

VANESSA VILLANUEVA COLLAO
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EDUCATION

University of Illinois, 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—20, 2020—22; Memberships: BLSA, AAUW

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

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, Settlements Message.

Summer 2021 (Prof. Jeremy McClane) – Research on SPACs & BDC.

2018-2021 (Prof. C. Murphy, Ass. Dir. Anita Kaiser) Women in Gender and Global
Perspectives, Playful by Design project

Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal

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

This article illustrates how machine training tools can assist the board without substituting it by adding an external board member (a firm), bridging the gap between the dataset algorithmic training model and the classical [traditional] board composition. Having a legal entity (such as the data governance firm) serving on the board has multiple advantages. The model's productivity gains are reflected in the reduction of agency costs using machine training through the aggregation of data, providing concrete and accurate algorithmic responses helping the board deliberation process. If advanced data processing software enhances corporate productivity, the board shall be equipped to use and understand its measurement and function. This framework allows the data governance firm to be held accountable for the risks taken while increasing transparency consistent with the fiduciary duties that the board owes to shareholders. Unlike independent directors, these firms, as a repeat player, do have the incentives to monitor and oversee the board, creating reputational mechanisms and a robust market for corporate governance.

Intermediaries in DeFi, in *THE TECH BOOK* (E. S. Ustun, V. Villanueva Collao, C. Humbel, V. Dipla eds., 2022) *forthcoming*.

Decentralization and disintermediation are the principal features of blockchain technology, but to what extent are these assumptions true? This article evidences how decentralization and disintermediation are misnomers in innovation technology in Web 3.0. On the contrary, the emergence of intermediaries shows that blockchain is not trustless, but a trusting architecture, and intermediaries have an active role.

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, to assure privacy and 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 examines blockchain genomic companies whose background description offers a better understanding of the concrete risks' investors face through a case study approach.

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, which creates privacy risks, rendering 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 the privacy threats and the concrete harms. This paper explains why genomic companies that use

Blockchain expose their users to specific harms that fall outside the radar of agencies and regulations by providing some examples of these injuries-in-fact.

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

The article proposes to improve the method of comparison by creating a testable hypothesis that can help theorize and substantiate the functionalist or differentialist analysis. Moreover, current methodologies and tools would not be obscured by empirical research but enhanced by mapping a concrete interaction between theory and human activity. Finally, as an anthropologist of the law, the comparatist is already accustomed to observing and comparing but would receive great aid in constructing a well-defined theory that is persuasive and supported by concrete evidence.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[*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).

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.).

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

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.).

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). From Italian to Spanish.

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

Blockchain the Development of Web 3.0

- Invited Lecturer within the course “Digital Technologies and the Law.” Prof. Giorgio Resta – University of Roma Tre – Department of Law (May 2022).

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).

Blockchain & IP

- [European Law Students’ Ass’n – ELSA Webinar Academy \(EWA\) on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property](#) – Università di Salerno (June 2021).

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).

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

[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, Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant – College of Law, 2019—2020

Held office hours and review sessions for LLM and JD students. Drafted additional learning material.

Research Assistant –

College of Law,

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—present

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

Sexual Misconduct Policy Reform Committee, University of Illinois, College of Law, 2020

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

[European Law Institute](#)

[American Society of Comparative Law](#)

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

[Law and Society Association](#)

[Berkeley Global Society](#) (Board)

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

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

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

[Law as Science](#) – Coordinator.

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).