



Dear Ius Commune researchers,

Enclosed you will find the information regarding this year's Leuven Masterclass, which will take place on 23 May 2025 and the evening of 22 May 2025. You are kindly invited to attend this highly recommended part of the Ius Commune postgraduate training program. Please note that participation in the Leuven Masterclass is required in order to complete the training program and to be awarded the Ius Commune Research School certificate. We advise you to follow the masterclass in your second or third year. You will find more information on the masterclass in the official invitation, attached to this email.

Please register via the following link: <https://forms.gle/JGrYCAf75GL9rN7P9> . The deadline for registration is 13 January 2025. The deadline to confirm your expert is 27 January 2025.

More practical information will follow in later communication. Please do not hesitate to contact us via simon.vaneekert@kuleuven.be or ninne.menten@kuleuven.be if you have any practical questions about the Masterclass.

Kind regards,

Cato Deprez, Ninne Menten and Simon Van Eekert

Goals and organisation of the Ius Commune Leuven Masterclass 2024-2025

This year, the Leuven part of the Ius Commune training program will take place on 23 May 2025. Unlike other years, we have limited the duration of the masterclass to one day. However, because the *fun* aspects of Ius Commune are no less important than the purely academic ones, we also organize a pre-masterclass dinner with overnight stay on Thursday evening, 22 May 2025.

During the Leuven masterclass, second to third year doctoral researchers present their research project and preliminary findings, which will then be commented on by an expert in the field. The goal of the Leuven Masterclass is to further develop the following skills: writing a paper; presenting and discussing a paper; and commenting on the work of your peers.

Paper

The paper (5 to 10 pages) should comprise the major issues and findings of your PhD that you would like to receive feedback and advice on. This can include, but is not limited to, the methodology employed, the problems encountered until now, and your (preliminary) research findings.

Presentation

All participants are asked to present their submitted paper orally. This presentation should not be a mere reading of the paper, but should focus on the major issues of your research and in particular on those issues you would like the panel to elaborate upon. Your presentation should be no longer than 20 minutes.

'Peer review' and feedback

In addition, each participant is expected to comment on the paper of another participant during the Masterclass. Therefore, each participant will be sent a colleague's paper prior to the Masterclass. After this 'peer-review', other participants are invited and encouraged to ask questions and provide further suggestions or comments. Finally, a senior researcher, with expertise in the field of the submitted and presented paper, will be invited to thoroughly discuss the subject, issues, etc. of the research project. This phase will take approximately 20 minutes in total.

If you are interested in participating in the Leuven Masterclass, please confirm your participation (using the link to google forms in the e-mail) as soon as possible. **The deadline for registration is Monday 13 January 2025.**

If you participate you are required **to contact an expert yourself** and ensure his/her availability on the date of the Masterclass. Attached to the invitation e-mail, you can find a model invitation to contact your expert is provided, but you can also draft your own. When you send your e-mail, place simon.vaneekert@kuleuven.be and ninne.menten@kuleuven.be in CC so we are aware of the availability of your expert. Make sure you contact your expert as soon as possible. We need the availabilities of your experts no later than **27 January 2025** in order to draft the program and confirm the exact time your expert will be expected. Be aware that we ask the **experts to be physically present in Leuven** during your presentation. Take this into account when choosing your expert. Not only is a physical encounter more fun, it also gives you the opportunity to make a better connection. Experts can join online only in exceptional circumstances and in agreement with the organizers.

Please send your paper to us and your expert by 5 May 2025. You will receive the paper of a colleague in the days after. Participants will receive additional information regarding the location, hotel reservations etc. in separate correspondence, after registration.

If you have any questions or concerns about the masterclass, feel free to contact simon.vaneekert@kuleuven.be.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Leuven!

Cato, Ninne and Simon

Model Expert Invitation (please find English version below)

Dutch:

Geachte [titel en naam expert]

Naar jaarlijkse gewoonte ontvangt de Faculteit Rechtsgeleerdheid en Criminologische Wetenschappen van de KU Leuven in het kader van de [Ius Commune Onderzoeksschool](#) enkele promovendi die hun onderzoeksproject toelichten tijdens de Ius Commune Leuven Masterclass. Deze bijeenkomst heeft als doel een forum te bieden voor promovendi om in discussie te treden met experts en medepromovendi over de methodologische aspecten van hun onderzoek.

Ik zou u willen vragen of u op **vrijdag 23 mei 2025** als expert zou willen optreden bij de presentatie van een paper over mijn onderzoek. Ik schrijf een proefschrift aan de [naam universiteit] bij [naam promotor].

Hier volgt een korte beschrijving van mijn onderzoek:

[beschrijving onderzoek]

De sessies nemen ongeveer 40 minuten per Promovendus in beslag waarvan 20 minuten zijn gereserveerd voor een presentatie en 20 minuten voor uw feedback en discussie. U ontvangt twee weken voor de Masterclass van mij een paper van 5 tot 10 pagina's. De sessies vinden in het Engels plaats. U hoeft alleen bij mijn sessie te zijn, alhoewel u uiteraard van harte welkom bent om ook bij andere presentaties aan te schuiven. De Masterclass gaat fysiek door in Leuven. Indien het voor u niet mogelijk is om fysiek aanwezig te zijn, kan ik aan de organisatie vragen om een uitzondering te maken en online participatie mogelijk te maken.

Zou u zo vriendelijk willen zijn mij op korte termijn te berichten of u interesse heeft en of u beschikbaar bent op 23 mei om (fysiek) in Leuven aanwezig te zijn bij mijn presentatie?

Bij voorbaat hartelijk dank.

Met vriendelijke groet

[naam]

English:

Dear [title and name expert]

Each year the Faculty of Law and criminology of the KU Leuven organizes a masterclass for PhD students in the context of the [lus Commune Research School](#). The intention of this masterclass is to provide a forum for PhD students to engage in discussions with experts and other doctoral students about the methodological aspects of their research.

I would like to ask you whether you would agree to serve as an expert on **Friday 23 May 2025** at the presentation of a paper on my research. I am writing my PhD at the [name university] with [name supervisor].

Here is a brief description of my research:

[description research]

The sessions take about 40 minutes per candidate. My presentation will take about 20 minutes. After that 20 minutes are reserved for your comments and general discussion. You will receive my paper of 5 to 10 pages two weeks in advance. The sessions take place in English. Your attendance would only be required at my session, although you are of course very welcome to be present at the other candidate presentations. The Masterclass will take place in person in Leuven. If it is not possible for you to be physically present, I can ask the organization to make an exception and allow online participation.

Would you be so kind to inform me whether you are interested and if so, if you are available to come to Leuven on 23 May 2025?

Thank you very much in advance.

Kind regards,

[name]