

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO
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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Law, Champaign, IL

Juris Science Doctor (J.S.D.) candidate

Thesis: *Conflicts of Interests in Decentralized Finance: Duties of Crypto-Intermediaries*—

Chair: [Dean Verity Winship](#), Committee: [Amitai Aviram](#), [Thomas Ulen](#), [Jeremy McClane](#).

Partial tuition scholarship recipient

Activities: JSD representative, 2019–2022;

Memberships: Black Law Students Assn', American Assn' of University Women

Relevant Coursework: Securities Regulation, Securities Litigation, Secured Transactions, Empirical Methods in law, Genomics and the Law, Machine Learning.

Adjunct Instructor

Legal Writing Course - Law 500, Fall 2022. (Profs. Moritz and McDade).

Teaching Assistant

Contracts, Spring 2020 (Prof. Ralph Brubaker)

Civil Procedure, Spring and Fall 2019 (Prof. Verity Winship)

Research Assistant

College of Law,

2020—ongoing (Prof. Verity Winship)—Unicorn Shareholders Suit, Small Business Surveys NSF-project, Lay Perceptions of Settlement.

Summer 2021 (Prof. Jeremy McClane)—Research on Special Purpose Acquisition Companies & Business Development Companies.

2018–2021 (Prof. Colleen Murphy, Asst. Dir. Anita Kaiser) Women in Gender and Global Perspectives, Playful by Design project

Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal

2020—ongoing, Senior Editor

University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research 2021

Workshops: Structural Equation Models for Latent Variables, Causal Inference

Lectures: Introduction to R, Introduction to Computing

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research 2020

Workshops: Data Science & Text Analysis, Categorical Data Analysis

Lectures: Matrix Algebra, Python, LaTeX

Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education, Milan, Italy

Master of Trusts (M.A.), 2017

Honors/Awards: Full tuition scholarship and stipend

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall), Berkeley, CA

Master of Laws (LL.M.), 2016

Relevant Coursework: Privacy Law, Cybersecurity

Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics, Genoa, Italy

Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.), 2013

Honors/Awards: European Social Fund Scholarship

Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Law, Genoa, Italy

Juris Doctor (J.D.), 2011

Thesis: *The Floating Lien: A Legal Flow* – under the supervision of Prof. M. Lupoi

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms

In this paper, I plan to argue that algorithms should be integrated into the board structure of data-driven enterprises because of the unmanageable volumes of data they generate. Thus, data governance frameworks are crucial for management but especially for board decision-making. How to include data governance in the boardroom? This article illustrates how data governance can be implemented in the boardroom by creating a hybrid model: an “algorithm” next to the human board composition. This boardroom model includes a legal entity (a Data Governance Firm—DGF) for designing an algorithmic board member consistent with the corporation’s purpose. The DGF’s role in developing an algorithmic seat is to transform the corporation and its constituencies into complex intersectional relationships based on data. Therefore, rather than being a *nexus of contracts*, modern corporations and their constituencies can be included in datasets showing a *nexus of data*.

The New Frontier of Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics

Biotech companies have resorted to blockchain and unregulated vehicles, such as initial coin offerings, as a cheap way of monetizing DNA while funding the company. This paper explains how biotech blockchain companies have promised investors control over genetic data but obscured other dynamics within the company ownership structure. Not only do token holders lack voting rights, but they are in a new vulnerable position: the company has possession of their genetic data. At the same time, traditional shareholders surreptitiously gain more power and control. This paper’s analysis will shed light on the relationship between shareholders who invested capital and token holders whose interests depend on the human genetic capital shared with the company and the emerging implications from this scenario.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System, in THE TECH BOOK (E. S. Ustun, V. Villanueva Collao, C. Humbel, V. Dipla eds., 2022) *forthcoming*.

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

Empirical Methods in Comparative Law: Data Talks, COMP. L. REV. (2022) *forthcoming*

This article illustrates how comparative law would benefit from the scientific method to bolster its reliability when comparing legal systems. It proposes to improve the method of comparison by creating a testable hypothesis that can help theorize and substantiate the functionalist or differentialist analysis. Empirical research would not obscure current comparative methodologies and tools but would enhance them by mapping a concrete interaction between theory and human activity. To this end, I introduce a comparative analysis example of traditional markets and cryptomarkets to uncover the elements of a successful cryptoassets

sale. Finally, the paper focuses on different types of quantitative empirical legal research and methods used in legal studies and how they can be connected to comparative law. It concludes by identifying the limitations of this methodology as applied to comparative law and previewing a future of combined methods.

Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC, European Journal of Privacy & Technology, *forthcoming* (2022)

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

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

[*New ICO Intermediaries*](#), 5 ITALIAN LAW JOURNAL 731 (2019), University of Illinois College of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 20-12 (with Verity Winship).

[*El fideicomiso en América Latina, reflexiones para la comparación jurídica*](#) [*Latin-American Trusts, reflections on Comparative Law*], 45 ACTUALIDAD CIVIL [ACT. CIV.] 315 (2018) (Peru).

DIRITTO MARITTIMO ED ECONOMIA [MARITIME AND NAVIGATION LAW] 2015 (It.). (with Patrizia Cremonese).

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

Il Waqf: Charitable Trust dei modelli Islamici [*Waqf: Islamic model of Charitable Trusts*], 1 TRUSTS E ATTIVITÀ FIDUCIARIE [T&AF] 148 (2013) (It.).

Gli obblighi del trustee nel sistema Statunitense: Issue e Children nel Testamentary Trust [*Trustee's duties in the American system: Issue & Children on Testamentary Trusts*], 1 T&AF 37 (2012) (It.).

TRANSLATIONS

MAURO GRONDONA, *La responsabilidad de los preponentes y el nexo de ocasionalidad necesaria: función del instituto y problemas operativos*, 11 ACT. CIV. 174 (2015) (Peru). Italian to Spanish.

NICOLAS MALUMIÁN, *Il fideicomiso di garanzia*, 4 T&AF 361 (2012) (It.). English to Italian.

Book X “Trusts” of the *Common Frame of Reference*. Universität Osnabrück, Prof. Dr. Sculte-Nölke, European Legal Studies Institute. Translation from English to Italian, under the European Commission project: *B-Brussels: Translation of legislative models with regard to contract law*. (2011) (EUR.) (with Matteo Patrone).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms

- [WINIR—Polycentric Governance & the Challenges of the 21st Century](#) (Sept. 2022–selected from call for papers).
- [Law & Society–Global Meeting, Iscte—University Institute of Lisbon](#) (July 2022–selected from call for papers).

The New Frontier in Data Privacy and Ownership Structure: Tokenizing Genomics

- [Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline. A new Chance for the interaction between Academics and Stakeholders–Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH: European Protection Law of Individuals in Relation to New Technologies](#), Roundtable (October 2021) (paper selected from call for papers).
- [National Business Law Scholars Conference–University of Tennessee at Knoxville](#) (June 2021).
- [Law and Society–Chicago Annual Meeting](#) (May 2021, selected from call for papers).
- [Machine Lawyering Conference: Human Sovereignty and Machine Efficiency in the Law–The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#) (January 2021) (paper selected from call for papers).

Conflicts of Interest in DeFi: The Duties of Crypto-Intermediaries (Thesis proposal)

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

Empirical Methods in Law: Data Talks

- [17th Annual Conference of the Italian Society of Law and Economics \(SIDE\)—Comparative L&E](#) (December 2021) (paper selected from call for papers).
- [American Society of Comparative Law “Annual Conference”—YCC panel, Law and Methodology](#) (October 2020) (paper selected from call for papers).
- [AIDC/YCC Conference “New Topics and Methods in Comparative Law Research”](#) (June 2020) (paper selected from call for papers).

New ICO Intermediaries

- “Exploring cryptocurrencies and other related markets,” roundtable. Law and Society National Conference (May 2020).
- University of Luxembourg (November 2019).

GUEST LECTURES

Artificial Intelligence and its impact in businesses [AI—L’impatto nelle aziende]

- Guest lecturer within the course “Diritto comparato dei dati e dell’intelligenza artificiale” [Comparative Law of Data and Artificial Intelligence]. Instructor Dr. Sirio Zolea—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law (Fall 2022).

Smart Contracts: Legal Issues and Restitutionary Solutions

- Guest lecturer within the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor Paul Kayrouz—University of Illinois, College of Law (Fall 2022).

Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0

- Guest Lecturer in the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Prof. Giorgio Resta—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law (May 2022).

Blockchain & IP

- Guest Lecturer at the [European Law Students' Ass'n—ELSA Webinar Academy \(EWA\) on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property](#)—University of Salerno (June 2021).

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

[Decentralized Finance](#), Berkeley Global Society–Paris (Sept. 2022).

[Invited Moderator, Ninth Annual Corporate & Securities Litigation Workshop](#), University of Illinois, College of Law (September 2022).

[Invited Moderator, Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia \(RFJ\) 75th Anniversary](#), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE (November 2021).

