

# VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO

+1(929) 229-8784 ♦ +39 339 39 84 1 82 ♦ Fiesole, Italy

[vanessa.villanuevacollao@eui.eu](mailto:vanessa.villanuevacollao@eui.eu) ♦ [GitHub](#) ♦ [SSRN](#)

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

### European University Institute

*Max Weber Fellow*. Mentor: Prof. Mathias Siems

*Fiesole*

2023-2024

### University of Roma Tre - Department of Law

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

*Rome*

2022-2024

### University of Illinois - College of Law

*Adjunct Instructor* - Legal Writing, Profs. Moritz & McDade

*Champaign, IL*

July-Aug. 2022

#### *Teaching Assistant*

Contracts (Prof. Ralph Brubaker)

Spring 2020

Civil Procedure (Prof. Verity Winship)

Spring & Fall 2019

#### *Research Assistant*

College of Law

Prof. Verity Winship

2020-2021

Unicorns Shareholders Suit, Small Business Surveys NSF-project, Lay Perceptions of Settlement

Prof. Jeremy McClane

Summer 2021

Research on Special Purpose Acquisition Companies & Business Development Companies

Women & Gender in Global Studies

Prof. Dr. Colleen Murphy - Migration Game Design Working Group

2019-21

[Developed Migration and Research Design Literature review and bibliography](#)

#### *Senior Editor*

Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal

2020—ongoing

### Università degli Studi di Genova

*Adjunct Professor*, English Law, Master in Legal Translations-Department of Linguistics

*Genoa*

2012-2021

*Guest Lecturer*, Comparative Law course-Department of Law

2016-2018

### Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education

*Researcher*, Trust Law. Supervisor: Prof. Maurizio Lupoi

*Genoa*

2011-2013

## EDUCATION

---

### Juris Science Doctor (J.S.D.) candidate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Expected 2023

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

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

Partial tuition scholarship recipient — Activities: JSD representative, 2019-2023;

Relevant Coursework: Empirical Methods in Law, Genomics & the Law, Machine Learning

### University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

2021

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

2020

- Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Certification

### Uniforma – Interuniversity Consortium for Legal Continuing Education

*Master of Trusts (M.A.)*, Honors/Awards: Full tuition scholarship and stipend

*Milan*

2017

### University of California at Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall)

*Master of Laws (LL.M.)*. Relevant Coursework: Privacy law, Cybersecurity

*Berkeley, CA*

2016

### Università degli Studi di Genova, School of Economics

*Master in Maritime and Transportation Insurance (M.A.)*, Honors/Awards: EU Social Fund Scholarship

*Genoa*

2013

## WORK IN PROGRESS

---

**DeFi—A Framework of the Automated Financial Open System**, 26 TULANE J. TECHNOL. & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (2024).

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, as well as the transactions, and the legal issues (and regulatory gaps) from the US perspective are addressed.

### **Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms**

In this paper, I 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” alongside 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; 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 implications emerging from this scenario.

**Protecting Privacy with Blockchain: When Genomics Meets DTC**, EUR. J. PRIVACY & TECHNOL. (2023) *forthcoming*

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 ever 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. By providing some examples of injuries-in-fact, this paper explains why genomic companies that use Blockchain expose their users to specific harms that are beyond the purview of agencies and regulations.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

---

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

**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.).

## CONFERENCES AND SPEAKER SERIES ORGANIZED

---

WINIR - Young Scholars [Call for Papers: “Technology and Institutional Change”](#) Sept. 2023

Symposium: New Trends in Corporate Governance - University of Genoa & Roma Tre University *Genoa*, July 2023

WINIR - Inaugural Young Scholars Workshop - [Call for Abstracts: “Technology and 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

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

---

*Cryptointermediaries in Decentralized Finance*

[WINIR—Institutional Innovation & Evolution](#) (from call for papers) Sept. 2023

[University of Genoa & University of Roma Tre - New Trends in Corporate Governance](#) Jul. 2023

*Data Governance Firms in Corporate Boardrooms*

[WINIR—Polycentric Governance and the Challenges of the 21st Century](#) (from call for papers) Sept. 2022

[Law & Society—Global Meeting](#), Iscte—University Institute of Lisbon (from call for papers) July 2022

