



Ius Commune Prize 2020

Jury Report



The Ius Commune Prize 2020

The Ius Commune research school awards its 20th Ius Commune prize with great pleasure as an encouragement to a young author to further explore the path of enlightened scholarship; to a contribution original and outstanding concerning content, method, sources and style.

This year we have received 35 contributions, all on a very high level of quality, and analytical creativity. Various issues of imminent practical and fundamental academical importance were object of research. Global business and human rights; Big data in the law of contract; the legal qualification of crypto-assets; the role of local governments on the stage of human rights; normatively addressing climate change; effectively responding to plastic in the environment; effective judicial protection; bridging the gap between the facts and the law, and many more.

We came to a shortlist, and agreed on one contribution which needed to be honourably mentioned. It is a paper well written, which addresses the EU's external border operations in a time of migration, where responsibility needs to be taken, or given, which this paper does in a well-argued manner. What is more, it is a master-thesis, which makes it the more laudable. The paper is entitled

Borders of (ir)responsibility. A study on the international responsibility of the EU in the context of frontex's joint operations,

written by Talha Günay, from Maastricht University, and is honourably mentioned.

The jury decided to have two contributions each winning the Ius Commune Prize this year 2020.

One winning contribution addresses national variations in preliminary reference rates to the Court of Justice of the European Union. How to understand these variations? Through the highly creative methodological lens of legal mobilization, public interest litigation in the field of migration, the author succeeds in uncovering factors leading to these national differences, in a well written analysis, entitled

Altruism, Euro-Expertise and Open EU Opportunity Structure. Empirical Insights on Legal Mobilization before the Court of Justice in the Migration Field

written by **Virginia Passalacqua** from the University of Turin, Collegio Carlo Alberto.

The other winning contribution is a broad and deep comparative analysis on a cornerstone of private property law, an area, with traditional principles of unity underlying the law of accession and building rights, serving legal certainty and preservation of value. In an exceptionally well argued and highly readable manner the author proposes new standards for these age-old principles and goals, serving a circular economy in a future which we may thus enter with optimism over despair. Bravo! The paper is entitled:

Toekomst van de circulaire vastgoedeconomie

written by **Benjamin Verheye** from the University of Leuven

All are wholeheartedly congratulated!

Utrecht/Maastricht, 26 November 2020

The jury:

Sander Jansen (Maastricht)

Michael Milo (Utrecht)

Vincent Sagaert (Leuven)

Annette Schrauwen (Amsterdam)

Hildegard Schneider (Maastricht)