

Centre for Private International Law

Aberdeen CPIL Newsletter

March 2024



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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

Spotlight
on...



Dr Katarina Trimmings



Dr Francesca
Farrington



Dr Michiel Poesen (pictured)
and Dr Patricia Živković

Dr Katarina Trimmings promoted to Professor at the University of Aberdeen Law School

We are proud to announce that our Centre Director Dr Katarina Trimmings has reached a new height in her career by becoming a Professor at the University of Aberdeen Law School!

Starting as a Lecturer in 2012 and later earning the position of Senior Lecturer, she co-founded the Centre for Private International Law, and has served as Director since 2021.

Her expertise lies in international parental child abduction and cross-border surrogacy, where she has made significant contributions. Notable works include a 2013 monograph on child abduction, the editorship of a book on child abduction and domestic violence (2022), and a well-received book on international surrogacy arrangements (2013). Professor Trimmings continues to impact the legal landscape, with an upcoming handbook on surrogacy scheduled for release in 2024. Her achievements also extend to co-authoring the 15th edition of Cheshire, North & Fawcett, Private International Law (2017).

Join us in congratulating Professor Trimmings on her well-deserved promotion, and expressing gratitude for her outstanding leadership!

Dr Francesca Farrington awarded a prize for PhD thesis

Dr Francesca Farrington has been awarded the prestigious Yorke Prize from the University of Cambridge for her PhD thesis on the rule of law and economic development. Read more about it here: <https://www.scottishlegal.com/articles/aberdeen-law-lecturer-awarded-prize-for-phd-thesis>

Dr Poesen and Dr Živković appointed as the new Co-Convenors of the Conflict of Laws Section of the SLS

The Centre for Private International Law at the University of Aberdeen is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Michiel Poesen and Dr Patricia Živković as the new Co-Convenors of the Conflict of Laws Section by the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS). Following a successful application in 2023, Dr Poesen and Dr Živković have been chosen to lead the section for a term of three years.

Read more about it here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/news/22155/>

Editorial note

Dear CPIL Members,

I am thrilled to share the latest newsletter of the Centre for Private International Law at the University of Aberdeen with you! This edition brings you news on private international law from across the globe, highlighting the achievements of our students, staff, and associate members.

I am proud to present a diverse range of updates from the Centre and our esteemed members! 2023 marked a highly productive year, and we're gearing up for an equally successful 2024. Check out our events section! We're hosting more events than ever before and extend a warm invitation for you to join us, contributing to the vibrant PIL community.

We hope you will notice our effort to diversify our events by highlighting emerging research forces in private international law this year. If you are

interested in supporting our initiatives or have suggestions for future focuses, please feel free to reach out. Your input is valuable to us!

We take special pride in recognising the achievements of our "new" Centre members: Dr Francesca Farrington for securing the Yorke Prize, Dr Nevena Jevremović for her promotion to a full-time Associate Director within our Centre, and Dr Michiel Poesen for his appointment as Co-Convenor of the SLS Conflict of Laws section! Their successes are a cause for wholehearted celebration, we are also grateful for their quickly established leadership in the Centre and the field!

Finally, special congratulations go to our Director, Dr Katarina Trimmings, on her well-deserved promotion to Professor. Katarina has been an inspiring mentor and a driving force in our Centre, serving as the cornerstone of our achievements. I invite you to join me in congratulating Professor Trimmings on this significant milestone in her career.



Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,

Dr Patricia Živković

(Editor of the
CPIL Newsletter)



News from staff and research students



Professor Katarina Trimmings

On 18 October 2023, the Centre held a project workshop organised under the auspices of a research project titled [‘Protection of international families with links to the European Union post-Brexit: Collaborative Scotland-EU partnership’](#). The project was funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and led by Professor Katarina Trimmings (University of Aberdeen, Scotland/UK), Professor Thalia Kruger (Antwerp University, Belgium), and Professor Mirela Zupan (Osijek University, Croatia).

