH. & INTELL. PROP. (forthcoming 2025)

*Understanding the Role of Informal Relationships, Social Norms, and Emerging Power Structures in Decentralized Governance* (2025), under peer review

*Decentralized Finance's Premise & Promise of Decentralization & Disintermediation* (2025), under peer review

*Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC*, EUR. J. PRIVACY & TECH. (forthcoming 2026)

*DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System*, 26 TUL. J. TECH. & INTELL. PROP. 75 (2024)

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

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

*New ICO Intermediaries*, 5 ITALIAN L.J. 731 (2019) (with Verity Winship)  
featured in [the Legal Theory Blog](#), as very interesting and recommended  
featured in [Tokenizzazioni di azioni e azioni tokens](#), CONSOB: Quaderni Giuridici (P. Carrière, N. de Luca, M. de Mari, G. Gasparri, T.N. Poli (2023))

*Le offerte iniziali e gli scambi di crypto-attività (Initial Offers and Exchanges of Crypto-Assets)*, CONSOB (Italian Securities & Exchange Comm'n), Comment on Final Report (2020)

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

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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*DAOS, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study* (job talk)

*The Functions of Cryptointermediaries: The Decline of Cryptoe exchanges and the Rise of Cryptoauditors as the “White Hats” of Decentralized Finance*, draft

*Decentralized (?), But Far From Disorganized: A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs*, draft

*Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms*, writing in progress

*The New Frontier of Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics*, writing in progress

## BLOG POSTS

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[Bringing Accountability Back to Decentralized Finance](#), COLUM. L. SCH. BLUE SKY BLOG (June 2025)

[From Code to Contract: How Legal Wrappers Are Reshaping DAO Governance](#), OXFORD BUS. L. BLOG, OBLB (May 14, 2025)

[The EU AI Act: A Global Game-Changer or a Roadblock for Innovation in the US?](#), OXFORD BUS. L. BLOG, OBLB (March 4, 2025)

[Rodolfo Sacco: The professor, the partisan, the man](#), ASCL BLOG (April 2022)

[Auditing Crypto-Financing](#), DUKE L., THE FINREG BLOG (Mar. 10, 2020) (with Verity Winship)

[Auditing Initial Coin Offerings and Smart-Contracts](#), CUHK, Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, Machine Lawyering (Mar. 3, 2020) (with Verity Winship)

## SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

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*Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science*, GETS & Arizona State University 2024  
GETS conference Grant

*Early-Stage Research (ESR) & Max Weber Programme Grants*, European University Institute 2023  
[Project: Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets](#)

*Mask Network Grant*. Project: The Tech Book 2023

*CULPJ- Consortium for Undergraduate Law & Justice Research Programs Grant* 2022  
Travel grant for the Global Meeting on Law & Society at Lisbon

*Supplemental Summer Block Grant, University of Illinois-Graduate College*. Dissertation Grant 2020

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### COURSES

*Instructor* - [Introduction to the Legal System](#), Bocconi University Spring 2025

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

*Teaching Assistant* - University of Illinois, College of Law  
Contracts. Review sessions for JDs & LL.Ms. Prof. Ralph Brubaker Spring 2020  
Civil Procedure. Review sessions for LL.Ms. Prof. Verity Winship Spring & Fall 2019

### LECTURES

#### ON CORPORATE LAW & TECHNOLOGY

*Corporate Technologies' Impact on Corporate Boards*  
U. of Westminster. Company & Corporate Law. Instructor: Prof. Ioannis Glinavos Spring 2024  
EUI. Seminar "Introduction to Corporate Governance". Instructor: Prof. Mathias Siems Fall 2023

*The US Approach to Sustainable Corporations*—EUI—Department of Law Fall 2023  
Seminar "Introduction to Corporate Governance". Instructor: Prof. Mathias Siems

*Introduction to Cryptomarkets*—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law Spring 2023  
In the course "Comparative Law of Digital Markets." Instructor: Prof. Noah Vardi

*AI and its impact in businesses [IA—L'impatto nelle aziende]*—University of Roma Tre Fall 2022  
In the course "Diritto comparato dei dati e dell'intelligenza artificiale"  
[Comparative Law of Data and Artificial Intelligence]. Instructor: Dr. Sirio Zolea

