

21st ASCOLA Conference

London, 1–3 July 2026

Call for Papers

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 21st Annual Conference from **Wednesday 1 July to Friday 3 July 2026** at University College London and King's College London.

The conference is organised jointly by University College London (UCL) and King's College London (KCL) and supported by Queen Mary University London, Cambridge University and Oxford University.

Members of the organising committee: Professor Ioannis Lianos (UCL, chair), Professor Chris Townley (KCL), Dr Despoina Mantzari (UCL), Dr Andriani Kalintiri (KCL), Dr Stavros Makris (UCL), Professor Ioannis Kokkoris (Queen Mary), Professor Oke Odudu (Cambridge), Dr Maria Ioannidou (Queen Mary).

Submission of papers

ASCOLA members are invited to submit proposals no later than **26 January 2026**. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **31 March 2026**. Submissions should be submitted to the ASCOLA 2026 submission website [here](#). Each member may make **one submission only**. You must indicate, on your submission, the stream to which your submission is directed.

A conference with three streams

Submissions on any topic in the field of competition law and policy are welcome. To reflect the breadth of ASCOLA scholarship, the conference will feature three distinct submission streams. Please observe the requirements for each stream, especially regarding word count.

- **Stream 1: Academic papers.** Open to all ASCOLA members. Submissions must be unpublished at the time of submission and should be of journal length (maximum 20,000 words).*
- **Stream 2: Early career researchers.** Open to PhD candidates and scholars awarded their PhD in 2021 or later. Submissions may be Academic papers (as defined in Stream 1) or a chapter of a PhD thesis. Thesis chapters should include a contextual introduction so their place within the overall project is clear. Each paper selected will be assigned a dedicated commentator.

* The purpose of the ASCOLA conference is to present new research to receive feedback before papers are accepted for publication in a journal or a book. Papers may be self-published on SSRN or similar platforms.

- **Stream 3: Early project ideas.** For ASCOLA members developing new research projects. Submissions should consist of a short abstract (maximum 2 pages). Longer abstracts will be considered under Stream 1. Do not send extended abstracts of papers. This stream is for original project ideas at an early stage. Selected contributors will present their projects in progress at the conference.

Focus Areas

While submissions on all aspects of competition law and policy are welcome, the 2026 conference will place particular emphasis on:

- **Digital markets, ecosystems, and innovation**
- **Resilience as a competition law goal or the resilience of competition law**
- **Public and private enforcement of competition law/digital regulation at the multi-national scale and issues of global governance**

Review

Each submission will be assessed by two independent reviewers according to pre-set criteria for the relevant stream. Selection will be based solely on merit, following a double-blind review process, meaning that authors and reviewers remain anonymous to one another.

To facilitate this, authors must submit two versions of their paper:

- A full version including author details.
- An anonymised version with all identifying information removed, clearly marked as such.

Only the organizing committee and the Ascola ExCo will have access to review scores.

Submission Rules

Each individual may make only one submission. Authors of a jointly authored submission may not also submit a sole-authored paper, and vice versa. Exceptions may be considered if authors contact the organisers in advance at ascola2026@ucl.ac.uk.

Non-members may also submit as sole authors, provided that they meet the criteria for membership (academics specialising in competition law and/or competition economics). If their submission is accepted, they must apply for, and be granted, ASCOLA membership before presenting at the conference. For co-authored submissions, at least one of the authors must be an ASCOLA member at the time of the submission or become one before presenting at the conference.

Submissions by members will only be considered if the respective members have paid all outstanding membership fees.

All submissions must comply with the **ASCOLA Transparency and Disclosure Declaration** (<https://ascola.org/declaration-of-ethics/>). This disclosure should appear in the first footnote of the text.

Authors who wish to be considered for the Best Junior Paper Award (see below) must indicate this at the time of submission.

After the initial submission, papers will be reviewed and those accepted into the conference will receive written feedback. Authors may or may not choose to update their papers in the light of this feedback. Final versions of selected Stream 1 and Stream 2 papers must be submitted by **19 May 2026** at [the conference website](#). Stream 3 participants will be asked to provide an updated project abstract before the conference.

The organisers reserve the right to exclude papers that do not meet the quality standards of the conference.

Publication Opportunities

Upon author agreement, accepted papers may be published on the conference website.

ASCOLA has agreements with the *Journal of Competition Law and Economics* and the *Journal of Antitrust Enforcement* (both published by Oxford University Press). Authors may request ASCOLA to forward reviewer reports to these journals, offering the possibility of an expedited review process. Participation in this mechanism is optional.

Papers' reviews may also be considered in the competition law and policy academic papers global competition (more information will be provided in due course).

Costs and Financial Aid

Speakers and participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. However, ASCOLA will offer a limited number of scholarships, subject to available funds. Scholarships will be awarded with preference to junior scholars (such as PhD candidates and recent graduates) and scholars from developing countries. Decisions will be made solely by the Scholarship Committee.

Best Junior Paper Award

A **Best Junior Paper Award** will be presented for the most outstanding contribution submitted by authors who are PhD candidates and scholars awarded their PhD in 2021 or later. Applicants must clearly state their PhD award date in their submission. For co-authored papers, all authors must meet this criterion. The jury's decision is final and cannot be contested. Only authors who have submitted a paper in streams 1 and 2 are eligible for the prize.

About London, and the organising institutions, UCL and KCL

London is a vibrant, exciting and diverse city. University College London (the academic home of Valentine Korah), King's College London (the academic home of Richard Whish), the organising institutions, and Queen Mary University of London, our partner-supporting institution, are leading sites for research and teaching in competition law. These institutions have renowned staff and research centres, including the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) at UCL, the Centre of European Law at KCL and the Institute for Global Law, Economics and Finance at QMUL. Cambridge University and Oxford University, with their vibrant competition law teams, are at an hour distance (by train)!