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UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam Centre for Transformative
Private Law



Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law (ACT)

Exploring the Role of Private Law in the Making of Society and the Processes of Private Law-Making in a Diverse World | Newsletter | Issue 15 | December 2025

Dear reader,

We are pleased to share the latest ACT news. Amid global turmoil, ACT's performance has remained steady. We have delivered a number of excellent PhDs, welcomed notable speakers to our external lecture series, and published widely for academic, teaching, and professional audiences. We have also embarked on new ventures, including European Law Unbound – Society, which launched successfully at its inaugural event at Charles University in Prague. We hope this update will

provide you with an encouraging dose of normalcy, as you approach a well-deserved holiday break.

Kind regards,
Marija Bartl

Congratulations to our Colleagues for Completing their PhD's!

Dr. Yannick van den Berg

Yannick van den Berg defended his dissertation on June 26th titled, *'Indulging in Paradise? EU law and policy of holiday air travel through the lens of practice theory'*. An interview about his research can be found [here](#).



Dr. Eva Vermeulen

On October 3rd, Eva Vermeulen defended the dissertation *'Doing Justice to Property. A Capability Theory for Legal Property Design'*. Her research was later picked up by De Volkskrant (see below). You can also watch the defense ceremony [here](#).



Dr. Gina Hindriks

Gina Hindriks defended her dissertation on October 10th titled, *Europees contractenrecht voor passagiers*. Read more later in this newsletter, where she shares insights from an interview about her research and the challenges travellers face under current EU rules. Watch the ceremony [here](#).



Event Highlights

Interfacing Private Law Lecture Series

In September, we launched our new lecture series, [Interfacing Private Law](#), which explores how private law is reshaped through its interfaces with other legal fields, technology, society, and the economy. The kick-off featured world-renowned legal scholar Katharina Pistor (Columbia Law School), joined by distinguished speakers Rita Simon (Palacký University Olomouc) and Ernest Lim (National University of Singapore).

A vertical poster for the 'Interfacing Private Law' lecture series. The title is in large red letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law (ACT) Lecture Series 2025-2026' is in smaller blue text. The main body of text describes the series' focus on the intersection of private law with other domains. It includes an invitation to scholars and a QR code for more information. A yellow circular badge on the right side indicates 'HYBRID LECTURES' and the time '15:30-17:00 (CET)'. The bottom section lists the 'SEMESTER 1 LINEUP' with three speakers: Katharina Pistor (29 September), Rita Simon (27 October), and Ernest Lim (24 November), each with their respective institutions and lecture topics. The poster features a colorful, abstract graphic on the right side with various faces and patterns. The ACT logo is at the bottom right.

INTERFACING PRIVATE LAW

Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law (ACT)
Lecture Series 2025-2026

Private law today no longer operates in isolation as a self-contained normative system; it is continuously shaped by its encounters with adjacent domains. These include not only other legal fields but also the broader social, technological, and economic environments, where private law intersects with digital infrastructures, social movements, climate exigencies, financial architectures or circular economy imperatives. The concept of interfacing, originally drawn from textile production, foregrounds these seams of connection.

We invite scholars to reflect on how private law is stitched into wider regulatory landscapes, and how it is restitched, or reinforced through these points of contact. By attending to interfaces, we aim to trace the normative frictions and alignments that animate contemporary private law.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://act.uva.nl/news-events> OR scan the QR code:



HYBRID LECTURES
15:30-17:00 (CET)

SEMESTER 1 LINEUP

29 SEPTEMBER, 2025, in REC A3.15 & online
Katharina Pistor (Columbia University)
The Law of Capitalism and How to Transform it

27 OCTOBER, 2025, in REC A3.01 & online
Rita Simon (Charles University, Prague)
Repair or Replace? Legal Remedies and the Decline of Repair Culture in Eastern Europe

24 NOVEMBER, 2025, in REC A3.01 & online
Ernest Lim (National University of Singapore)
Fiduciary Duties, Climate Change, and the External Dimension: Lessons from State-Owned Enterprises

 Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law

ACT and UvA Law School as Driving Forces of European Law Unbound Society

On 25–26 September 2025, the first [European Law Unbound conference](#) took place in Prague, with the Amsterdam Law School as one of the main sponsors. Next to ELU-S co-president Marija Bartl and secretary-general Candida Leone, ACT members Yannick van den Berg, Francesca Episcopo, and Klaas Eller participated and gave talks about (among others) just transition pathways, privacy harms, and the inner workings of the German Law Journal. We hope for an even bigger delegation in Lisbon next September!



