

**28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING of the  
COMMON CORE OF EUROPEAN PRIVATE LAW**

*Sustainability and its Narratives*

GRONINGEN, 24-26 MAY 2023

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



**university of  
 groningen**

faculty of law



*Associazione Internazionale University College of Turin*

## Foundations for Sustainable Private Law



***Bram Akkermans** is Professor of Property Law at Maastricht University and serves as director of studies of Dutch language undergraduate programmes. His research focuses on sustainability and property law and includes and combines comparative, European and international private law. He has published in both Dutch and English on doctrinal and legal theory in relation to private law. He has been visiting scholar at the universities of Bremen, Oxford, Stellenbosch and Leuven.*

## Shared Prosperity: Towards a New Imaginary of Political Economy in the EU



*Marija Bartl is a Professor of Transnational Private Law at the Amsterdam Law School and the Director of the Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law. She is a managing editor of the European Law Open and a board member of the UvA's Research Priority Area ENLENS: 'Energy transition through the lens of Sustainable Developments Goals'. Marija teaches several courses, including 'Private Law in European and International Perspective' and 'Law as a Change-Maker'.*

*Marija's current research revolves around two main research lines. First takes place within her ERC project 'Law as a vehicle for social change: Mainstreaming Non-Extractive Economic Practices (N-EXTLAW)'. The project adopts a broad perspective on private law as a vehicle of social change, exploring the ways in which rethinking (private) law's role in facilitating and mainstreaming 'non-extractive economic practices' may open up possibilities for a wider socio-ecological transformation. Second, N-EXTLAW draws and builds on the ideas stemming from Marija's book project 'Towards a New Imaginary of Collective Prosperity' (on contract with CUP). In this project, Marija asks how we can interpret the transformation that the EU is currently undergoing, under the influence of several ongoing crises. She argues that we are witnessing a slow shift towards a more collective imaginary of prosperity in the EU, where public and collective actors – rather than 'markets' and private actors – are seen as the main drivers of progress and prosperity.*

## Rights and Liabilities of Animals at the Urban-Wild Interface



*Lee P. Breckenridge is Professor of Law, Emerita, at Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts, and an affiliated faculty member in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and B.A. from Yale College. Before joining the Northeastern faculty, she held posts in federal and state government, including as chief of the Environmental Protection Division in the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. She writes and teaches in areas of environmental law, natural resources law, land use, and administrative law. In her research and advocacy work, she has a particular interest in the evolution of property institutions and regulatory regimes defining private and public rights in migratory resources and coordinating ecological relationships across economic and political boundaries.*

## Rights of Nature in the European Context: from Questionable Foundations to the Lack of Legal Justification



*Julien Bétaille holds a PhD from the University of Limoges (France), where he dedicated his doctoral thesis to the effectiveness of environmental law (2012). His research deals with environmental law in general (notably biodiversity and climate law), with a particular focus on theoretical and procedural issues such as Environmental Constitutionalism, Rights of Nature, litigation, and Aarhus convention rights. His research also concerns research methods, with a particular emphasis on empirical legal research applied to environmental law. In 2022, he has been appointed as a member of the Institut universitaire de France (IUF) for five years.*



## Sustainability and the Law



*Felix Ekardt is Director of the Research Unit Sustainability and Climate Policy in Leipzig, which he founded in 2009. Since 2009, he is also Professor for Public Law and Legal Philosophy at Rostock University (Faculty of Law) as well as member of the Leibniz Science Campus on Phosphorus Research - as well as member of the Interdisciplinary Faculty (Department Knowledge-Culture-Transformation). His scientific focus as a lawyer, philosopher and sociologist lies on issues around human science sustainability studies.*

[www.felix-ekardt.eu](http://www.felix-ekardt.eu)

## Autonomous Tort Law and Corporate Climate Change Liability: Legality and Effectiveness Defences



*Elbert de Jong (1987) is Professor of Private Law at the Utrecht Centre for Accountability and Liability Law (Ucall) and the Molengraaff Institute for Private Law of Utrecht University, the Netherlands. He is also director of Ucall. In his research, De Jong focuses on the interaction between tort law and environmental and technological challenges. He worked on, inter alia, the precautionary principle in tort law, corporate accountability and liability for climate change, State liability for climate change, the incorporation of scientific insights into tort law, injunctive relief proceedings in the context of health and environmental risks, State liability and human rights and policy concerns in judicial-law making and the reasoning in judicial decisions. For his research, he received several awards such as the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) Early Career Partnership, the Dutch Research Council Rubicon-award, the KNAW membership fund, and the publication price of the Dutch Society for Civil Law. De Jong is member of the editorial board of the Dutch Journal of Civil Law and a Deputy Judge at the Court of Appeal of Arnhem-Leeuwarden.*

**Prof Alessandra Quarta** (University of Turin)

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## **The Right to a City**



*Alessandra Quarta is Associate Professor of Private Law at the University of Turin and coordinator of the H2020 Project Generative European Commons Living Lab. Her main research interests lie within property law, the commons, contract law, and law and technology.*



## The Politics of Propertisation



*Jill Robbie is a Senior Lecturer in Private Law at the University of Glasgow. Jill's research interest lies within the field of natural resources and sustainability. She is currently investigating the tensions between social justice, economic development and environmental protection in the context of the law regulating land use. She is particularly interested in analysing these tensions in relation to water. Jill is also engaged in comparative law including with the jurisdictions of South Africa, Louisiana and Norway.*

## Can Consumer Law Become Sustainable?



*Evelyne Terryn is full professor at the KU Leuven and teaches consumer law, commercial law and company law. She is also sustainability coordinator within the KU Leuven Kulak management committee and a practicing lawyer (Kortrijk bar). Evelyne studied law at the KU Leuven (master and PhD), at King's College London and Oxford (MJur). She is co-director of the research institute CCM – Consumer Competition Market ([law.kuleuven.be/ccm](http://law.kuleuven.be/ccm)). Her research focuses on commercial law and (European) consumer law – with a specific interest in making consumer law more sustainable. She has published extensively in this field, inter alia on the right to repair, 'greening' e-commerce, and on servitization. She was involved in several studies on consumer law for the European institutions and for national governments. She was a visiting professor at inter alia the University of Amsterdam and the China EU School of Law (Beijing).*



*Professor Franz Werro shares his life between the Faculté de droit of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Georgetown Law, in Washington, DC.*

*He teaches and researches in different fields of private law, including the law of obligations, European private law and comparative law. He was a visiting professor at the Cornell Law School (Ithaca, NY) as well as at a number of European and Israeli Law Faculties. He has published numerous essays on a variety of topics, including legal sources and the impact of EU law on national private law. He published the third edition of his treatise on Swiss tort law in 2017 and the second edition of his contracts case book in 2019. He is one of the two academic editors of the *Droit des obligations (Commentaire romand)* that came out in its third edition in 2021.*

*In January 2014, Franz Werro became one of the two Co-Editors-in-Chiefs of the *American Journal of Comparative Law*. Since 2020, he also chairs the Council of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, in Lausanne.*