



Venice International University
VIU Winter School
Digital Rights: Theory and Practice

January 26-30, 2026

Faculty

Costanza Margiotta, University of Padua
Mariavittoria Catanzariti, University of Padua
Xenia Chiaramonte, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Lorenzo Passerini Glazel, University Milano Bicocca
Amedeo Santosuosso, University School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia
Laura Drechsler, KU Leuven
Anne Christine Fornage, University of Lausanne
Giovanni Sartor, University of Bologna and European University Institute
Damiano Canale, Bocconi University
Devi Sacchetto, University of Padua
Federico Tomasello, University of Messina
Federica Casarosa, European University Institute
Nicola Ferro, University of Padua
Stefano Quintarelli, I.Net S.p.A.
Daniele Ruggiu, University of Padua
Guido Grogoni, University of Padua

Program

Monday, January 26 – The main issues

14:30 – 14:15 *Registration*

14:15 – 15:00 Welcome remarks (VIU) and Introduction to the Winter School (Scientific Coordinators:
Margiotta, Catanzarini, Santosuosso, Chiaramonte, Passerini Glazel)

15:00 – 15:45 The lexicon of AI (Prof. Ferro)

15:45 – 16:15 AI and public decision making (Prof. Santosuosso)

16:15 – 16:30 *Break*

16:30 – 17:00 Q&A

17:00– 17:30 Informal discussion among students and scholars

Tuesday, January 27 - AI, Legal computing, human rights and ethics

9:30 - 10:30: AI, legal computing and human rights + Q&A (Prof. Sartor)

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Dialogue with experts on AI, digital rights and the moderation of digital platforms (Prof. Sartor, Prof. Passerini Glazel, Prof. Ruggiu)

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Digital technologies and AI + Q&A (Dr. Quintarelli)

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 17:30 *Roundtable*: law and ethics of AI (Prof. Ferro, Prof. Santosuosso, Prof. Catanzariti and Dr Quintarelli and other participants)

Wednesday, January 28 - Legal theory, law of platforms, digital slavery, transformation of (private) law

9:30 – 10:30 Legal inferences in the digital realm + Q&A (Prof. Canale)

10:30 -11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 *Working groups* - hypothetical cases: drafting of hypotheticals to be shared in advance (Prof. Casarosa)

12:00 – 13:00 *Interactive readings' session* (to be used for students' workshop) and mentoring activity (Prof. Chiaramonte, others)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Transformations of (private) law: Challenges of digitalization on concepts like Person or Good + Q&A (Prof. Fornage)

15:00 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 *Workshop*- digital slavery, the role of platforms and fundamental rights (Prof. Margiotta, Prof. Sacchetto)

Evening Social Dinner in Venice

Thursday, January 29

9:30 - 10:45: *Workshop*: the right to digital memory and data archives (Prof. Fornage, Prof. Drechsler, one PhD)

10:45 - 11:15 *Coffee break*

11:15 – 12:30: *Dialogue* from different perspectives upon a specific topic: new private actors in the global scenario lawyers/philosophers/sociologists

12:30 – 13.30 *Bilateral interaction* among students and academics/mentoring

13:30 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 – 16:15 *Interactive lecture*: Digital citizenship (Dr. Gorgoni, Dr. Tomasello)

16:15 – 16:30 *Break*

16:30 – 17:30 Interactive argumentative session (depending on the target audience) and mentoring activity (Prof. Casarosa)

Guidelines for workshop

Friday, January 30

9:30 – 10:30: The cross-border dimension of the AI Act: a critical perspective + Q&A (Prof. Catanzariti)

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30: Moot Court (preparation of hypotheticals) under the supervision of Prof. Drechsler

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-16:00 Students' workshop (six individual or joint presentations and six discussants)