<i>Smart Contracts: Legal Issues and Restitutionary Solutions</i> —Univ. of Illinois, College of Law	Fall 2022
In the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor: Paul Kayrouz	
<i>Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law	May 2022
In the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Instructor: Prof. Giorgio Resta	
<i>Blockchain and IP</i> —University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Ass’n (ELSA)	June 2021
Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property	
ON METHODOLOGY	
<i>Experiments in Legal Research</i> —NOVA, School of Law, Lisbon	Spring 2024
In the Course of Methodology. Instructor: Fabrizio Esposito	
<i>Interdisciplinary Approaches to Law</i> —University of Roma Tre—Department of Law	Spring 2023
In the Methodology Seminars 2023 of the PhD in “Law & Social Change”	
<i>Comparative Legal Systems</i> -University of Genoa, Department of Law	2016–2018
In the Course of Comparative Law	

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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<i>DAOs, Decentralized Governance, and Vote Buying. An Experimental Study</i>	
NBLSC, UCLA School of Law, Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law & Policy	June 2025
EUI-MWP, Weird Capitalism	May 2025
LSA Conference-Chicago, Technology, Innovation & AI in the Corporate Space	May 2025
La Sapienza University, SIDE/ISLE-Italian Society of Law & Economics	Dec. 2024
<i>A Comparative Analysis of Legal Wrappers and the Evolving Structure of DAOs</i>	
National Taiwan University, 6th YCC Workshop-Comparative Business & Financial Law	May 2025
<i>Decentralized Governance: Models for Accessible Cryptomarkets</i>	
University of Pittsburgh, WINIR Institutional Resilience & Recovery	Sep. 2024
BlockchainGov Research Workshop	July 2024
Bocconi University, Corporate Governance and Reputation	July 2024
EUI-MWP, Navigating Trends in Financial Markets & Corporate Governance	July 2024
EUI-MWF Conference. The Return of Authority in Digital Governance	June 2024
University of Westminster-CETI	Mar. 2024
<i>Cryptogatekeepers in Decentralized Finance. Conflicts of Interest and Prospective Solutions</i>	
Arizona State University, Governance of Emerging Technologies (from call for papers)	May 2024
Nova School of Law, SPEED	April 2024
<i>Cryptointermediaries in Decentralized Finance</i>	
WINIR—Institutional Innovation & Evolution (from call for papers)	Sep. 2023
University of Genoa & University of Roma Tre - New Trends in Corporate Governance	July 2023
<i>Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms</i>	
WINIR—Polycentric Governance & the Challenges of the 21st Cent.(from call for papers)	Sep. 2022
ISCTE—University Institute of Lisbon, LSA—Global Meeting (from call for papers)	July 2022
<i>The New Frontier in Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics</i>	
Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline	Oct.2021
Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH (from call for papers)	
NBLSC, University of Tennessee at Knoxville	June 2021
LSA—Chicago Annual Meeting (from call for papers)	May 2021

Machine Lawyering Conference: Human Sovereignty and Machine Efficiency in the Law The Chinese University of Hong Kong (from call for papers)	Jan. 2021
<i>Conflicts of Interest in DeFi: The Duties of Cryptointermediaries</i> Rijeka Doctoral Conference 2021—University of Rijeka	Dec. 2021
10th National SJD Roundtable—Georgetown University Law Center	April 2021
<i>Empirical Methods in Law: Data Talks</i> SIDE-Italian Society of Law & Economics.	Dec. 2021
Panel: Comparative Law & Economics (from call for papers)	
ASCL-Annual Conference. Panel: Law & Methodology (from call for papers)	Oct. 2020
AIDC/YCC Conference “New Topics and Methods in Comparative Law Research”	June 2020
Panel on Systemology (from call for papers)	
<i>New ICO Intermediaries</i> LSA—Annual Meeting, Roundtable: Exploring Cryptocurrencies & other Related Markets	May 2020
University of Luxembourg	Nov. 2019

