

**IUS COMMUNE**



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### Ius Commune workshops Trust in Trade, 23/24 November 2017, Utrecht

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Different studies have shown that societies need a certain level of “trust” in order to actually engage in trading activity. However, trust is a complex, multifactorial concept. *Scholars from many different disciplines* (e.g. philosophers, social scientists, economists) have tried to develop theories and identify the different factors involved in building, maintaining, destroying and restoring trust. In the past, most *legal scholars* used the term “trust” quite loosely, but recently some legal scholars have started to examine the concept more systematically.

The aim of these workshops is to clarify the meaning of the concept of trust in a legal context, specifically linking it to trade-related questions. We are also interested in developing a stronger research line on this topic, so the workshops are meant to be explorative in order to stimulate possible further cooperation.

The workshop “**Trust in Trade – Framing the IP, Trade and Investment Issues**” will initiate a first exploration of the role of “legal institutions” in IP law and international trade and investment law to potentially compensate for low levels of trust in societies. In this workshop, it will also be discussed how trust is important to and plays a role in the context of IP and trade/investment law reform, particularly when it comes to the notions of legal certainty and effective legal protection.

The workshop “**Trust in Trade – PhD workshop**” will give a forum for PhD students and young researchers in the areas of IP and international trade/investment law to present their research and link it to the broader concept of Trust in Trade.

We invite junior and senior Ius Commune scholars in the area of IP law and international trade/investment law to join us and start exploring their research from the perspective of trust. Selected researchers will present their research and together we will explore the concept of trust and its potential for various research topics in interaction with discussants with experience in trust research.

If you are interested in joining one of the two workshop, please send your CV and a summary (max. 1 page) of your proposed contribution to [anke.moerland@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:anke.moerland@maastrichtuniversity.nl) by 8 September 2017, including:

- Title of presentation
- Link with trust in trade
- Research question (of PhD research)
- Methodology (of PhD research)

For the PhD workshop, we encourage presentations on ongoing PhD research (if related to trust in trade) or contributions on the concept of trust in trade as such by PhD fellows and young researchers. We will select the contributions according to their quality, their link with trust in trade and with the aim of safeguarding a good spread of different areas of law and participating institutions. We will inform selected candidates soon after the deadline.