

Oskar Gabriel Polański

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As the rule of law crisis emerged in the EU, so too did claims about the possible demise of its legal order. This led me to explore what it means for law to exist, endure, and potentially cease to exist. In seeking answers, I draw on foundational accounts of the nature of law to illuminate contemporary constitutional and institutional challenges. My current research centres on a broader project on the demise of law, which examines how constitutional crises test prevailing jurisprudential assumptions about law's essential properties, as well as questions of legal identity and continuity. As part of this project, I have initiated and am coordinating international conference panels, which I aim to develop into a peer-reviewed special issue or an edited collection.

Research interests: Public Law, Constitutional Theory, Legal Theory, EU Law, EU Constitutional Law

Education

PhD in Law Sept 2021 – Present (Planned submission: Aug 2026| Defence expected: Nov 2026)

European University Institute

Supervisors: Gábor Halmai and Cormac Mac Amhlaigh

- Visiting Researcher: Edinburgh University (March 2023)
- Research degree in EU law, constitutional theory, and legal theory, examining whether national judicial challenges to EU law constitute an existential threat to its legal order.

Master in Comparative, European and International Laws (LLM) Sept 2021 – June 2022

European University Institute

Supervisor: Gábor Halmai

Research degree exploring the relationship between the EU and its Member States' legal systems.

Master of Jurisprudence (MJur) Oct 2020 – Sept 2021

Durham University

Supervisors: Robert Schütze and Roger Masterman

Examiners: Irene Wiecezorek (internal), Dimitry Kochenov (external)

'Unwilling or unable? Assessing the failure of the Rule of Law Framework and Article 7 TEU in Poland' (MJur thesis, Durham University 2021) <<https://hdl.handle.net/1814/74066>>

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Oct 2017 – June 2020

Durham University

First Class Honours

Teaching Experience

OSUN Global Teaching Fellowship Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

Brac University

- **Completed a Teacher Training Course** at the EUI (which involved participation in training workshops, delivering a mock lecture, drawing up a course outline and by providing written feedback on the course outlines of three course participants) in preparation for the appointment.
- **Course leader** for 'Constitutional Law and Theory' and 'Legal Research and Methodology', instructing 160 undergraduate students.
- **Independently designed** entire curricula, including original content, assessment and exam structures, and teaching formats.

- **Created and implemented a conceptual framework** to aid with critical thinking, enhancing students' ability to analyse and evaluate complex legal and theoretical concepts.
- **Managed all aspects of student progress**, including 1-on-1 mentorship and close written feedback.

Part-Time Teacher (Tutorials in EU Constitutional Law)

Oct 2020 — June 2021

Durham University

- **Tutorial leader** for small-group, discussion and problem-based sessions in EU Constitutional Law.
- **Conducted regular tutorials** for approximately 70 students, both remotely and in-person, adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Delivered a lecture** on the “EU values crisis” as part of the EU constitutional law module.
- **Held regular office hours** and provided detailed written feedback on assignments.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- ‘Poland—another episode of “rule of law backsliding”—Judgment P 7/20 and a threat to the integrity of the EU legal order’ [2022] PL 153
- ‘Poland—Constitutional Tribunal Judgment K 3/21—A continued assault on the integrity of the EU legal order’ [2022] PL 344
- ‘Review of Cormac S. Mac Amhlaigh, *New Constitutional Horizons: Towards a Pluralist Constitutional Theory*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2022, xi + 256pp, hb £70.00’ (2023) 86(6) MLR 1309

Publications in Progress

- ‘How to study existential threats to legal order’ (revise and resubmit, *Canadian Journal of Law & Jurisprudence*)
- ‘If the Law Fails, Europe Fails’ (manuscript in progress)

Notable Presentations

‘How Law Dies, When Law Dies’

Panel organiser and chair: Conceptualising the Demise of Law

- World Congress of Constitutional Law, Bogotá (July 2026 – forthcoming)
- IVR World Congress, Istanbul (June 2026 – forthcoming)

‘If the Law Fails, Europe Fails’

- Global Summit on Constitutionalism, Austin (March 2025)

‘How to Study Existential Threats to Legal Order’

- IVR World Congress, Seoul (July 2024)
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver (June 2024)

‘Understanding Threats to the EU Legal Order: A Kelsenian Account’

- Durham Centre for Law and Philosophy (March 2023)
- Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law (March 2023)

‘Assessing Truth in Claims about the Law: Analytical vs Normative Approaches’

- Doctoral Workshop, European University Institute (June 2022)

‘The Need for Supranational Adjudication: Lessons from the Polish Experience’

- 4th Annual Doctoral Workshop in Constitutional Theory, Sheffield (Dec 2020)

Grants and Funding

Doctoral Scholarship (fully funded PhD)

European University Institute (funded by Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education) (2021–2026)

OSUN Global Teaching Fellowship Grant (€14,000)

Central European University Budapest Foundation / Open Society University Network (2023)

Awarded in support of teaching fellowship at BRAC University.

EUI Departmental Research Mission Funding (3 awards)

European University Institute (2022-2025)

Supported research visit to University of Edinburgh and presentations at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, IVR World Congress, and Global Summit on Constitutionalism.

Professional Activities

Internal Editor at the European Journal of Legal Studies

Oct 2021 – Present

European University Institute

- **Peer-reviewed** paper submissions in legal theory, EU law, and constitutional law, ensuring high-quality publication standards.

Coordinator of the Constitutional Law and Politics Working Group

Oct 2021 – Sept 2024

European University Institute

- **Organised workshops and panels** on judicial independence, populism, and the EU rule of law crisis, fostering interdisciplinary and international collaboration across various universities.
- **Acted as discussant**, providing feedback to speakers and facilitating audience engagement.
- **Conducted interview:** Integration Through Pod, 'Legal Theory and the EU Legal Order. A Conversation with Justin Lindeboom' (1 December 2023) <<https://rss.com/podcasts/integration-by-pod/1247563/>>

Discussion Facilitator and Note Taker at Rule of Law Panel

Dec 2021

Conference on the Future of Europe, European University Institute

- **Moderated discussions** among European citizens on rule of law issues, applying MJur research to guide productive debates on complex legal challenges.
- **Recorded and synthesised citizens' deliberations** on EU reform into policy proposals.

Research Assistant

July 2020 — Aug 2020

For Professor Robert Schütze at Durham University

- **Assisted in preparing a publication** of statute book on EU law and treaties.

Referees

Prof Gábor Halmai

European University Institute

Chair of Constitutional Law

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Relationship: PhD supervisor

Prof Cormac Mac Amhlaigh

Edinburgh University

Professor of Public Law

cormac.mac.amhlaigh@ed.ac.uk

Relationship: PhD supervisor

Dr Irene Wieczorek

Durham University

Associate Professor in EU Law

irene.wieczorek@durham.ac.uk

Relationship: Teaching supervisor