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

[Legal Design for Transparency in Consumer Contracts operating online and offline](#), Jean Monnet Chair PROTECH: European Protection Law of Individuals in Relation to New Technol. Roundtable (from call for papers) Oct. 2021

[National Business Law Scholars Conference](#)—University of Tennessee at Knoxville June 2021

[Law & Soc’y—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

*Conflicts of Interest in DeFi: The Duties of Crypto-Intermediaries*

[Rijeka Doctoral Conference 2021](#)—University of Rijeka Dec. 2021

10th National SJD Roundtable—Georgetown University Law Center April 2021

*Empirical Methods in Law: Data Talks*

[17th Annual Conference of the Italian Soc’y of Law and Economics \(SIDE\)](#) Dec. 2021

Panel: Comparative Law & Econ. (from call for papers).

[American Soc’y of Comparative Law “Annual Conference”](#) Oct. 2020

Panel Law & Methodology (from call for papers)

[AIDC/YCC Conference “New Topics and Methods in Comparative Law Research”](#) June 2020

Panel on Systemology (from call for papers)

*New ICO Intermediaries*

[Exploring cryptocurrencies and other related markets-roundtable](#). Law & Soc’y Nat’l Conference May 2020

University of Luxembourg Nov. 2019

## GUEST LECTURES

---

*Introduction to Cryptomarkets*—University of Roma Tre—Department of Law Spring 2023

Guest lecturer within 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

Guest lecturer within 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> —University of Illinois, College of Law Guest lecturer within the course “Fintech Law and Policy.” Instructor Paul Kayrouz.	Fall 2022
<i>Blockchain and the Development of Web 3.0</i> —University of Roma Tre–Department of Law Guest Lecturer in the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Prof. Giorgio Resta.	May 2022
<i>Blockchain and IP</i> —University of Salerno-European Law Students’ Ass’n (ELSA) Guest Lecturer at the Webinar Academy (EWA) on AI and Intellectual Property	June 2021

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Invited Moderator, <a href="#">Artificial Intelligence &amp; Institutional Change - WINIR Conference</a>	Sep. 2023
Invited Moderator, <a href="#">Fintech &amp; Financial Innovation. WINIR Pre-Conference Workshop</a>	Sep. 2023
Invited Moderator, <a href="#">Inaugural WINIR Young Scholars Workshop</a>	May. 2023
<a href="#">Decentralized Finance</a> , Berkeley Global Society–Paris	Sep. 2022
Invited Moderator, <a href="#">Ninth Annual Corporate &amp; Securities Litigation Workshop</a>	Sep. 2022
University of Illinois, College of Law	
Invited Moderator, <a href="#">Revista Facultad de Jurisprudencia (RFJ) 75th Anniversary</a>	Nov. 2021
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador–PUCE	
Invited Moderator, <a href="#">25th Annual Conference: Economic Analysis of the Law and Institutional Change</a> ,	Oct. 2021
Latin American, Caribbean and Iberic Law and Economics Association–ALACDE	

## BLOG POSTS

<a href="#">Rodolfo Sacco: The professor, the partisan, the man</a> , ASCL BLOG (April, 2022).	
<a href="#">Auditing Crypto-Financing</a> , Duke Law, THE FINREG BLOG (Mar. 10, 2020) (with Verity Winship).	
<a href="#">Auditing Initial Coin Offerings and Smart-Contracts</a> , CUHK, Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, Machine Lawyering (Mar. 3, 2020) (with Verity Winship).	

## EXPERIENCE

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

- [AALS](#)—Association of American Law Schools; [AIDC](#)—Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato
- [American Society of Comparative Law](#); ALACDE—Latin American & Caribbean Law & Economics Ass’n
- Berkeley Law LL.M. Alumni Ambassador Application Reviewer (Reviewed LLM applications, 2023)
- [Berkeley Global Society](#) - Board Member (2020-2023) Editor of [blog posts](#) and social media posts ([Twitter](#)).
- [European Law Institute](#); [Law & Society Association](#)
- [Law as Science Project](#) - Coordinator & Editor ([Legal Method Lab](#))
- [WINIR](#)—World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research - Working Group for WINIR Young Scholars Committee.

## LANGUAGES

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