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SUMMER SCHOOL OF CIVIL LAW

LECTURERS BOOKLET

THE CIVIL LAW SYSTEM IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Nikolaos A. DAVRADOS



Nikolaos A. Davrados, Ph.D. is a Professor of Civil and Comparative Law at Louisiana State University. He has taught and written extensively in the areas of civil law, comparative law, conflict of laws, and international business transactions in the United States and Europe.

Professor Davrados holds law degrees from Oxford University and the University of Athens, where he later obtained his Ph.D. in law graduating summa cum laude. After completing his postdoctoral research at the University of Texas School of Law, he practiced international business transactions and arbitration and served as a legal advisor to the Council of the European Union. He then began his academic career as a teaching fellow in law at the University of Athens School of Law and was later an assistant professor of law at the University of Nicosia (Cyprus) School of Law where he continues to serve as visiting professor.

Professor Davrados is a regular presenter at conferences hosted by the International Academy of Comparative Law (serving as National Reporter for the United States, Greece, and Cyprus), the Academy of European Law, and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. He has delivered lectures at Tulane Law School, University of Paris II (Paris-Assas) School of Law, Sorbonne Paris North University (University Paris XIII) School of Law, the University of Thessaloniki (Greece) School of Law, Leibniz University Hannover Faculty of Law, and the University of Silesia (Poland) School of Law.

In addition to his role on the LSU Law faculty, Professor Davrados is an advisory board member of the Journal of Civil Law Studies with the LSU Center of Civil Law studies. He serves on the council of the Louisiana State Law Institute as well as several of its committees and is a member of the editorial board of peer-reviewed law journals.

THE CIVIL LAW SYSTEM IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Nikolaos A. DAVRADOS

Description of the course

The course will bear on the "continental or civil law" tradition and focus on the essential features of the civil law systems that are its component parts. A comparative analysis will necessarily be made with the common law tradition with illustrations taken from its two major legal systems, England and the United States.

Introduction: What is Law, law, droit, derecho...? Is there a 'common' understanding of these concepts between the civil law and the common law traditions?

1- The historical formation of the civil law tradition, from the Twelve Tables in Rome to the revival of Roman law in the XIth and XIIth centuries, to the great movement of codification which started in Europe in the 19th century and spread throughout the world. A parallel study will be made of the origin and development of the common law tradition.

2- The fundamental role of the "Sources of law" in both traditions with a distinction, primarily in the civil law tradition, between primary sources and secondary sources and their inter-action.

3- Effects of laws (legislation) and jurisprudence (cases-judicial decisions). From the point of view of substantive law, an analysis will be made of the important distinction made in civil law between "Juridical Act" and "Juridical Fact". A comparison will be made on the law of formation of a contract at civil law and at common law.

4- Civil law and common law legal methodology: Codification and Legislation. Illustrations.

Conclusion: any rapprochement between the two major legal traditions? Any role, major or minor, played by legal languages?

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT LAW

Hélène VAN LITH



Dr Hélène van Lith is a distinguished legal professional who is specialised in international dispute resolution. She heads the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR at the International Court of Arbitration of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). In this role, she oversees and conducts research for leading ICC Commission Reports and other soft law instruments enhancing access to justice and efficient dispute resolution on topics such as addressing issues of corruption in arbitration, construction industry arbitrations, effective conflict management, emergency arbitration, and arbitrating climate change-related and other ESG disputes. Working very closely with the Court and the International Centre of ADR, she is also responsible for the revisions of several ICC Dispute Resolution Rules, including the recent 2026 ICC Arbitration Rules. Since 2013, Helene regularly represents the ICC at the OECD, HCCH, UNCITRAL and participates in the sessions of the Working Groups {II and III) on Arbitration and Conciliation, on the Singapore Settlement Convention and the ISDS Reform.

In addition to her role at the ICC, Hélène is an Associate Professor at Université Paris Dauphine (School of Law), where she teaches international commercial arbitration and ADR, private international law, complex commercial litigation, including collective redress, and international business law. Before joining University Paris Dauphine PSL and its School of Law, she was affiliated as Senior Lecturer and Associate Researcher to Sciences Po Law School Paris teaching Conflict of Laws in Cross-border Commercial Litigation. Together with Professor Horatia Muir Watt, she initiated the PAX Moot inter-university Private international law Moot Competition which is since then funded by the European Commission and to which Dauphine University is now a Partner organization.

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT LAW

Hélène VAN LITH

Helene has also held other academic positions at several prestigious institutions, including Erasmus University Rotterdam, SciencesPo Paris, Sorbonne Law School, the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg, Melbourne Law School, and the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne.

Helene holds a PhD from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam where she was appointed Assistant Professor of Private International law & Comparative Law. Her Doctorate was validated by the University of Burgundy /CREDI MI in July 2013. Her academic research includes her doctoral thesis 'International Jurisdiction and Commercial Litigation Uniform Rules for Contract Disputes' (Saringer, 2009), which was awarded the AISDC Prize of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne as well as her research for the Dutch Ministry of Justice on Collective Settlements and Private International Law (Maklu/I SBS, 2011).