Masterclass with Katharina Pistor (Columbia Law School)

On 29 September 2025, ACT and the LLM in Transnational and European Private Law hosted a masterclass with Katharina Pistor (Columbia Law School). Drawing on her forthcoming book, *The Law of Capitalism and How to Transform It*, Pistor discussed how legal professionals shape the “code” of capital and the responsibilities that come with it. The session brought together graduate students and early-career researchers for a lively, thought-provoking exchange.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Transnational and European Private Law Masterclass 2025:

KATHARINA PISTOR
(Columbia Law School)

The Code of Capital and its Masters



Hosted by the Amsterdam Center for Transformative Private Law and the LLM in Transnational and European Private Law

Katharina Pistor is the Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law at Columbia Law School and a leading scholar and writer on corporate governance, money and finance, property rights, and comparative law and legal institutions. Her new book *The Law of Capitalism and How to Transform It* (Yale University Press 2025) offers a study of the legal underpinnings of capitalism.

Structured as a lively discussion around Katharina Pistor's groundbreaking work, this session invites graduate students of all programs (as well as PhDs and junior researchers) to explore the role of legal professionals in designing, maintaining, and possibly manipulating the legal 'code' of capital. It prompts reflection on professional attitudes, responsibilities, and the capacity to drive change.

Scan the QR code to register, receive preparatory readings & more information!



Date, Time & Location
Monday, September 29
09:00 – 11:00
Room A3.15



Symposium Historisch onrecht:
procedurele rechtvaardigheid en wegen
naar herstel

On 16 October 2025, ACT and Integraal
Privaatrecht members Anna van Duin,
Bregje Dijksterhuis and Sacha Tamboer
hosted a [symposium](#) on procedural
justice and paths to repair. The panels
explored the restitution of Nazi-looted
art and government compensation
schemes, bringing together academics
and legal practitioners to discuss how
law can support recognition and
reparative justice.



29th Ius Commune Conference

The [29th Annual Ius Commune
Conference](#) was hosted by the UvA's
private law department on 27–28
November 2025 and organized by ACT
researchers Jeroen Heuving, Jessica
Turco, Joti Roest, Nena van der Horst,
and Mireilla Peereboom and ACT
member Laura Burgers delivered one of
the keynote lectures and several ACT
researchers organized and chaired
workshops throughout the programme.



Collective Redress & Digital Fairness Conference

On 10–11 December 2025, ACT members Anna van Duin, Francesca Episcopo, Aart Jonkers, and Sebastien De Rey, with support from Stichting Onderzoek Collectieve Actie, hosted the “[Collective Redress and Digital Fairness Conference](#)” at the University of Amsterdam. Building on the DTDM-funded APPLIED project and ACT’s Integraal Privaatrecht initiative, participants discussed how collective actions can curb Big Tech’s unfair practices and enhance digital accountability.



News

Featured Researcher

Gina Hindriks

Gina Hindriks discussed her PhD research on European passenger-rights, exposing how compensation rules vary dramatically depending on the mode of transport



and often leave travellers at a disadvantage. Read the full interview to learn more about her findings and proposed reforms.

[Read the full interview →](#)

New Visiting Researchers Join the ACT

Adriana Baselice

Adriana Baselice (University of Naples “L’Orientale”) joined the ACT in September 2025. Her PhD research focuses on using blockchain technology to enhance the authenticity and transparency of sustainable products in the agrifood sector. Her stay at ACT will help her deepen both the legal and trust-related aspects of blockchain, building on her background in sustainable development and business management.

