



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF COMPARATIVE LAW
ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE DE DROIT COMPARÉ

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU
BERLIN



International Academy of Comparative Law – XXIIInd General Congress 2026

Younger Scholars Forum

Call for Papers

Within the framework of the XXIIInd General Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law, the Younger Scholars Forum will provide a dedicated platform for early-career scholars of comparative law. It will offer the opportunity for younger researchers to present their current projects, to receive constructive feedback, to exchange ideas and perspectives across legal disciplines and cultures, and to strengthen the network within the global comparative law community. The Younger Scholars Forum will be convened by Caroline S. Rapatz (Secretary General of the German National Committee of Comparative Law) and Lukas Rademacher (both University of Kiel).

Specific Younger Scholar sessions during the General Congress from September 28th to October 2nd, 2026 in Berlin will allow for the presentation and discussion of research thematically related to (at least) one of the topics of the general reports and workshops of the General Congress, with panels allowing for an in-depth analysis of individual aspects as well as a focus on cross-cutting themes and synergies between areas and topics. In each panel session, each panellist will present their research in a brief opening statement, followed by a discussion of selected issues by the panel participants and a moderator, before the session is closed by a general discussion with the audience.

We are pleased to invite younger researchers interested in presenting and discussing their research to submit proposals for panellist contributions to the Younger Scholars Forum. For the purposes of the event, “Younger Scholars” is understood to mean all researchers who are within six years of having completed their last law degree (PhD or comparable qualification) at the time of the General Congress; this includes graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows, lecturers, and assistant professors. All General Congress participants are cordially invited to attend the Younger Scholars panels and engage in the discussions.

Applications may be submitted, and presentations may be given, in English or French. Submissions have to contain

- an abstract (max. 500 words) for the proposed research paper and presentation
- identification of the general report(s) and/or workshop(s) the topic relates to (a full list of thematic panels is available under <https://iacl.hu-berlin.de/congress-programme>)
- the applicant’s name, affiliation including Younger Scholar status, and contact details

We kindly ask you to submit all relevant documents in a single PDF file via email to youngiacl2026@law.uni-kiel.de by February 16th, 2026. Submissions will be evaluated according to the main selection criteria of the originality of the work and its methodology, the relevance of the paper to the topics and issues of the General Congress, and the plurality of perspectives provided.

The results of the selection process will be communicated by mid-March 2026. A written version of contributions by panellists needs to be handed in by September 7th, 2026, and will be circulated among co-panellists and moderators to facilitate preparation of the discussions. After the conference, a volume of outstanding selected contributions from the Younger Scholars Forum will be published as part of the General Congress publications.

While no further affiliation is required to participate in the Younger Scholars Forum, all panel participants will have to register for the General Congress. Younger Scholars Forum panellists will fall under the category of “Young Scholar”, and benefit from a specially reduced conference fee of only 150 €. As panellists of the Younger Scholars Forum might fall out of the age range of the “Young Scholar” price category, please upload the acceptance mail to the Younger Scholars Forum, when you are being asked to upload proof of age. In cases of hardship, successful applicants who can demonstrate that this fee presents an undue financial obstacle may apply for a waiver of fees with the General Congress conference staff at Humboldt University (iacl2026@hu-berlin.de).

Please note that the application and questions related to the content of the Younger Scholars Forum should be directed to youngiacl2026@law.uni-kiel.de, while administrative, organisational, and General Congress-related queries should be addressed to iacl2026@hu-berlin.de.