The Workshop aimed to bring together relevant stakeholders, including government officials, judges, and legal practitioners to discuss the operation of the Hague Family Law Conventions in Scotland and EU Member States with strong familial links to Scotland (Belgium, Croatia, Poland, Ireland, Italy and Lithuania) with the aim of securing uniform interpretation and application of these international instruments.

Under the auspices of the same project, on 25 October 2023, a separate event was held with the Central Authorities designated under the Hague Children’s Conventions, to discuss practical aspects of the operation of the Hague Family Law Conventions.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/news/22421/>



Dr Michiel Poesen

Dr Michiel Poesen was a visiting scholar at the Singapore Management University in August 2023. During his visit he researched the policies driving harmonisation of private international law in South-East Asia. Michiel would like to thank the Law School for their generous support. Further, Michiel gave a paper on the interplay between private international law and artificial intelligence from a European perspective at a seminar jointly organised by the Robotics and AI Law Society (RAILS) and KU Leuven. The presentation was based on a paper he recently published in a special issue of the *European Review of Private Law* (ERPL) on AI and private law (2023, volume 31, issue 2/3). <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalissue/European+Review+of+Private+Law/31.2/20414>

Tung Le Xuan

Tung recently participated in the Contemporary Children & Families in Law, Policy and Practice Conference as a speaker, with the paper: “Towards the adoption of 1980 Hague Convention and 1996 Hague Convention for international children protection: What are the advantages and challenges from current Vietnamese Laws?”

He also published two book reviews:

- Convergence and Divergence of Private Law in Asia edited by Gary LOW in *Asian Journal of International Law*, Cambridge University Press, Vol 13, Issue 2, 2023.
- The Cambridge Handbook of Smart Contracts, Blockchain Technology

and Digital Platforms. Ed by Larry A DiMatteo, Michel Cannarsa and Cristina Poncibò Cambridge: Cambridge University Press in *Edinburgh Law Review*, Vol 27, Issue 3, 2023.

Further, Tung also co-authored a book in Vietnamese by Judicial Publishing: “Personal rights and protection of personal rights under Vietnamese law,” in which he contributed to the first chapter. He also contributed to another article in Vietnamese: “Developing the legal service market in the European Union and value for Vietnam” in the *Journal of Democracy and Law*, Ministry of Justice Vietnam.



Dr Patricia Živković

In September 2023, Dr Živković was invited to present on the topic of Navigating the Complexities of Applicable Substantive Laws in International Commercial Arbitration – Conflict of Laws Perspective at the 18th International Colloquium on Commercial Disputes – Resolution and Jurisdiction. She also contributed a chapter on the same topic to the book compiling the invited talks from the mentioned colloquium.



News from staff and research students

Professor Ronald A. Brand

Professor Ronald A. Brand published the following works in 2023:

- Online Dispute Resolution, The Elgar Companion on UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT Chapter 14 (Rishi Gulati, Thomas John, and Christian Koehler, eds. 2023)
- Jurisdiction Over Non-EU Defendants: The Brussels I Article 79 Review, in Jurisdiction Over Non-EU Defendants—Should the Brussels Ia Regulation be Extended? 271 (Tobias Lutz, Ennio Piovesani, and Dora Zgrabljica Rotar, eds., Hart Publishing, 2023)
- Bremen v Zapata, in The Common Law Jurisprudence of the Conflict of Laws Chapter 5 (Sarah McKibben and Anthony Kennedy, eds., Bloomsbury) (2023), <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/common-law-jurisprudence-of-the-conflict-of-laws-9781509954285/>
- Teaching Arbitration, 3 Cambridge Compendium of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration 1936 (Andrea Bjorkland, Franco Ferrari, and Stefan Kröll, Editors, 2023); available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2970224
- A Hague Parallel Proceedings Convention: Architecture and Features (with Paul Herrup), 2 Chicago Journal of International Law Online 1(2023) available at <https://cjl.uchicago.edu/publication/hague-parallel-proceedings-convention-architecture-and-features> and https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4170254
- Provisional Measures in Aid of Arbitration, 61 Columbia Journal of Transnational Law 133-170 (2023) available at <https://www.jtl.columbia.edu/volume-61/provisional-measures-in-aid-of-arbitration> and https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3708453

Florian Heindler

On 30 June 2023, Florian Heindler hosted with Simon Laimer, Martina Melcher & Brigitta Lurger the 2nd Austrian Workshop on Private International Law in Vienna with presentations from, inter alia, Matthias Lehmann, Chris Thomale and Marlene Brosch.

