

The dangers of the “system of legal systems” for practicing lawyers:

Focus on Contract Law

INTRODUCTION

Franco Ferrari (New York University School of Law)

PART I — METHODOLOGY · Moderator: **Catalina Echeverri Gallego** (Wordstone Dispute Resolution)

Michele Graziadei (Turin University Law Department) — *Questioning the System of Legal Systems: The Perils of Mistaking Maps for Territory*

Kevin E. Davis (New York University School of Law) — *Legal Heterodoxy in the Global South and Legal Classification*

Marco Torsello (Verona University Department of Law) — *The Impact of Uniform Law on the System of Legal Systems*

Franco Ferrari (New York University School of Law) — *The System of Legal Systems and the Interpretation of Uniform Law Instruments*

PART II — SUBSTANCE · Moderator: **Isabela Lacreta** (Mayer Brown)

Giuditta Cordero-Moss (Oslo University School of Law) — *Good Faith*

Francesca Ragno (Bologna University School of Political Science) — *Battle of Forms*

José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez (Altra Legal) — *Expectation Damages*

Alejandro Garro (Columbia Law School) — *Hardship*

CLOSING

Diego P. Fernández Arroyo (Sciences Po Law School)

November 2, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sciences Po Law School, Salle du Conseil, Floor Five, 13 rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris

Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies

Giuditta Cordero-Moss

Dr. juris (Oslo) and PhD (Moscow), is Professor at the University of Oslo, where her research and teaching focus on contract law, private international law, and arbitration. A former corporate lawyer, she has acted as an arbitrator in international disputes since 2002 and lectures extensively in Norway and internationally. She served as President of the International Academy of Comparative Law from 2022 to 2026 and has been a member of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law since 2019. Since 2007, she has represented Norway in the UNCITRAL Working Group on Arbitration and served as a member of the ICC Court of Arbitration from 2018 to 2024. She has also held senior positions with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Administrative Tribunal, the Norwegian Financial Supervisory Authority, and the Norwegian Tariff Board.

Kevin E. Davis

Kevin E. Davis is the Beller Family Professor of Business Law at New York University School of Law and Faculty Director of the Hauser Global Law School program. His research and teaching generally concern the relationship between law and economic development, with particular emphasis on commercial law, economic crime, and measurement of the performance of legal systems. His publications include over 50 articles or essays, 4 edited volumes, and a monograph, *Between Impunity and Imperialism: The Regulation of Transnational Bribery* (Oxford University Press, 2019). He joined the NYU law faculty in 2004 and served as Vice Dean for Global Affairs from 2012 to 2017. Before joining NYU, he was a tenured member of the faculty at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, worked as an associate at Torys LLP in Toronto, and served as law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada to Mr. Justice John Sopinka. He holds a B.A. from McGill University, a LL.B. from the University of Toronto, and a LL.M. from Columbia University.

Catalina Echeverri Gallego

Catalina Echeverri Gallego is a partner at Wordstone Dispute Resolution, specializing in international arbitration across investment treaty and commercial matters, with particular experience in energy, construction, mining, telecommunications, and transport disputes. Her background in public policy from the University of Oxford informs her work on cases involving sovereign states and state-owned entities. She has appeared as counsel before ICSID, the ICC, the PCA, and in UNCITRAL ad hoc arbitrations, and sits as arbitrator in proceedings administered by the ICC, CIAM-CIAR, and CAIP. Since 2018, she has taught International Contract Law at Sciences Po in Paris.

Diego P. Fernández Arroyo

Diego P. Fernández Arroyo is Professor at Sciences Po Law School in Paris and Director of its LLM in Transnational Arbitration & Dispute Settlement. He is a former President of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law, a member of the Institut de droit international, and President of the International Academy of Arbitration Law. He has also served as President of ASADIP and Secretary-General of the International Academy of Comparative Law, and as a Global Professor at New York University. A member of the Argentine Delegation before UNCITRAL since 2003, he is actively involved in international arbitration as an independent arbitrator in both commercial and investment disputes. He is a member of the ICSID Panels of Arbitrators and Conciliators appointed by Argentina. Professor Fernández Arroyo has authored or edited 28 books and more than 200 articles published in more than 20 countries.