## CONFERENCES AND SPEAKER SERIES ORGANIZED

WINIR Young Scholars Workshop, “AI & Institutions”	May 2025
University of Pittsburgh-WINIR - Young Scholars Workshop, “Bridging Divides”	Sep. 2024
EUI, MWP Conference, “Continuity or Rupture: Towards an Interdisciplinary Inquiry”	Feb.–June 2024
EUI & Law & Science, “Capitalist Law” presentation of Katharina Pistor’s Book (co-sponsored by the EUI Finance & Society Cluster)	Mar. 2024
WINIR - Young Scholars, Call for Papers: “Technology and Institutional Change”	Sep. 2023
Symposium New Trends in Corporate Governance, Universities of Genoa & Roma Tre	July 2023
WINIR - Inaugural Young Scholars Workshop - Call for Abstracts: “Technology & Society”	May 2023
South EU Google Data Governance Chair “Data Protection and Consumer Protection Conference” - Roma Tre University	Mar. 2023
“The Future of Data Protection Conference” - Roma Tre University	Mar. 2022
Law as Science Project - Organized Events on Methodology	Fall 2022–Spring 2023

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

ECGI: Different Types of Shareholders and Corporate Decision-Making Bocconi University - ECGI (Discussant)	June 2025
Fireside Chat: A Fair Conversation about Blockchain Regulation EUI, The Law, Rationalism, and Complexity Working Group (Moderator)	May 2024
Artificial Intelligence & Institutional Change - WINIR Conference (Invited Moderator)	Sep. 2023
Fintech & Financial Innovation - WINIR Pre-Conference Workshop (Invited Moderator)	Sep. 2023
Inaugural WINIR Young Scholars Workshop (Invited Moderator)	May. 2023
Introduction to the Law & Economics Institute-IAED- (Invited Speaker) Universidad de Palermo (Argentina) “El análisis económico del derecho como catalizador de la igualdad de género” [The Economic Analysis of Law as a Catalyst for Gender Equality]	Mar. 2023
Decentralized Finance, Berkeley Global Society (Paris) (Invited Speaker)	Sep. 2022

<a href="#">Ninth Annual Corporate &amp; Securities Litigation Workshop - (Chicago)</a> (Invited Moderator)	Sep. 2022
University of Illinois, College of Law	
<a href="#">Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia (RFJ) 75th Anniversary</a> (Invited Moderator)	Nov. 2021
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE	
<a href="#">25th Annual Conf.: Econ. Analysis of the Law &amp; Institutional Change</a> (Invited Moderator)	Oct. 2021
ALACDE-Latin American and Caribbean Law & Economics Association	

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<i>Law Office of Paolo Ghiara.</i> Associate, Genoa	2017–2018
<i>SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees.</i> Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, Genoa	2015–2016
<i>ClaimsConsult s.a.s.</i> Average Adjuster, marine and cargo claims specialist, Genoa	2015
<i>Kuehne and Nagel S.R.L.</i> Intern, Genoa	2012
<i>Private practice.</i> Mediator, Labor Law, Immigration Law, tertiary sector, Genoa	2001–2011

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

#### *European University Institute*

<a href="#">Guest Reviewer for the EJLS Special Issue on International Law and Technology</a>	2024
<a href="#">Finance and Society cluster</a> (organized event)	2024

#### *European Law Institute*

<a href="#">Consultative Committee: Succession of Digital Assets Data and Other Digital Remains</a>	since 2024
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#### *University of Palermo, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

<a href="#">Instituto de Análisis Económico del Derecho</a> [Law & Economics Institute]	since 2023
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#### *University of California at Berkeley, LL.M. Alumni Ambassador*

LL.M. Program Application Reviewer	2023–2024
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#### *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

JSD Representative	2019–2023
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### BOARD AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

#### [Law as Science Project](#)

Advisor & Project Lead ( <a href="#">Interdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Legal Studies</a> )	since 2024
Coordinator & Editor ( <a href="#">Legal Method Lab</a> )	2022–2024

#### [WINIR—World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research](#)

Reviewer Journal of Institutional Economics - JOIE	since 2025
WINIR Young Scholars Committee	since 2022

#### [Berkeley Global Society](#)

Board Member—Editor of <a href="#">blog posts</a> and social media posts ( <a href="#">X/Twitter</a> )	2020–2023
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### OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

[AIDC-Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato](#), [American Society of Comparative Law](#); [ALACDE-Latin American & Caribbean L. & Econ. Ass’n](#); [European Law Institute](#); [Law & Society Association](#); [SIDE-Italian Society of Law and Economics](#); [SIRD—Società Italiana per la Ricerca nel Diritto comparato](#)

## LANGUAGES

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