On 5 June 2023, the liber amicorum for Bea Verschraegen (Manz publishing house), edited by Florian Heindler, Katharina Huber and Martina Melcher was formally presented in a celebration for Bea Verschraegen at the Vienna House of Music. Contributions have been submitted inter alia by Hugues Fulchiron, Talia Einhorn, Axel Flessner (+), Olga Khazova, Matthias Lehmann and Ulrich Magnus. Heinz-Peter Mansel gave the laudatio.

In February 2023, the fourth German Speaking Conference for Young Scholars was hosted at Sigmund Freud University organized by Florian Heindler, Martina Melcher, Katharina Kaesling, Ben Köhler, Johannes Ungerer, Bettina Rentsch, Susanne Roßbach and Andreas Engel, which was to be followed by the publication of the conference volume (Mohr Siebeck).

On 23 November 2023, Florian Heindler delivered Closing Remarks at the IACPIL Conference on the Legal Protection of Vulnerable Adults in Vienna.

<https://www.igkk.org/en/event/legal-protection-of-vulnerable-adults-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>

Also, Dr Burcu Yuksel and Florian Heindler contributed a joint chapter to the volume on Blockchain and Private International Law edited by Andrea Bonomi, Matthias Lehmann and Shaheez Lalani (October 2023, Brill). https://brill.com/flyer/title/62244?print=pdf&pdfGenerator=headless_chrome

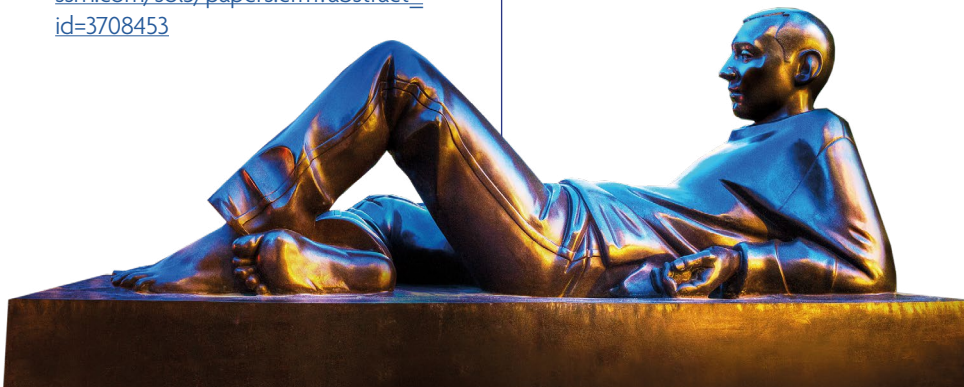
Professor Dr Guillermo Palao Moreno

Professor Dr Guillermo Palao Moreno published editions of the following books:

- “Litigios civiles internacionais no espaço ibero-americano/ Litigios civiles internacionales en el espacio iberoamericano” (<https://editorial.tirant.com/br/ebook/versao-em-espanhol-litigios-civiles-internacionais-en-el-espacio-iberoamericano-inez-lopes-9786559081028>)
- “El nuevo marco europeo en materia matrimonial, responsabilidad parental y sustracción de menores. Comentarios al Reglamento (UE) nº 2019/1111” (<https://editorial.tirant.com/es/ebook/el-nuevo-marco-europeo-en-materia-matrimonial-responsabilidad-parental-y-sustraccion-de-menores-guillermo-palao-moreno--9788411307673>)
- “The Singapore Convention on Mediation. A Commentary on the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation” (<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/the-singapore-convention-on-mediation-9781800884847.html>)