[Invited Moderator, 25th Annual Conference: Economic Analysis of the Law and Institutional Change](#), Latin American, Caribbean and Iberic Law & Economics Association–ALACDE (October 2021).

BLOG POSTS

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

[Auditing Crypto-Financing](#), Duke Law, The FinReg Blog (Mar. 10, 2020) (with Verity Winship)

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

TEACHING/ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**University of Roma Tre**

Research Fellow – Department of Law 2022

Project: [South EU Google Data Governance Chair](#). Supervisor: Prof. Vincenzo Zeno-Zencovich

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Law

Adjunct Instructor (Legal Writing)–Fall 2022

Held daily sessions within the intensive legal writing course “Law 500” for foreign trained attorneys (main instructors Shannon Moritz and Travis McDade). Drafted materials for small class sections, held office hours, and graded students.

Teaching Assistant (Contracts and Civil Procedure)–Spring and Fall 2019— Spring 2020

Held weekly office hours, weekly and by-weekly review sessions for LLM and JD students. Assisted the in-class discussion. Drafted additional learning material.

Research Assistant –

Prof. Verity Winship 2020 –2021

- Collected, digested, and summarized small business surveys for a National Science Foundation funded project.
- Conducted legal research, digested and summarized law articles on Unicorns’ Shareholders Lawsuits.
- Collected and organized empirical qualitative literature for an article project centered on settlement rates and people’s perception of settlements.

Prof. Jeremy McClane 2021

- Conducted legal research on new forms of capital raising.
- Drafted memos on Business Development Companies (BDCs) and Special Purpose Acquisition Vehicles (SPACs).

Women & Gender in Global Perspectives, Migration Game Design Working Group, 2019–21

- Collected relevant content readings to create a syllabus on design game in which participants will develop a project aimed to foster empathy towards Central American migrants and refugees. Assessed copyright aspects.
- [Developed Migration and Research Design Literature review and bibliography.](#)

Università degli Studi di Genova, Genoa, Italy

Master's in Legal Translations - Department of Linguistics, 2012–2021

English Legal History, Sale of Goods, Family Law, Contracts and Torts.

Lecturer—Department of Law

- Seminars: US legal system, Contracts: Promissory Estoppel, Defenses to Contracts. Prof. A. Fusaro, 2017–2018
- Modules: Common Law—US legal System, Prof. E. Grasso, Imperia, 2016–2018 and Prof. F. Brunetta d'Usseaux, 2014–2017. Peru, Andean Regions, Prof. E. Grasso, Imperia, 2016
- Guest Lect. 'Legal Education' in the US. Prof. E. Ceccherini, 2016–2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Comparative Law, 2012–2018

Bar Exam Tutor - Post Graduate School of Legal Professions, 2011–2015

Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education, Genoa, Italy

Researcher, 2011–2013

Editor Trusts Law Review—Giurisprudenza Estera, peer-reviewed law journal, 2011–2013

Tutor/Mentor, Master in Trusts and Fiduciary Entrustments, 2013

EXPERIENCE

Law Office of Paolo Ghiara, Genoa, Italy, 2017–2018

Associate

SUNIA – Syndicate of Tenants and Assignees, Genoa, Italy, 2015–2016

Regional Project Coordinator, EU Project EnerSHIFT, quality of social housing buildings initiative

ClaimsConsult s.a.s., Genoa, Italy, 2015

Claims Handling—Average Adjuster, marine and cargo claims specialist

Kuehne & Nagel S.R.L., Genoa, Italy, 2012

Intern

Private practice, Genoa, Italy, 2001–2011

Mediator, Labor Law, Immigration Law, tertiary sector

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Legal Clinic, Community of Legal Services in East Palo Alto—CLSEPA, East Palo Alto, CA, 2016

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Clinic—volunteer

UNAR (National Office Against Racial Discrimination), Genoa, Italy, 2011.

Towards a Regional Center of Racial Anti-Discrimination—project participant

CGIL, Immigration Amnesty, Genoa, Italy, 2009

Mediator and Coordinator

MEMBERSHIPS

[AALS—Association of American Law Schools](#)

[AIDC—Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato](#)

[American Society of Comparative Law](#)

[ALACDE—Latin American and Caribbean Law & Economics Association](#)

[Berkeley Global Society](#) (Board and Editor)

[European Law Institute](#)

[Law and Society Association](#)

[Law as Science](#) (Coordinator)

[SIRDC—Società Italiana per la Ricerca nel Diritto Comparato](#)

[SIDE—Società Italiana di Diritto ed Economia](#)

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

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models, certification. Dec. 2020.

Shipbroker license, National Qualification, Dec. 2009 (inactive).

LANGUAGES

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