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Centre of European Law
Celebrating our 50th anniversary



Young EU Scholars Conference

Centre of European Law, King's College London

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July 2025

Call for Papers:

How has the Court of Justice of the European Union's evolving values jurisprudence reshaped its role in the European integration project?

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has long been viewed as a driving force behind the European integration project. Through its jurisprudence, the Court has, *inter alia*, established foundational principles of EU law, expanded the scope of application and effectiveness of provisions of Union law, advanced EU citizenship rights and taken a restrained approach to enforcing competence-limiting norms against the EU legislature. Through these examples and many others, the CJEU's role as an "engine of integration" has received widespread recognition and analysis in the legal and political science literature.

However, recent years have seen the Court increasingly engage with questions surrounding the EU's core values, particularly in the face of challenges such as democratic backsliding and threats to judicial independence in the Member States. At the same time, following multiple crises such as Covid, the climate emergency and the Ukraine war, core principles of EU internal market law have arguably been thwarted in favour of more protectionist views. These developments in relation to crisis response and the evolution of a "values jurisprudence" gives rise to a series of questions about Court's role today. Can we still speak of the contemporary role of the CJEU as being that of an engine for European integration? Or have the ways in which the Court has sought to safeguard the Union's foundational values brought about a shift in how we understand the Court and its contribution to the European integration project? Does it make sense to view these roles as being in some sense in tension with one another, or can they peacefully co-exist and mutually reinforce one another? How (if at all) do the Court's contemporary approaches to addressing legal issues raised by multiple crises within and outwith the Union alter the ways in which we view its role today?

Against this background, we aim to provide a platform for emerging scholars of EU law (PhD, Post-Doc, Lecturer) to critically evaluate the evolving role of the CJEU and to explore the interplay between integration, values and crisis response in contemporary EU law.

To that end, we propose to host a workshop on the theme “The Court of Justice of the European Union as an Engine of European Integration? – Re-Appraising the Court’s Role in an Era of Values”.

The workshop will be held at the Centre of European Law, King’s College London on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July.

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts (max. 500 words) to be submitted by Monday 14th April 2025 to Dr Darren Harvey (darren.harvey@kcl.ac.uk).
- Scholars who have abstracts accepted will be expected to provide a working paper in advance of the workshop. Senior academics in the field of European law chair thematic panels at the workshop, where they will provide both written and oral feedback on the work submitted and presented by scholars at the workshop.
- Those Working papers (approx. 8,000 words) are to be submitted by Friday 20th June 2025 to the same address.
- It is expected that there will be an opportunity for Working papers to be further refined after the workshop with a view towards publication in a journal or edited collection of some kind.
- Unfortunately, the Centre of European Law at King’s College London does not have the financial resources to pay for travel and accommodation costs of each participant at the workshop. Those who are selected to attend should therefore be prepared to pay their own travel and accommodation costs. However, upon receipt of a request, we may be able to assist young scholars who are accepted to present their work at the workshop and who are unable to cover the entirety of their costs.