Furthermore, he participated in the following seminars and conferences:

- “Brexit and International Commercial Litigation in times of Covid 19: quite comes the dawn or the perfect storm?”, in: “Eurasian challenges to international economic law after Brexit and in the Covid-context”, 5th Kazakh-Franco-Korean International Law Conference (Caen/ Le Havre, France) (<https://www.peterlang.com/document/1184579>)
- “Nuevas perspectivas del Derecho de propiedad intelectual en la Unión Europea”, in: “Direito da propriedade intelectual: o estado das questoes em 2021”, Curso de verao, Associação Portuguesa de Direito Intelectual e Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Lisboa (Lisboa, Portugal) (<https://www.apdi.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/cartaz-APDI-CV-bco-scaled.jpg>)
- “Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, prosperidad y “trabajo decente”: una mirada desde el Derecho Internacional privado”, in: “La Comunidad Internacional ante el desafío de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible: el papel de la Unión Europea”, XXIX Jornadas Ordinarias del Asociación Española de Profesores de Derecho Internacional y



relaciones Internacionales (AEPDIRI), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona, Spain). (<https://www.aepdiri.org/index.php/actividades-aepdiri/jornadas-de-la-aepdiri/58-jornadas-ordinarias-de-la-aepdiri/1489-xxix-jornadas-la-comunidad-internacional-ante-el-desafio-de-los-objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible-el-papel-de-la-union-europea>)

- “The application of the EU Succession regulation in the Member States”, in: “European Law Seminars”, European Law Institute (ELI) (https://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/p_eli/SIGs/Family_Law/ELI_SIG_Webinars_on_EU_Succession_Regulation_2022.pdf)
- “International Tort Litigation in the Internet and Artificial Intelligence Era: An EU Approach”, in: “School of Law Research Seminar”, Centre for Private International Law, University of Aberdeen (Aberdeen, United Kingdom) (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/research/research-seminars-83.php>)
- “Challenges to the codification of cross-border dimension of the digitalization of civil-status records and registers”, in: “Identities on the move – Documents Cross-borders. Final Conference” (Castel San Pierto Terme, Bolonia,

Italy) (https://www.euro-family.eu/news-285-european_project_dxb_identities_on_the_move_documents_cross_borders_final_conference_bologna_23_24_june_2022)

- Plurilingual forms, digitization and data protection: the need for a specific regime”, in: “ICCS plurilingual forms. Present and future of international cooperation in civil status matters”, International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS), Strasbourg (France) (<https://eapil.org/2022/09/07/iccs-plurilingual-forms-present-and-future-of-international-cooperation-in-civil-status-matters/>)
- “Inteligencia Artificial y Arbitraje Comercial Internacional”, in: “III Congreso Internacional de Filosofía del Derecho y II Jornada Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial y Derecho”, Universidad Autónoma de Chile (Santiago de Chile, Chile) (https://www.uaautonoma.cl/facultades/_derecho/iaderecho/iii-congreso-internacional-de-filosofia-del-derecho-y-ii-jornada-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial-y-derecho/)

Dr Boris Praštalo

Dr Boris Praštalo joined Brunel University London at the beginning of November 2022 as Lecturer in Commercial Law. For the Academic Year 2022/2023, Boris

was the module convenor for three modules: (1) Principles of International Commercial Arbitration (LLM), (2) International Commercial Arbitration (LLB), and (3) International Investment Law and Arbitration (LLB). In the upcoming Academic Year, Boris will be convening Principles of International Commercial Arbitration (LLM) and International Commercial Arbitration (LLB), and he will also be part of the teaching team on the EU Law module.