17:00 – 17:30 Conclusion of the winter school and recommendations

Faculty's short bio



Costanza Margiotta is Full Professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Padova (Dep. of Political Science, Law, and International Studies), where she teaches “Human rights and International Justice”, “European Citizenship and Fundamental Rights” and “Philosophy of law”. Since June 2023 she is Senior Fellow at Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution (CIGAD) (King’s College London). She holds a Ph.D. in Legal Theory from the the European University Institute (Florence). Her background is both philosophical (Degree in Philosophy University of Bologna) and legal (Law Faculty Université de Paris X– Nanterre). She was a Post-doctoral Fellow at Istituto di Scienze Umane (Florence-Naples); Research Fellow at the Law Faculty, University of Parma; Research Fellow at the Faculty of Political Science of Forlì, University of Bologna. She has been Visiting Fellow at Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (EUI, Florence), Visiting Scholar at ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Visiting scholar at Deusto University Bilbao. Among her books are: *La lotta per la certezza: codificazione e interpretazione del diritto internazionale* (2023); *Between Democracy and Law: The Amoralism of Secession*, eds. with C. Closa and G. Martinico (2021); *Cittadinanza europea. Istruzioni per l’uso* (2014); *L’ultimo diritto. Profili storici e teorici della secessione* (2005). Her research has been focusing on legal theory, international public law, European Citizenship, Slavery and race and law. She is member of the Editorial Board of the journal «Ragion Pratica» and Associate Editor of the journals «Filosofia politica» and «Ars Interpretandi».



Mariavittoria Catanzariti is Assistant Professor of Legal Philosophy at University of Padua. Barrister in law since 2010, she obtained a PhD in Law with a special focus on Legal Philosophy and European Law from Roma Tre University in 2011 and the Italian Scientific Qualification as Professor in Legal Philosophy and in Legal Sociology. Before joining the University of Padua, she has worked for several years as Jean Monnet Fellow, Research Associate and Research Fellow at the European University Institute. She has been a visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institut für Innovation und Wettbewerb in Munich and at the Max Planck Institut für Rechtsgeschichte in Frankfurt, the Université de Paris 1

Panthéon-Sorbonne, Concordia University in Montreal, and the University of Cologne. She has also held fellowships at the Karls Ruprecht Universität di Heidelberg, the University of California Berkeley, the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in Munich, and the Institut lucernaiuris of the University of Lucerne. Her main research interest revolves around the interaction of digital transformation and information society with the law. Her publications cover different legal areas such as data protection and data governance, law and technologies, human rights, European integration.



Xenia Chiaramonte is an Associate Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where she teaches Theory and Criticism of Law and Law and Society in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage. She co-edits the blog on critical criminology in Italy, *Studi sulla Questione Criminale*, and is the author of *Governare il conflitto. La criminalizzazione del movimento No Tav* (Meltemi, 2019). Since 2025, she has been leading an ERC project on contemporary punitive reason: “Social Defence. Uncovering the Transnational Epistemology of the Punitive Age”. She is the co-author of the article “Do we really need a “Digital Humanism”? A critique based on

post-human philosophy of technology and socio-legal techniques” in *Journal of Responsible Technology*, vol. 18.



Lorenzo Passerini Glazel is Full Professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Milan-Bicocca, where he teaches “Philosophy of Law” and “Theories of Interpretation”. He graduated in Philosophy from the University of Pavia and obtained a PhD in General Theory and Analytical Philosophy of Law from the University of Milan. He has been visiting research fellow at the Centre de Théorie du Droit at the University of Paris X – Nanterre and visiting professor at the CERC (Centre d’Études et de Recherche sur les Contentieux) at the University of Toulon. He is



a member of the scientific boards of PERSONA - Research Centre in Phenomenology and Sciences of the Person of the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University; ISEB (Istituto Emilio Betti di Storia e Teoria del diritto); and CISEPS (Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics, Psychology and Social Sciences) at the University of Milan-Bicocca, for which he coordinates the unit “Institutions: Origins, Functioning, Overthrowing”. He is a full member of Ateneo di Brescia, Accademia di Scienze, Lettere e Arti. His main research interests concern the theory of legal systems, the philosophy of norms and norm-oriented behaviour, philosophical deontics, the philosophy of normative language, theories of interpretation, the theory of categorisation, constitutive rules and social ontology, with particular regard to the ontology of norms and institutional entities, also in relation to new information technologies and digital realities. Among his publications: *La forza normativa del tipo. Pragmatica dell’atto giuridico e teoria della categorizzazione* (Quodlibet, 2005), *Atto norma tipo. Tra pragmatica e ontologia del diritto* (Aracne, 2012), *Le realtà della norma, le norme come realtà. Saggio di filosofia del diritto* (LED, 2020), and (with Paolo Di Lucia) *Hans Kelsen. Giustizia, diritto e realtà sociale* (Raffaello Cortina, 2024).