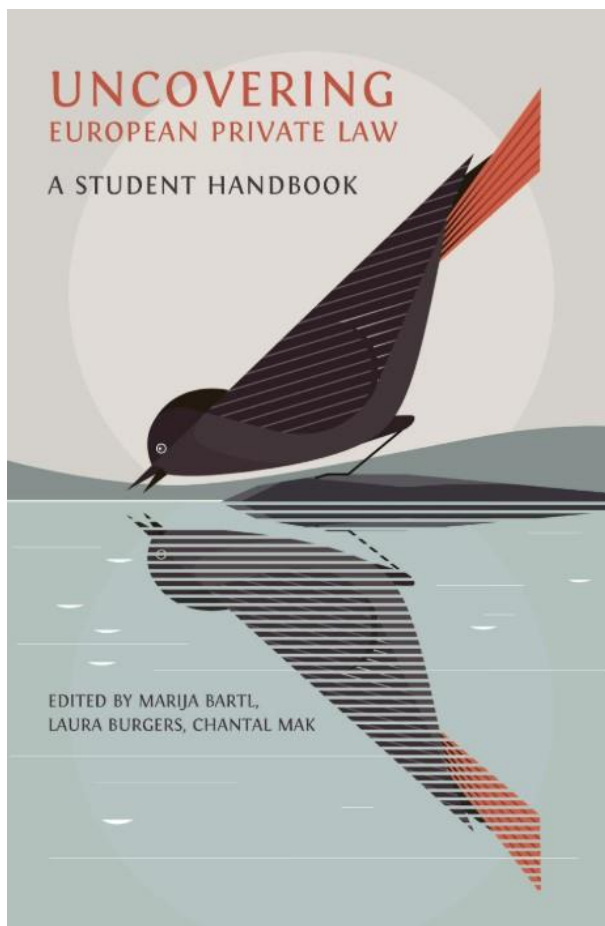
Allegra Grillo

Allegra Grillo (University of Genova) joined the ACT in October to advance her doctoral research on whether a subjective right to housing can be meaningfully grounded in legal and philosophical theories of rights. Her work focuses on housing studies, property and social-housing law, including a comparative analysis of social-housing privatisation in Milan and Amsterdam.

Impact

Now Accessible Open Access:
Uncovering European Private Law: A
Student Handbook

[Uncovering European Private Law: A Student Handbook](#), edited by Chantal Mak, Laura Burgers, and Marija Bartl is a collective book project written and edited by ACT members. Designed for teaching, it offers structured, student-focused chapters covering foundational concepts and contemporary developments in European private law.



How Useful is a Tax for Long Flights?

Yannick van den Berg appeared on 15 September 2025 on NPO Radio 1's *Dit is de Dag* - *Hoe nuttig is een tax voor lange vluchten?*, to comment on a proposed long-flight tax, drawing on his PhD research into green air-travel policy. He discussed whether higher taxes for long flights could effectively curb emissions and shift travel behaviour. Listen [here](#).

Expert Comment by Marco Loos on Consumer Protection in De Volkskrant

Marco Loos provided expert commentary in De Volkskrant for an undercover investigation into doorstep selling practices by fibre-optic providers in the article, *Undercover op de drempel: journalist Jeroen van Bergeijk verkocht glasvezel*

aan de deur. ‘*Lets fk goooo*’. His insights helped contextualise the consumer-law implications uncovered by the journalist’s fieldwork. The full piece appeared in the Saturday 27th of September edition and is also available [online](#).

Femicide: (ex-) Partners are More Dangerous than Strangers

Bregje Dijksterhuis was interviewed by the University of Amsterdam on September 30th about her research on femicide, (ex-)partner violence, and the role of family law in preventing lethal escalation. She highlighted how intimate partners pose far greater risks than strangers and discussed the legal and institutional reforms needed to address this reality. Read the full interview [here](#).

Eva Vermeulen in De Volkskrant on the Housing Crisis

Eva Vermeulen appeared in De Volkskrant on November 22nd to discuss insights from her PhD research on the housing crisis, arguing that meaningful solutions require rethinking entrenched ideas about home ownership. As she notes, “ownership is not sacred,” calling for legal and policy approaches that make housing more accessible and equitable. Read the article [here](#).

Candida Leone’s Scholarship Cited by Amsterdam Court of Appeals

On December 2nd, the Amsterdam Court of Appeal released its judgement, Candida Leone’s article ‘It’s the rendement, stupid’, (MvV 2025, nr. 2) has been [cited](#) by the Amsterdam Court of Appeals to support their finding that the (very far reaching) consequences of compounded price increase terms in residential tenancy contracts are not transparent for the average consumer.

Upcoming Events

mar
18

Symposium Historisch onrecht (Part 2)

Moot Court (A3.15)

mar
26

Symposium: Rethinking the Corporation: Between Purpose, Profit, and Property, featuring Prof. Colin Mayer and Prof. Paddy Ireland

mar
27

PhD Defense of Nena van der Horst

apr
20

Interfacing Private Law Lecture Series with Britta van Beers (VU)

A3.01, 15.30-17.00

apr
26

Conference: Apologies & Law: Intersections, Tensions, and Transformation

may
18

Interfacing Private Law Lecture Series with Elbert de Jong (U Utrecht)

A3.01, 15.30-17.00, A3.01, 15.30-17.00

A3.01, 15.30-17.00

jun
22

ACT External Lecture with Professor Bronwen Morgan (UNSW Sydney)

