2013 LAW & SCIENCE
YOUNG SCHOLARS INFORMAL SYMPOSIUM AND PRIZE
Pavia (I), 18 June 2013

The EUROPEAN CENTER FOR LAW, SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES (ECLT), Università degli studi di Pavia
and
COLLEGIO GHISLIERI (Pavia)
organize the

2013 Law & Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium

Aim
The Symposium creates a forum for post-graduate scholars, PhD students and early-career researchers working in the area of Law&Science. It provides participants with an opportunity to present and discuss their researches with senior researchers of the Law Science community in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.
The Symposium aims to:
- Provide a forum within which young students receive constructive feedback from other researchers on their research and guidance on its future direction.
- Provide students with a forum for building a network of other students and more senior researchers.
- Build bridges for potential research collaboration.
- Contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers at the main conference.

Prize
The two best papers are awarded a

2013 Law&Science Young Scholar
ECLT Prize

The 2013 Law&Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium is the latest edition of the event which has taken place in the last three years at the University of Pavia on the initiative of the European Centre for Law, Science and New Technologies (ECLT), University of Pavia.

Who can apply
Post-graduate scholars, PhD students and early-career researchers working in the area of Law&Science are invited to apply.

One or more authors can sign an abstract/paper, but one author can submit only one abstract (alone or with other authors).

**Topics**

To apply for participation in the Symposium, candidates should send an abstract on topics related to Law&Science. Discussion topics will include, **but are not limited to**:

a) **Transnational law of science and converging technologies**

Emerging applications in the field of science hold great promise for promoting the health and well-being of the global community. International law develops and regulates transnational behaviour in a manner that goes well beyond the system of environmental development treaties, driven in large part by the self-interest of states, but also considers the social interaction of states and non-state actors.

b) **Genetics and Biotechnology**

The genetics and genomics revolution has given rise to a new testing ground for lawyers, provided by the possible uses of DNA in: genetic tests and genetic counselling, genetic studies on population and genealogical evolution. Moreover, DNA evidence is relevant both in legal proceedings (ascertainment of parental relationships) and in criminal trials (personal identification of culprit on the basis of his/her genetic profile, extracted from his/her biological sample found at the crime scene).

c) **Biobanks, patents and Intellectual Property**

The circulation and sharing of the contents of biobanks is addressed by studying their normative statutes, with careful attention being paid to copyright. The question of ownership of samples (tissues, cells, organs) and ownership of the biobank as the entity managing the database is crucial in determining any rights on research that can be patented.

d) **Neuroscience**

The interactions between Neuroscience and Law involves such fundamental concepts as free will, individual boundaries, responsibility and the relationship between brain abnormalities, violence and crime, with special attention being paid to the use of new neuro-techniques before the Courts in criminal and civil proceedings.

e) **New technologies**

Technological development in various fields (i.e. nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science) is accompanied by increasing interaction between them. The use of these new technologies needs informed consent and an adequate security environment for patients and staff. Protection of privacy must also be guaranteed. Furthermore, in relation to ICT devices, self-determination and respect for physical integrity must be respected, and Brain-computer interfaces could interfere with personal identity.

f) **Artificial Intelligence**
The challenge of AI is to create intelligent systems that are able to imitate human reasoning with increasing accuracy, reaching a point at which they can replicate it as a whole. These artificial systems are destined to have a notable impact on the Law, exerting significant influence on issues such as civil liability, the protection of personal data collected by the intelligent system and whether or not a certain degree of legal subjectivity may be attributed to the most sophisticated models.

g) Robotics

Knowledge of the human brain and cognitive development means that robots can be created with ever more sophisticated and responsive Artificial Intelligence. At the same time, studies into the development of cognitive robots may be useful in gaining a greater understanding of the functioning of the human brain. Furthermore, robots with decisional capabilities are currently being built. Questions regarding the legal status of such machines and the extent to which they are liable for their actions have thus arisen.

h) Ambient Intelligence and Smart Cities

Ambient intelligence involves the convergence of several computing areas. The first is ubiquitous or pervasive computing; the second is intelligent systems research, which provides learning algorithms and pattern matchers, speech recognition and language translators; the third is context awareness and the fourth is an appreciation of the social interactions of objects in environments.

i) Freedom of scientific research

The need to provide adequate safeguards and guarantees for scientific research is now even stronger since science is at the crossroads between two fundamental personal rights: the right to self-determination in medical-health fields (and therefore informed consent) and the right to health, both in its individual dimension and in the collective-public dimension (interest of society).

Submissions

The submission package should be sent by filling out the “Abstract Submit Form” on the web page: http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu/

The package consists of two parts as listed below.

Part 1: An extended abstract written in English of no more than 5,000 characters, including spaces, candidate’s name, title of the paper, the topic of the work and the fundamental bibliography.

Part 2: A CV written in English with the candidate’s professional data (name, date of birth, institute/place of work, current position), contact information, field of research and main publications.

Evaluation

Submissions are reviewed by a panel of internationally outstanding scholars and selected for inclusion in the Symposium according to the following criteria:
• Originality: is the abstract proposing an original issue or is the central theme already well known in the scientific/legal academic community?
• Accuracy: is the presentation of the issue accurate?
• Consistency: is the topic of the abstract consistent with the call for abstracts?

Presentation, award and publication
Eight young scholars will be selected and invited to submit a full paper (between 15 and 20 manuscript pages, 37500 – 50000 characters including spaces and references).

The full paper must be original, unpublished and not already presented in any reviewed conference at the time of submission.

Symposium participants are expected to present their paper during the symposium in a 25-minute talk (including discussion).

The two best papers are awarded a

2013 Law&Science Young Scholar
ECLT Prize

The first prize is € 700,00 and the second € 400,00, plus a contribution to travel expenses of up to € 250,00.
The third best paper will receive a special mention.
Prizes will be awarded at the end of the Symposium.

All the selected full papers will be reviewed and published in the Pavia University Press, ECLT Series. The papers of the two winners of the 2013 Prize will be submitted to the leading journal, Law, Innovation, and Technology in which (subject to editorial approval) they will be published as Winner/s of the 2013 Round of the Young Scholar Informal Symposium.

Venue of the Symposium, Accommodation and Travel Expenses
The Symposium will take place at the University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy.

ECLT Centre will provide selected Young Scholars with accommodation at Collegio Ghislieri and all meals during the Symposium. Each speaker will pay his/her own travel expenses (except winners of Prizes, who will receive a refund for travel expenses of up to € 250,00).

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20th March 2013
Notification of acceptance: 8th April 2013
Deadline for submission of full paper: 15th May 2013
Confirmation of Acceptance: 4th June 2013
Symposium presentation: 18th June 2013
All practical information will soon be available on the website: http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu/

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