Young Scholars Program: Advance Preparation Guidance

Welcome to the European Association of Health Law Young Scholars Program! We are looking forward to working with you in Uppsala.

You will have seen from the program that two of the activities involve required advance preparation from you, and one has optional advance preparation. This document guides you in that preparation, and lets you know what to expect from the Young Scholars Program.

Please note that this program is not in 'ordinary' conference mode, where people give papers, then there is a commentator and Q&A. We've done this before, but we noticed in the last few years that many young scholars were accepted to give papers in the main conference, and quite right too! So if you want to do that, don't hesitate to apply for the main conference, AND join the young scholars program as well.

Required preparation

There are two pieces of required preparation:

1. Getting creative about communicating your methodology
2. Elevator pitch

Neither should take you too long, but please do both of them before the event. It can be very good to discuss them with your supervisor(s), not least because it gives you great insights into what your supervisors think your project is, and also into your supervisors' own work.

Getting creative about communicating your methodology

What to expect	This activity will take place in breakout rooms, with around 4 people per group. Each group will have a moderator who is keen to help people learn about legal research methodologies, and to encourage learning through peer and self-feedback. In turn, each person will give a brief (5 minute) verbal presentation on the methodology/ies adopted in their research project (PhD). The creative part? You may use only one image to support what you say. After each presentation,

	we will use a system called 'Gold and Green peer feedback' to give you feedback on (i) your research methodology/ies; and (ii) your presentation skills. Everyone will give feedback to everyone in the room, using a feedback model that emphasises positive affirmation and actionable improvements. This means that while each person is talking, you need to be making (mental) notes of feedback, using the model.
What you need to do in advance	Think about how to represent your methodology/ies in one image. Prepare a single powerpoint slide with that image, and your name and affiliation, and upload it in the folder here. Please do this by the end of 7 September 2026, so that we can coordinate the event. There is an example for you within the folder ('Read me first'). Prepare to speak for 5 minutes, explaining your methodology (using the image of course!) and why it is appropriate for your research question.
What we aim for us to learn	We would like everyone to learn about (i) what their research methodology is - its strengths and weaknesses, when it is (and isn't) appropriate, what (legal) research questions it can (and cannot) answer; (ii) how effective each of us is in explaining our project from a methodological point of view; (iii) how each of us may improve that communication; (iv) any more general communication skills that we do well, and could improve.

Elevator pitch

What to expect	In a small group of around 5 people, within the auditorium or other large space, you'll explain your research project as if you'd just met someone in an elevator who asks about it. You only have the time of an elevator ride to explain it! After a strict 3 minutes, a timer will go off and you must stop (because everyone is leaving the elevator!). After everyone has had a turn, we'll each go round and give one piece of self-feedback: what did you learn from doing the exercise (as a whole, including preparation)? Then the moderators for each group will give general feedback (from what they heard) to the whole room.
What you need to do in advance	Prepare an absolute maximum 3 minute talk on your research project, using the following 30:60:90 guide: 30 seconds on why your research topic is important. For example: Why should anyone be interested in your research; what broader societal, legal, theoretical, other puzzles, challenges, issues, injustices, others does it tackle (a small part of)?

	60 seconds on what the law is (or isn't). For example: What is the relevant (European) law at issue in your research, what is wrong with it or good about it, or if there isn't any appropriate law, what other law covers it? What can *legal* scholarship do to assist with the broader issues you identified? 90 seconds on the contribution to knowledge you hope to make with your research. For example: What do we already know about this topic, what have other scholars said (and why have they missed things/is it important to revisit/add to what they have said)? What technological, societal, other changes mean legal analysis will be original? What does your fresh take hope to add to existing knowledge?
What we would like us to learn	The discipline of speaking for just 3 minutes helps us all to get to the 'meat' or 'heart' of what we will elaborate in lengthy PhD manuscripts. It also helps the legal academy to articulate to other disciplines what *legal* scholarship can add to knowledge. And it helps us all in that very real life situation when someone asks what your current job is!

There is one piece of optional preparation.

Keeping it real: Panel with European health law scholars further on in their careers

The last part of the program will focus on the human / life elements of a career in European health law. A panel of European health law scholars (some at post-doc stage, some further on) have agreed to respond to questions that you put them (anonymously), about what it is *really* like.

If you would like to put a question about anything along these lines to the panel, please fill in this google form. All questions will be entirely anonymous.