



Young Property Lawyers' Forum (YPLF) Annual Conference
25th and 26th of June 2026
Call for Abstracts: **"Property and Protection"**

The Young Property Lawyers' Forum (YPLF) invites junior researchers to submit proposals for presentations given at its 15th annual meeting, to take place at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, on the 25th and 26th of June 2026.

About us

The YPLF is an informal network of junior property law researchers, both PhD candidates and those within 5 years of having completed their doctorate. The annual conferences aim to bring together young property law scholars from around the world and offer an informal setting in which they can discuss their work with each other and with more experienced researchers. For more information on the YPLF see: <http://www.yplf.net/>

Theme

The theme of this year's conference is: **"Property and Protection"**. Property rights understood as exclusionary rights operate in a distinct way. They allocate resources to individuals who enjoy extensive protection of their use interests. Is this mode of protection justified by the interests it is supposed to serve (e.g., autonomy, efficient resource allocation, fostering innovation)? Or do the effects of property rights (e.g., limited access to resources, environmental harm, unequal distribution of resources) undermine their legitimacy? To answer such normative questions, more detailed analyses of property law's rules and roles are necessary.

One might explore the 'architecture' of property. By which mechanisms does property law protect assets against third parties? What role do basic principles (e.g., right to exclude, protection *in rem/erga omnes*, *numerus clausus*) play? How do property rights differ from other rights (such as personal rights)? Are the boundaries clear-cut or fuzzy?

One might also ask how property law interacts with other branches of the law to ensure protection. How are property law and other areas of private law, such as contracts or torts, related? How do the law of secured transactions and bankruptcy law fit in the picture? How do administrative regulation and private property law intersect (in land law, for instance)? Which roles do different actors such as the legislature, courts, agencies, and private parties perform? How do property law rules at the national level and supranational level interact? Are there any general answers to these questions – or are they limited to specific areas or types of assets?

Yet another approach could be to investigate how property law mediates between conflicting private and public interests. How does the law strike a balance in conflict areas such as housing markets and rent control, industrial activity and environmental protection, copyright and creativity, patent rights and innovation? Are existing approaches normatively defensible and attractive, or should they be changed in certain areas? Should the legal system cut back on existing property rights in information (IP) or extend the existing model to include the asset “information” more broadly?

To sum up: how is property protected – and how should it be? We are interested to hear your ideas about how property protection works, in general as well as in particular fields, and whether its current state can be defended or should be challenged and changed.

We welcome proposals from a wide range of perspectives and jurisdictions, including but not limited to, doctrinal, theoretical, historical, and comparative. Topics may cover core areas of property law doctrine, and property law’s intersections with environmental law, administrative law, secured transactions and bankruptcy law, intellectual property, family law, criminal law, etc.

Submission Details

We invite junior researchers (PhD students and those within 5 years of having completed their doctorate) to submit abstracts of presentations to be given at the conference. Abstracts can be of completed (but unpublished) drafts or, in keeping with the YPLF’s mission as an informal network to exchange ideas, works in progress.

Abstracts should be **between 250 and 500 words in length**, clearly formulate the presentation’s topic and research question, indicate the approach taken, and, if possible, outline tentative answers.

Places are limited. The selection criteria are the quality of the research, its originality and engagement with the topic of the conference. We also strive to ensure a diversity of represented legal systems, topics, and career stages.

No participation fee applies. Presenters and other participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

Abstracts should be sent via email to yplf@yplf.net by the 22nd of February 2026. With your submission, please indicate your name, current status (PhD researcher, PostDoc, etc.) to confirm your eligibility, as well as your current institutional affiliation.

Acceptances will be sent by late March 2026.

If you have any further queries, please send an e-mail to the YPLF’s current chairs via: yplf@yplf.net

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