She has published various articles and is a regular speaker at numerous conferences and seminars in the field of Private International Law, collective redress and transnational commercial litigation and arbitration. Since 2024 is Member of the Executive Editorial Boards of the International Business Law Journal/Revue de droit des affaires internationales, Sweet&Maxwell and the Dutch Journal on Arbitration – Kluwer Law International. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the BIICL's project 'Focus on Collective Redress and serves as a Member of the Dutch branch of the ILA.

For more than 10 years, she was the Secretary to the Working Group "Contrats Internationaux" (GTCl), chaired by Filip De Ly; an international working group which has recently been reinstalled composed of in-house counsels, corporate lawyers and professors analysing the main clauses in international contracts and international arbitration practices in order to improve drafting.

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT LAW

Hélène VAN LITH

Description of the course

The course deals with the topics of European Contract Law and International Commercial Contracts. As to European Contract Law, the analysis concerns the problematic aspect of the diversity of legal systems and the significance of the General Principles of European Contract Law as conceived by the Lando Commission.

The action of legal science and the debate on a European Code of Contracts will be discussed, focusing on the issue whether the harmonization of laws is deemed necessary to establish a single market within the European Community. As to the International Commercial Contracts, the inquiry explores the ratio and purposes of the UNIDROIT Principles for International Commercial Law. They undoubtedly have come to play a weighty role in the contemporary legal landscape, as numerous publications, but also numerous references in arbitral and judicial decisions and legislative projects reveal.



SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

Galina ZUKOVA



Dually qualified in Paris and Latvia, Dr. Galina Zukova specialises in international arbitrations. As arbitrator and counsel, she has handled commercial and treaty-based arbitrations in a broad range of sectors (construction (FIDIC), infrastructure, corporate law, energy, metallurgical industry, mining, telecommunications, transportation, etc.), under both the laws of civil and common law jurisdictions, and under many of the major arbitration rules (ICC, LCIA, SIAC, DIS, VIAC, SCC, NAI, the Milan Chamber of Arbitration, UNCITRAL Rules and others).

Before founding her own firm in 2019, Dr. Zukova was a Partner with a boutique law firm and a lawyer in the top International Arbitration Practice Group of a major international law firm based in Paris. Prior to this, she worked as Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration. In that role, she oversaw hundreds of arbitration proceedings and scrutinized hundreds of arbitral awards. Her previous work experience also includes the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, a leading Baltic law firm and the Latvian European Integration Bureau (Latvian Government), where she was in charge of the legal aspects of Latvia's accession to the European Union.

Dr. Zukova is a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, a Council Member of the Armenian International Arbitration Centre, a Council Member of the ICC Institute of World Business Law, and a Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. She currently serves as a Scholarship Officer at the IBA Arbitration Committee.

In 2026, Dr. Zukova was nominated by Latvia to the ICSID List of Arbitrators, and in 2022, she was included in the European Commission's List of Candidates Suitable for Appointment as Arbitrators in EU trade and investment agreements with third states. She also teaches international arbitration at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin (Paris-Saclay).

SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

Galina ZUKOVA

A Latvian lawyer by training (LLB, University of Latvia), Galina has a PhD from the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) and an LL.M. from the University of Exeter (UK). She was also a Visiting Scholar at the Yale University (US). Dr. Zukova is fluent in English, French, Italian, Latvian, Russian and Spanish. She has a working knowledge of German.

Galina is ranked in: Chambers Global Guide, Chambers Europe Guide, Chambers France (Band 3: International Arbitration: Arbitrators), Legal 500 (Powerlist Arbitration France), Lexology as Thought Leader, Global Leader and Thought Leader for France; The Best Lawyers in France and Best Law Firms – France, and Euromoney's ExpertGuides Commercial Arbitration. In 2018, ArbitralWomen included Galina in its publication "Women Pioneers in Dispute Resolution".

Description of the course

The course aims to provide students with a basic introduction to the theory and practice of international arbitration, the preferred method of dispute resolution in international commerce.

It will familiarize the students with the framework of international treaties, national law and soft law instruments that undergird the international arbitral system, and introduce such key concepts in international arbitration, as arbitration agreements, place of arbitration, arbitrators, constitution of the arbitral tribunal, interim measures, arbitral awards, arbitration and state courts, among others.

The course also intends to familiarize the students with the procedural aspects of the arbitration system organized under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which is headquartered in Paris.

CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Marie GREN



Marie Gren is a professor of public law at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University and director of the doctoral program in comparative law. Her research in comparative constitutional law focuses primarily on constitutional transformations and constitutional education.

Her dissertation (published in 2019 by Dalloz) examined the constitutional paradigm shift in the French, British, and Israeli systems. It explored the abandonment of legislative supremacy in these legal systems and the gradual establishment of the preeminence of constitutional norms. She has been monitoring (in)constitutional developments in Poland since 2015 and conducts research on the evolution of constitutional education in universities and schools. She is working on a project to rewrite the French Constitution with the help of foreign legal scholars.

