SWEDISH NETWORK FOR EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES

RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND

THE SWEDISH NETWORK FOR EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES (SNELS) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AT STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY INVITE YOU TO A CONFERENCE ON:

Quo vadis methodo?
Reflections on the evolution of methodology in EU legal studies

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN October 22-23 2026

THEME

Almost 15 years ago, a project led by researchers at Copenhagen University and Copenhagen Business School set out to answer the question of how EU scholars' approach, interpret, assess, and write about EU law. The project resulted in a series of volumes that deal extensively with different aspects of "the European legal method", broadly conceived. However, the EU now faces a markedly different constitutional and political environment. Internally, the steady expansion of EU competences has strained institutional balances and drawn new actors into the legal and political process, while rising populism and democratic backsliding have eroded cohesion around shared constitutional values. Externally, long standing geopolitical and economic assumptions have been unsettled, forcing the EU to rethink

its role in an increasingly unstable global order. These developments have not only reshaped the substance of EU law but have also challenged the analytical frameworks traditionally used to study it.

In response, EU legal scholarship has become more pluralistic, embracing doctrinal, empirical, comparative, governance oriented, and interdisciplinary approaches to better capture the EU's evolving legal realities. This methodological diversification raises pressing questions about scholarly responsibility and accountability at a moment when legal interpretation directly affects institutional legitimacy and the protection of rights across Europe. The conference Quo vadis methodo? Reflections on the evolution of methodology in EU legal studies builds on this need for renewed reflection, seeking to map the major constitutional, institutional, and societal challenges confronting the EU and to assess how contemporary methods can illuminate them. By critically examining how EU scholars interpret, assess, and write about EU law today, the event aims to stimulate new research agendas, deepen cross disciplinary dialogue, and contribute to a more robust understanding of the future direction of EU legal studies.

PRACTICALITIES AND REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDANCE

To attend, please register via this link before October 8. The conference is organized by Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, Xavier Groussot, Lorenzo Cecchetti, Alezini Loxa and Branka Marušić on behalf of the Swedish Network for European Legal Studies (SNELS).

CONTACT AND MORE INFORMATION

For more information and updates, please follow SNELS on LinkedIn. For administrative questions about the workshop, please send an email to SNELS coordinator Adam Bouganim adam.bouganim@juridicum.su.se and for questions regarding the academic content, get in touch with Branka Marušić (branka.marusic@juridicum.su.se) or Antonina Bakardjieva

Engelbrekt (antonina.bakardjieva@juridicum.su.se)

PROGRAM

DAY 1: OCTOBER 22

08.30 – 9.00 Coffee and registration

9.00 – 9.30 Introduction and welcome note

9.30 – 10.00 Keynote I
Speaker: Professor Ulla Neergaard, University of Copenhagen

10:15 – 12.00 Panel I Studying EU law: Continuity and innovation in the doctrinal legal method
Speakers:
Professor Bruno De Witte, Maastricht University
Professor Elise Muir, KU Leuven
Professor Mariolina Eliantonio, Maastricht University and Danai Petropoulou Ionescu, Maastricht University

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Panel II Studying the changing EU institutional landscape: Constitutional theory, governance and actor-oriented approaches
Speakers:
Professor Päivi Leino-Sandberg, University of Helsinki
Senior Researcher Ana Bobić, Hertie School
Professor Joana Mendes, University of Luxembourg

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30–17.00 Panel III Studying Europe's 'unity in diversity': Comparative legal and institutional approaches
Speakers:
Professor Fernanda G Nicola, American University, Washington College of Law
Professor Joxerramon Bengoetxea, University of the Basque Country
Professor Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, Stockholm University

17.00 – 18.30 Panel IV Studying EU law in action: Socio-legal approaches
Speakers:
Assistant Professor Tommaso Pavone, University of Toronto
Professor Emilia-Korkea Aho, University of Eastern Finland

19.00 – 22.00 Dinner

DAY 2: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

9.00 – 9.30 Keynote II
Speaker: Professor Kalypso Nicolaidis, EUI

9.30 – 11.00 Panel V Studying EU law in action: Empirical approaches
Speakers:
Professor Urška Sadl, EUI
Professor Anna Wallerman Ghavanini, University of Gothenburg
Professor Daniel Naurin, University of Oslo and University of Gothenburg

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Panel VI Political Economy and Law & Economics

Speakers:
Professor Poul Kjaer, Copenhagen Business School
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kerber, Marburg University

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Panel VII Critical and historical perspectives on European law
Speakers:
Associate Professor Päivi Neuvonen, Durham University
Assistant Professor Hanna Eklund, University of Copenhagen
Professor Martijn Hesselink, EUI

15.30 – 16.30 Concluding panel: The role of EU legal scholars in times of upheaval
Speakers:
Professor Rob van Gestel, Tilburg University
Professor Marija Bartl, University of Amsterdam