Amedeo Santosuosso is an Extraordinary Professor at the University School for Advanced Studies IUSS PAVIA, in the class of Philosophy of Law. From 1978 to 2019 he served as a judge, in the last period as President of both the First Civil Chamber and the Specialized Business Chamber of the Court of Appeal of Milan. At the same time, he has had an intense teaching and research activity in academia in Italy and abroad, on the main frontier topics between science, technologies, and law. The current focus of his research is on artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and law. The hallmark of his

work is to capture the twofold movement whereby, on the one hand, law regulates new applications of technology, and, on the other hand, the new technological environment retroacts on law by transforming it (according to a “molecular vision of law” of which he is a proponent).



Damiano Canale is full professor of Philosophy of Law at Bocconi University. He holds a M.Sc. in Political Sciences (1995) and a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Law (1999) from the University of Padua. He has been visiting research scholar at the Max-Planck-Institut für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte, the Yale Law School, the University of Oxford, the Pompeu Fabra University and the University of Córdoba (Argentina). In 2023 he was the first Julius Stone Professorial Visiting Fellow at the University of Sydney School of Law. His papers on legal theory and legal argumentation have been published in the *American Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, *Ratio Juris*, *Jurisprudence*, *Informal Logic*, *Argumentation*, *Argumentation in Context*, *Rechtstheorie*, *Archiv für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie*, *Doxa*.



Devi Sacchetto is Professor of Sociology of work at the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology at the University of Padua. He graduated in Political Sciences at the University of Padua, and gained his Ph.D. in “Methodology of Research in Human Sciences” at the Department of Anthropological Sciences (DISA) of the University of Genoa. He is currently teaching Sociology of Work (Bachelor’s Degree) and Sociology of labour and Migration processes. He is member of Executive Board of the PhD in Social Sciences, University of Padua. Since 2023 he is the Coordinator of Sociology at the FISPPA’s Department. He has been responsible and participated in national and

international research on mobility of labour and capital. He studied also the transformations in the maritime sector, on the intergenerational transmission of social inequalities and on the forms of social cohesion. He is author with Gabriella Alberti of *The Politics of Migrant Labour* (Bristol University Press, 2024).



Federico Tomasello is an Assistant Professor at the University of Messina – Department of Political and Legal Studies – with the Italian qualification as full professor of History of Political Thought and of Political Philosophy. After obtaining his PhD at the University of Bologna (2013), he has had research, teaching and visiting positions at the Universities of Florence, Padua, Venice, Neuchatel, European University Institute, WZB-Berlin Social Science Centre, and Central European University. He is currently coordinating the Messina research unit of a project funded by the Next Generation EU programme and entitled Beyond Workism and the Work-centered Society (2023-26). His recent publications include *The Making of the Citizen-Worker. Labour and Citizenship in Post-Revolutionary France* (Routledge, 2023), *From Industrial to Digital Citizenship: Rethinking Social Rights in Cyberspace* (Theory & Society, 2023). His research currently focuses on the relationship between social rights and digital rights and on rethinking wealth redistribution strategies in a data-driven economy.



Federica Casarosa is a research affiliate at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. Ever since her degree in Private Law (University of Pisa, 2001) and subsequent PhD in Law (European University Institute, 2008), Federica Casarosa focused her interests towards the intersection of law and technology, analysing the role of information in consumer contracts, issues related to the protection of personal data for consumer and internet users in general, forms of private regulation in the protection of freedom of expression, and the impact of cybersecurity regulation on private law. On these topics, she has carried out both teaching (at the University of Pisa) and research activities, as well as training of legal professionals thanks to her role as scientific coordinator in several training projects led by the Centre for Judicial Cooperation (ACTIONES, e-NACT, JUDCOOP). Her recent publications include *Enabling and safeguarding personalized medicine* (ed. with F. Gennari and A. Rossi), Springer, 2025; and *Enforcing Private Regulation in the Platform Economy* (ed. with M. Grochowski), Mohr Siebeck, 2025.