She has taught public law in both French and English. She has received research fellowships from Columbia University (Alliance Program), Tel Aviv University (Cegla research grant), Jagiellonian University (Erasmus+ program), and the University of Edinburgh (MacCormick fellowship). She has worked as a “Foreign Clerk” at the Israeli Supreme Court and as a public law attorney at the Court of Cassation in France. She is fluent in French, Polish, and English.

CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Marie Gren

Description of the course

The course aims is to discuss some major themes of constitutional law in a comparative way. The course will focus on constitutional justice and the protection of fundamental rights. Traditional models of constitutional justice (American and European one) are evolving and becoming mixed. It will be necessary to determine whether this allows of a better protection of fundamental rights. The course will compare the procedures for the protection of fundamental rights, through the French case and foreign examples.

DIGITAL LAW : **Data Protection and** **Artificial Intelligence**

Luis ENRÍQUEZ



Cybersecurity, privacy, and artificial intelligence risk analyst; information technology lawyer; and former digital forensics examiner. Professor of 'ethical hacking and digital forensics' and 'blockchain and smart contracts' in the digital law master's at the Université de Lille (France). Professor and Director of the Digital Economy Law Master's Degree and the Certification for Data Protection Officers at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (Ecuador).

Lecturer of the 'data protection and artificial intelligence course' at the Summer University of the Fondation pour le droit continental, lecturer of chairs sponsored by the World Trade Organization, and guest lecturer at other universities in America and Europe.

He is currently General Director of Technological Innovation and Personal Data Security at the National Data Protection Authority of Ecuador, and works on the AI4Gov-X (Artificial Intelligence for Governments) project co-founded by the European Union.

He holds the following degrees and certifications: Ph.D. in public law (Université de Lille - France). LL.M. in information technology law (Leibniz Universität Hannover - Germany). LL.M. in international economic law (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar - Ecuador). FAIR Certified (Open Group - quantitative risk analysis), ISO/IEC 27701 Lead Implementer (PECB - implementation of privacy management systems). Algorithmic Composer (Institute of Sonology - The Netherlands). CEH (Ec-Council - Ethical Hacking). CHFI (Ec-council - Digital Forensics). ECSA (Ec-council - Penetration Testing). CIH (Ec-council - Incident Response). HDD Data Recovery Expert (Ace Lab - Data Recovery).

DIGITAL LAW :

Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence

Luis ENRÍQUEZ

Description of the course

This course is focused on data protection law and artificial intelligence law. Since May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 has changed our lives. Its impact is huge, as it has influenced many data protection and privacy legal frameworks worldwide. The GDPR established new rights for physical persons and new compliance obligations for data controllers and data processors. Considering that the GDPR relies on a risk-based approach, data controllers and processors need to implement several risk assessment methodologies. These methodologies must safeguard the rights and freedoms of natural persons and, in the meantime, allow enterprises to remain competitive and innovative for the new dynamics of the digital economy.

Likewise, the Artificial Intelligence Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 is the most relevant generic-purpose AI regulation worldwide. It strongly relies on a risk-based approach as the mechanism that AI developers, deployers, and providers, for protecting the fundamental rights of natural persons.

The purpose of this course is to show students the path to achieve risk-based compliance for the Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence regulations in the light of new technologies' risk scenarios. We will correlate the compliance obligations with Data Protection Impact Assessments, and Artificial Intelligence Fundamental Rights Impact Assessments. For such challenges, the course also includes a general review of several industry standards, such as the ISO / IEC 42001, ISO / IEC 27701, ISO / IEC 27001, ISO / IEC 23894, PCI-DSS, the FAIR model, among others.

"Which methodologies are useful to reduce the risks of administrative fines? How to implement effective legal, organizational, and technical security measures for protecting the rights and freedoms of natural persons?" These and many more questions will be addressed during the course.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW : Strategic Issues and Contemporary Challenges

Théophile BEGEL



Théophile Bégel works as a lawyer at Huglo Lepage Avocats since 2018, where he advises companies, public entities, associations and individuals at all stages of their projects, including litigation. His practice is mainly focus in environmental law and urban planning law. Before joining Huglo Lepage Avocats, he has been working as assistant to the legal advisor at the French Embassy in China, Beijing (2017-2018).

He has graduated from Paris Panthéon-Assas University, Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University and Renmin University of Beijing, with a major in environmental law. He is teaching environmental law at Institut Catholique de Paris University (ICP) since 2022.

Description of the course

The course aims to provide students with an introduction to environmental law and to allow a discussion on its effectiveness. It will present the construction and sources of environmental law, at international, European, and French levels. It will also explain the structuring principles of environmental law (prevention principle, precautionary principle, public participation, and sustainable development).

The course will finally focus on major contemporary issues such as climate litigation, protection of biodiversity, and the role of the judge in the implementation of environmental law.