In terms of research, Boris participated in the conference Living Together in the Cities of the Future and the Metaverse held at the NOVA School of Law where, together with Dr Wasiq Dar, he explored the possibility of future use of AI in investment arbitration. This presentation resulted in a scholarly article The Investor–State Arbitration Legitimacy Crisis: Could AI Be Its Future Savior (or Resurrector)? published in the SCOPUS-indexed Pravni zapisi (Union University Law School Review) in July this year. Moreover, Boris had another article recently accepted for publication in The European Investment Law and Arbitration Review, a journal that is published under the auspices of Queen Mary University of London and EFILA. The title of the article is On Corruption in International Arbitration: Exploring the Topic Through the Lens of the MOL v. Croatia Saga.

Upcoming Events of the Centre

AI and International Contracts: What Law Applies If Your “Smart Fridge” Takes Over...?

Speaker: Prof Tim Dornis, Leibniz Universität Hannover

Date: 14 March 2024 at 2pm

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere. It not only drives your car, operates your Google searches, organizes your Netflix movies and your Spotify music selection. Sooner or later, it will also take over your household. If your fridge in Aberdeen develops a fine taste of its own and starts ordering expensive wine in France or Italy – what law determines whether there is a valid contract and whether you are obligated to pay?

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

CROSSROADS IN PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

THE CENTRE FOR PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW, SCHOOL OF LAW

4 ONLINE WEBINARS
November, December, February, and March

Speakers:

- PROF JUSTIN FONG BARTHELY, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
- DR FRANCESCA BARRINGTON, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
- DR HANNA FOUAD, UNIVERSITY OF LISBON
- PROF ZIYAN JIA, BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
- BEGÜM KUTUNCUOĞLU, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
- ASİOC PROF. DR. GANZE ERDEM TÜNELLİ, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
- PROF. TILMANN KÖRBER, LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER

PAX Moot Court Half-Day Conference on Dispute Resolution in Private International Law

Dr Nevena Jevremović, Dr Michiel Poesen, and Dr Patricia Živković are organising on behalf of the Centre for Private International Law the very first PAX Moot Court Half-Day Conference on Dispute Resolution in Private International Law, hosted by the CPIL, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana. This insightful event, scheduled for April 26, 2024, from 9:30 to 12:30 CET, promises a stimulating exploration of crucial topics within the realm of private international law.

We are proud to announce our renowned experts in Dispute Resolution and Private International Law who will speak at the event, starting with a keynote address from Professor Ronald A. Brand,

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor, and Director of the Center for International Legal Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Marta Pertegás Sender, Visiting Professor at the University of Antwerp and Chair of Private International Law and Transnational Law at the University of Maastricht, will follow with another enlightening keynote.

The streams of the event are following:

- **Stream 1: Private International Law and Commercial Arbitration**
Moderator: Professor Ronald A. Brand, University of Pittsburgh
- **Stream 2: Private International Law and Commercial Litigation**

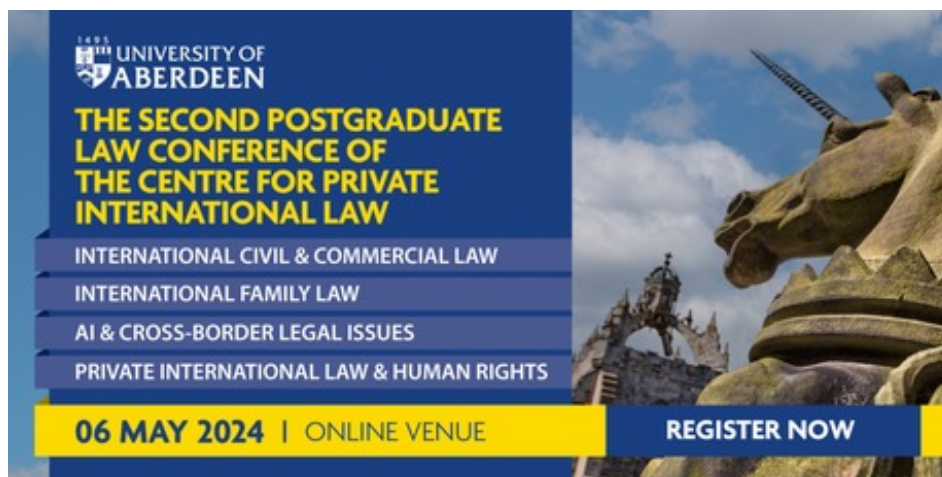
Moderator: Dr Uglješa Grušić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Laws, University College London