A3.01, 15.30-17.00, A3.01, 15.30-17.00

A3.01, 15.30-17.00

Jun

29

Interfacing Private Law Lecture Series with Ralf Michaels (MPI Hamburg)

A3.01, 15.30-17.00

Recent Research Output

Articles

- > Dijksterhuis, B. M., Ten Oever, H., Jager, T., Bou-Sfia, S., & Frederiks, B. (2025). Regulering in Nederland van massadonatie in internationale context. *Nederlands Juristenblad*, 100(31), 2599.
- > Eller, K. H. (in press). Contract Law and the Right to Housing - An Introduction. *European Review of Contract Law*.
- > Molkenboer, G. J. P. (2025). Aansprakelijkheid voor onrechtmatige rechtspraak: Bespreking van: M.W.J. Reijntjes, Aansprakelijkheid voor onrechtmatige rechtspraak. Een rechtshistorisch en -vergelijkend onderzoek (diss. Groningen), Groningen: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen 2023. *Tijdschrift voor Civiele Rechtspleging*, 2025(2), 66-74. Article 2025-2.
- > De Rey, S., Hebly, M. (2024). Zaakschade en aftrek wegens ‘nieuw voor oud’. *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Burgerlijk Recht*, 2024 (7), Art.No. 20, 153-163. [ACRES]
- > De Rey, S. (2024). De hercodificatie van het privaatrecht in België: overzicht, werkwijze en krachtlijnen. *Maandblad voor Vermogensrecht*, (6), 189-201. doi: 10.5553/MvV/157457672024034006001
- > De Rey, S., van Uchelen-Schipper, M. (2025). Collectivisering in het privaatrecht. *Weekblad voor Privaatrecht, Notariaat en Registratie*, 2025 (7511), 590-593. [RES]
- > De Rey, S. (2025). The Reform of Belgian Tort Law: Overview, Methodology, and Why It Succeeded. *European Review of Private Law*, 33 (1), 135-172. [ACRES]
- > van Duin, J. M. L., & Rietveld, R. D. (2025). Generatieve AI en de civiele rechter: op weg naar verantwoord gebruik? *Tijdschrift voor Civiele Rechtspleging*, 2025(2), 40-48.

- > van Duin, J. M. L., Jonkers, A. L., & Episcopo, F. (2025). Towards Collective Redress for Data Harms under the GDPR. *Mass Claims*, 2025(1), 67-77.
- > de Weijs, R. J. (2025). 'WHOA: 'de slechte vs de goede brief' en het belang van meer inzichtelijke WHOA-rechtspraak. *Tijdschrift voor Insolventierecht*, 2025(11), Article 11.
- > J. Zhou. (2025). Private International Law as Foreign Relations Law? Orienting Chinese Private International Law Towards Sustainable Development. *Chinese Journal of Transnational Law* 2025, Vol. 2(2) 146–164

Book Chapters

- > [Bartl, M., Burgers, L., & Mak, C. \(Eds.\) \(2025\). *Uncovering European Private Law: a student handbook*. OpenBook Publishers.](#)
- > De Rey, S., Foubert, P. (2025). Civil Enforcement of Anti-Discrimination Legislation: Some Perspectives on Locus Standi, Evidence and Remedies. In: C. O'Cinneide, J. Ringelheim, I. Solanke (Eds.), *Research Handbook on European Anti-Discrimination Law*, (429-446). (Research Handbooks in European Law series). Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978 1 78990 630 1. [ACRES]
- > De Rey, S., Stijns, S. (2025). De rol van de rechter bij de inwerkingstelling van buitengerechtelijke sancties en controle op rechtsmisbruik in boek 5 BW. In: *Verbintenissenrecht*, (97-165). (Themis, 133). Antwerp: Larcier-Intersentia. ISBN: 978-94-000-1742-9. [RES]
- > Dankers-Hagenaars, D. L. M. T. (2025). La protection du secret des affaires aux Pays-Bas, rapport néerlandais. In V. Malabat, & H. Skrzypniak (Eds.), *La protection du secret des affaires* (pp. 270-281). (Rapports de l'Association Henri Capitant; Vol. 1). LGDJ.
- > van Uchelen, M. J. (2025). De (rechts)kracht van governance codes: een niet te onderschatten vorm van zelfregulering. In *Ondernemingen, recht en maatschappelijk belang: Opstellen aangeboden aan prof. mr. L.G.H.J. Houwen* (pp. 27-38). (Serie Van der Heijden Instituut; No. 198). Wolters Kluwer.

- > [For the full list of publications, click here.](#)



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