Laura Drechsler is an Assistant Professor at KU Leuven for data law as well as a researcher for the Belgian State Archives as part of a FED-tWIN project, via which she is studying the intersection of EU data protection law with EU data law from a human rights perspective.

Laura was assistant editor of the Oxford University Press Commentary on the GDPR of 2020 and its update of 2021, and is reprising this role for the 2nd edition.

Laura did her legal studies at the University of Vienna, Austria, and KU Leuven (LL.M in Public International and European Law; Master Thesis on freedom of information and intellectual property). After completing her studies in 2015, she worked for two years as a legal advisor/lobbyist for the Austrian Chamber of Civil Law Notaries in Brussels, where she gained an in-depth understanding of European law-making and EU institutions. In autumn 2017, Laura joined the Brussels Privacy Hub at the Law, Science, Technology and Society (LSTS) Research Group at VUB, where in 2018 she won an individual FWO grant to complete her thesis on 'Data subject rights in international personal data transfers'. She defended this thesis in November 2022.



Anne-Christine Fornage is Full Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Lausanne, where she teaches Contract Law, Consumer Law, Digital Markets Law and European Private Law. She wrote her doctoral thesis on 'The enforcement of consumer contract rights' which received the 2012 Vigener Prize of the University of Fribourg. She completed her LL.M. in Commercial Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science and is admitted to practice Law. She has been lecturing in various countries and was a Visiting Professor namely at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, the City University of



Hong Kong, University of Roma³ and McGill University. Anne-Christine Fornage also acts regularly as an academic consultant on legal questions relating to her areas of expertise. Her publications focus on structural imbalances in contracts concluded with professionals, particularly in the context of the digitized economy. She is also an expert of Product Safety Law (including aspects of Civil Liability), Unfair Competition Law and Securities Law. She works since 2018 on interactions between law and digitalization and established an annual week of courses and conferences (La Semaine de la Digitalisation), which aims to provide them with tools to identify societal, ethical and legal changes created by technologies. Since 2019, Anne-Christine Fornage has been serving on the Federal Consumer Commission, as Vice-president from 2020-2023 and as President since January 1, 2024. During her four years term, she will provide advice on Consumer Law and Policy to the Swiss Government.



Nicola Ferro is Full Professor in computer engineering at the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padua. He is head of the Intelligent Interactive Information Access (IIIA) hub. His research interests include information retrieval, its experimental evaluation, multilingual information access and digital libraries. He chairs the Steering Committee of CLEF, the European evaluation initiative on multimodal and multilingual information access systems, and the Steering Committee of ESSIR, the European Summer School on Information Retrieval. He is Senior PC Member in top-tier conferences, like ECIR, ACM SIGIR, ACM CIKM, and WSDM. He is General Co-Chair of the SIGIR 2025 and the CIKM 2026 conferences. He

was General Chair of the ECIR 2016 conference and Associate Editor for the ACM TOIS journal. He has published more than 500 papers on information retrieval, digital libraries, and their evaluation. He was inducted to Class 2023 of the SIGIR Academy and he was awarded the Tony Kent Strix Award in 2024 for his substantial and sustained contributions to the Information Retrieval field. Since 2025, he has been elected president of ACM SIGIR, the ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval.



Giovanni Sartor is Full Professor of Legal Informatics at the Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Bologna, he has been appointed as a new member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC, and is a part-time professor of Legal Informatics and Legal Theory at the European University Institute. He deals with issues concerning law, philosophy and computer science. He has contributed to defining the intersection between artificial intelligence and law, developing ideas and models on legal reasoning and knowledge representation. His work has had a significant impact on legal theory, bridging the gap between law and computer science.

He was president of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law, has participated in numerous national and European research projects, and is Principal Investigator of the ERC Advanced CompuLaw project, which aims to make law computation-oriented, with the goal of integrating, mapping and partially translating legal and ethical requirements into computable representations of legal knowledge and reasoning.