- **Stream 3: Decolonial Perspectives on Private International Law**

Moderator: Professor Thalia Kruger, University of Antwerp

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a cutting-edge discourse on dispute resolution in private international law. Register your interest now and suggest topics or questions you'd like to see addressed. We are committed to incorporating your suggestions to ensure a comprehensive and enriching experience for all participants. See you there!

Second Postgraduate Law Conference of the Centre for Private International Law



The Centre for Private International Law (CPIL) of the University of Aberdeen is pleased to announce that it is now accepting submissions for the 2nd Postgraduate Law Conference of the CPIL which will take place online on 6 May 2024.

The Conference aims to provide young scholars with the opportunity to present their research before panels with relevant expertise and receive valuable feedback for further development of their work.

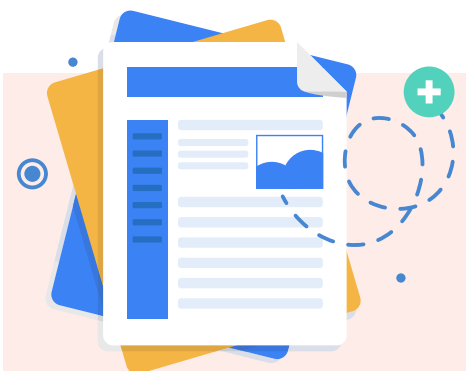
The Conference will include panels on Private International Law aspects of International Family Law, International Civil and Commercial Law, AI and Cross-Border

Legal Issues, Human Rights.

The Centre welcomes submissions by current postgraduate law students (LLM, PhD) and recent LLM or PhD graduates who have not yet undertaken postdoctoral studies. Each panel will feature up to 4 panellists, and each panel will be allocated a combined total of 1 hour 20 minutes of presentation time and 40 minutes of Q&A.

The deadline for submissions is 29 February 2024. If interested in submitting an abstract, please fill in the application form here.

See more about the event and panels here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/news/22594/>



Call for Submissions to Working Paper Series

The Centre invites its members to submit a paper to the Working Paper Series. Papers will be considered for publication on a rolling basis. Researchers are invited to express their interest by sending an email to the editor at michiel.poesen@abdn.ac.uk

The Series welcomes original work that approaches the broad field of Private International Laws from any relevant methodological angle. It gives our members a channel to disseminate working drafts of ongoing projects, project ideas or preprint versions of advanced work.

The Best for Last



© Michael Kerr Photography

Meet Sidney, Our Energetic Bundle of Joy!

Finally, we have some exciting news about the newest furry member of the Centre - Sidney, the adorable puppy who joined us just a month ago.

Sidney was brought into our lives with the Yorke Prize money won by Francesca. She's a ball of joy, cuteness personified, but don't let that fool you! Behind those innocent puppy eyes lies a lively little spirit that keeps us on our toes.

Sidney has her unique quirks; surprisingly, she's not a fan of walks, but she compensates with her playful antics at home. Be prepared for some small shark bites - her way of expressing joy and excitement. Because of her mischievous side, Sidney has added so much joy and laughter to our days.

We're grateful to have Sidney in our lives. Wishing you a pawsitively wonderful day/month/year!

Contact Information

Dr Katarina Trimmings

Director of the Centre for Private International Law

k.trimmings@abdn.ac.uk

Any queries about the work of the Centre

Dr Nevena Jevremović

Associate Director of the Centre for Private International Law

nevena.jevremovic@abdn.ac.uk

Any queries regarding the Centre's events.

Dr Patricia Živković

Associate Director of the Centre for Private International Law and Chief Editor of the Newsletter

patricia.zivkovic@abdn.ac.uk

Any queries regarding submissions to the next issue of the newsletter.