Franco Ferrari

Franco Ferrari is the Clarence D. Ashley Professor of Law and Director of the Intesa Sanpaolo Center for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration, and Commercial Law at New York University School of Law. He previously served as Full Professor at Tilburg University, Bologna University, and Verona University. He has published more than 400 articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and case comments, as well as 52 books on comparative law, conflict of laws, international commercial arbitration, and international business transactions. A former Legal Officer at the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, International Trade Law Division, Franco Ferrari serves on the editorial boards of several peer-reviewed European law journals. He is also co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Private International Law* (2017), the *Cambridge Compendium of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration* (2023), the *Concise Encyclopedia of International Commercial Arbitration* (2025), and the *Concise Encyclopedia of International Sales Law – CISG* (2026).

Alejandro M. Garro

Alejandro M. Garro is Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, where he has taught since 1981, and Honorary Professor at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law. His teaching and research focus on comparative law, international commercial law, international arbitration and litigation, and international sales. He has served as a consultant to international organizations and governments on judicial reform, secured transactions, and commercial law reform, and contributed to the drafting of arbitration legislation in Latin America. Professor Garro was a member of the working group that prepared the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts and later participated in the UNIDROIT Working Group on the Model Law on Factoring. He also advises the Argentine delegation to UNCITRAL. A graduate of Columbia Law School, LSU Law School, and the National University of La Plata, he is admitted to practice in Buenos Aires, Madrid, and New York.

Michele Graziadei

Michele Graziadei is Professor of Comparative Private Law at the University of Turin. He has held visiting appointments at several universities, including Cornell University, Louisiana State University, Université Paris II, Panthéon-Assas, and Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3. He is a member of the Committee of the International Association of Legal Science and of the Consultative Committee of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. He is the author of more than 150 publications in the field of comparative law.

Isabela Lacreata

Isabela Lacreata is a partner in the International Arbitration practice of Mayer Brown's Paris office and a member of the Paris, Lisbon, and São Paulo Bars. She represents clients in commercial and investment arbitrations across the energy, construction, and commercial sectors, and has acted as counsel in disputes under the ICSID, ICC, SCC, UNCITRAL, ICDR, and CAM-CCBC rules. She also sits as arbitrator and as administrative secretary of arbitral tribunals. Isabela holds a PhD in law from a joint program between the Universidade de São Paulo and the Université Paris Nanterre, and is fluent in Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French.

José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez

José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez is a lawyer with a doctorate in law from the National University of Asunción and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School. He has lectured at the Hague Academy of International Law and published and lectured at universities across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He serves on the UNIDROIT Governing Council and has chaired working groups at this institution. He is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, has served on the ICC Court of Arbitration, and has participated in several ICSID tribunals and annulment committees. He is a former president of both the Organization of American States Inter-American Judicial Committee and the American Association of Private International Law. He was part of the Working Group that prepared the Hague Principles and is a former delegate to UNCITRAL. He is also the founder of Altra Legal and president of CEDEP.

Francesca Ragno

Francesca Ragno is Full Professor of International Law, specializing in the legal dimension of transnational relations. Before joining the University of Bologna, she served as a Researcher and later Associate Professor of International Law at the Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Verona, where she also chaired that Department's Law Degree Program (Collegio di Giurisprudenza). She currently holds the position of Global Professor at New York University (Law- Abroad Program in Paris) and sits on the doctoral faculty board of International and European Legal Sciences at the University of Verona. She has held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the University of Pittsburgh and has been a visiting professor at several foreign universities. She was recently appointed by the Hague Academy of International Law as Director of Studies for the 2028 Summer Course (Private International Law Session). Her main research interests concern the unification of private and substantive international law, access to justice in cross-border litigation, and the privatization of the adjudicative function in transnational settings.

Marco Torsello

Marco Torsello is a Full Professor at the University of Verona, School of Law, where he teaches Comparative Private Law, Transnational Commercial Law, and International Arbitration. He is also a Global Professor of Law at NYU, School of Law (Law-Abroad Program in Paris), where he has taught European Business Law since 2014, and a Visiting Professor of Contract Law at the école de droit of Université Sciences Po, Paris, since 2024. Marco has over 25 years of experience in private practice, and he is one of the founding partners of ARBLIT, a boutique firm specializing in international commercial arbitration and litigation. He is a prolific scholar; he is the co-editor of the *Concise Encyclopedia of International Sales Law – CISG* (2026).