Governing Societal Challenges in Transformational Times  

Hasselt University, 21 December 2020

Hasselt University is pleased to announce the first edition of the Young Legal Researchers Conference. This conference will take place on the 21st December 2020 at the Law Faculty of Hasselt University (Martelarenlaan 42, 3500 Hasselt) or online (depending on the circumstances). As a civic and young university, Hasselt University is committed to and for society. In line with this young nature and civic approach, the aim of this conference is to bring together young researchers (PhD researchers and postdocs) to make their research known and gain from the insights of experts outside academia.

Because of the Covid19 pandemic, two possible scenarios were worked out for this conference. The first, scenario A (a blended conference), is the preferred scenario since it would have the benefit of more effectively connecting people and enhancing networking possibilities, allowing both on-site presentations and virtual presentations for those who will not be able to physically attend. If, however, due to the measures surrounding the Covid 19 pandemic, this is not possible or not advisable, scenario B (a fully online conference) will be used.

The overarching theme of the conference will be: Governing Societal Challenges in Transformational Times. Societies all over the world are continuously evolving, influenced or pressured because of new insights, technological innovations, impactful events and/or unforeseen circumstances. Within this conference, young researchers will have the opportunity to point out how law (in broad terms) within their fields of research can actually accelerate and facilitate these often necessary changes to societies.

Some examples of possible topics:

- Environmental challenges (low-carbon technologies, circular economy, sustainable development etc)
- Digitalisation (smart contracts, blockchain, AI, etc.)
- Challenges of an increasingly diverse society (effects of other sciences on the law, transnational governance, international cooperation, alternative forms of regulation)
- COVID-19 effects (teleworking, implications on mobility or transportation, personal data, state of emergency)
The list above is indicative. All topics that lie within the overarching theme will be considered, regardless of the field of law.

To express their interest, young researchers are invited to submit an abstract in English within their field of research **before November 20th 2020**:

- The abstract should not exceed 400 words (including title) and should contain the aim of the presentation, some main points and a brief conclusion;
- A short biography of the researcher (max. 150 words) should be included in the submission;
- Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated on a rolling-basis, and the latest by 25 November 2020;
- Abstracts shall be sent to ylrc@uhasselt.be;
- Participation in the conference is free, but registration is necessary. Registrations will open on 25 November 2020. You can find the registration form on the conference’s website [www.uhasselt.be/ylrc](http://www.uhasselt.be/ylrc) (places are limited).

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to have a look at the website [www.uhasselt.be/ylrc](http://www.uhasselt.be/ylrc) or contact us via mail [ylrc@uhasselt.be].