
**2012 LAW & SCIENCE
YOUNG SCHOLARS INFORMAL SYMPOSIUM AND PRIZE
Pavia (I), 14 May 2012**

The EUROPEAN CENTER FOR LAW, SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES (ECLT), Università degli Studi di Pavia and the ISTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DI STUDI SUPERIORI of Pavia (IUSS)

In collaboration with COLLEGIO GHISLIERI (Pavia) and FONDAZIONE MAUGERI (Pavia), are organising the

2012 Law & Science Young Scholars *Informal* Symposium

Aim

The Symposium aims to create a forum for post-graduate scholars, PhD students and early-career researchers working in the area of Law&Science (in special cases applications from final-year undergraduate students can be considered). It will provide participants with an opportunity to present and discuss their research with senior researchers of the Law Science community in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.

Prize

The two best papers will be awarded a

**FONDAZIONE MAUGERI *Prize*
2012 Law&Science Young Scholar**

The 2012 **Law&Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium** will be the latest edition of the event which has taken place in the last two years at the University of Pavia on the initiative of the European Centre for Law, Science and New Technologies (ECLT), University of Pavia.

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.

Topics

To apply for participation in the symposium, candidates should prepare 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 and Law

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 and Robots.

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.

g) Ambient Intelligence

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.

h) 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 "Paper Submit Form" on the web page: <http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu/>

The package shall consist of two parts as listed below.

Part 1: An *extended abstract* written in English of no more than 4.000 characters, including spaces, candidate's name, title of the paper, the topic of the work and the fundamental bibliography.

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

Evaluation

Submissions will be reviewed by a committee 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 (post-graduate scholars, PhD students, early-career researchers and, in special cases, final-year undergraduate students) will be selected and invited to submit a

full paper (between 15 and 20 manuscript pages, 37500 – 50000 characters including spaces and references).

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

The two best papers will be awarded a

**FONDAZIONE MAUGERI Prize
2012 Law&Science Young Scholar**

The first prize will be € 1.300,00 and the second € 700,00, plus a contribution to documented travel expenses 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 on line in the Pavia University Press, ECLT Series.

Location of Symposium, Accommodation and Travel Expenses

The Symposium will take place in the Aula Scarpa of the University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy on 14th May 2012.

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 FONDAZIONE MAUGERI Prizes, who will receive a refund for documented travel expenses up to € 250,00).

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 26 February 2012 (extended deadline)

Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2012

Deadline for submission of full paper: 14 April 2012

Notification of Acceptance : 30 April 2012

Symposium presentation: 14 May 2012

All practical information will soon be available on the website: <http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu/>

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