

Current positions

since 09|2021

PhD researcher

Department of Law, European University Institute, Florence

Provisional thesis title: “Codified disagreement, orchestrated randomness: Climate finance and the ambiguous principles of the UNFCCC regime”

Supervisor: Prof Sergio Puig de la Parra

Research themes: Climate change law and governance, politics of international law, international institutional law

since 07|2025

Visiting scholar and teaching assistant

Department of Legal Studies, Università Bocconi, Milan

Upon invitation by Prof Miriam Allena

Teaching assistance to Prof Miriam Allena for the course “ESG Law”

Thesis co-supervision for Bachelor of Arts “Global Law”

since 04|2024

Pro bono legal advisor

Legal Response International

Advice on legal questions to developing country and NGO delegations at international climate negotiations, preparation and review of ‘legal explainers’

Research experience

10|2024 - 11|2024

Fieldwork

Green Climate Fund, Songdo, South Korea

Participant observation and interviews at and around the 40th meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund, in the context of the above PhD project

03|2024 - 04|2024

Visiting researcher

Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Woman’s University, Seoul

Upon invitation by Prof Thomas Kalinowski

03|2024 - 04|2024

Fieldwork

Green Climate Fund, Songdo, South Korea

Interviews in the context of the above PhD project

10|2018 - 03|2019

Research assistant

Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Qualitative content analysis of parliamentary debates for “The Democratic Politics of Military Interventions” by Prof Wolfgang Wagner (OUP 2020)

12|2016 - 02|2017

Research assistant

Institute for Political Science, Chair for International Governance, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster

Qualitative content analysis of UNHCR discourse on climate migration

Teaching experience

- 03|2026 - 04|2026 **University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law**
Advanced International Trade Law
2L/3L course, online, co-taught with Prof Sergio Puig
- 10|2025 - 12|2025 **European University Institute and Bocconi University**
Joint doctoral workshop on International Economic and Environmental Law
Postgraduate level, interactive seminar discussing participants' work-in-progress, 15 participants from the European University Institute, Bocconi, and the University of Arizona, co-taught with Prof Joanne Scott, Prof Sergio Puig, Prof Miriam Allena
Designed, organised, coordinated and co-taught seven sessions
- 10|2024 - 06|2025 **Florence School of Banking and Finance**
Teaching and research collaborator for various executive training courses
- 01|2024 - 02|2024 **European University Institute**
Postgraduate seminar Law and Political Economy
Postgraduate level interactive seminar with 12 participants, designed and co-taught with Niall O'Shaughnessy, guest lecture by Corinne Blalock

Education

- 09|2021 - 01|2023 **LLM in Comparative, European and International Laws (ungraded)**
European University Institute, Department of Law
- 09|2018 - 08|2019 **LLM Law and Politics of International Security (cum laude)**
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Thesis: "Insecurity as a Legal Regime: How the Imperialisms of International Economic Law Lead to an Unequal Distribution of Human Security"
(supervisor Geoff Gordon)
- 08|2016 - 12|2016 **Semester abroad**
Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Department of Economics, Viña del Mar, Chile
- 10|2014 - 01|2018 **BA Political Science and Economics**
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Thesis: "How Has the Intervention of the USA from 2003 to 2011 changed Human Security in Iraq?" (data-driven, supervisor Katja Freistein)

Publications

- Sophie Alena Hölscher, 'Constructive ambiguity and its longer-term effects: Common but differentiated responsibilities in UN climate finance' (2026), *unpublished draft paper*.
- Sophie Alena Hölscher, 'Equity, CBDR-RC, and sustainable development at the Green Climate Fund: Ethnography of an institution troubled by ambiguity' (2026), *unpublished draft paper*.

Presentations and conference participations

- 04|2026 **Paper presentation** “Constructive ambiguity or codified disagreement: Common but differentiated responsibilities in climate finance and loss and damage funding”
ESIL Research Forum “Sustainable International Law”
- 03|2026 **Paper presentation** “Governing International Legal Ambiguity: The Life of CBDR-RC and Equity at the Green Climate Fund”
SLSA Annual Conference
- 05|2025 **Panel discussion** “When aid dries up: What’s next for climate?”
with Prof Joanna Pandera, Sushila Pandit, and Nina Shengelia
Side event of the EUI Climate Week, School of Transnational Governance
- 02|2025 **Paper presentation** “Paying for and against climate change: Common but differentiated responsibilities in climate finance and loss and damage funding”
EUI Finance, Innovation and Regulation Working Group
- 05|2025 **Panel moderation** “Rethinking capitalism in Europe in the path to sustainability”
with Kenneth Amaeshi, Dan Dionisie, Ioannis Kampourakis, Caroline Paulick-Thiel, co-moderated with Elena Calsamiglia
State of the Union Conference, EUI
- 05|2024 **Research presentation** “Finding the principles of international climate law at the Green Climate Fund – Introduction to a friendly ghost hunt”
Lund University, Law Faculty, “Screening for Sustainability” seminar series
- 10|2023 **Research presentation** “Constructive ambiguity? Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in the United Nations climate finance regime”
EUI Environmental Law and Governance Working Group
- 03|2025 **Panel discussion** “A battle of definitions: green finance, climate finance, sustainable finance, and more” with Liza Badanova and Elena Calsamiglia
EUI Finance, Innovation and Regulation Working Group
- 07|2022 **Summer School** Sustainable Global Economic Law
University of Amsterdam
- 12|2019 **Workshop** “Constitutions of Value”
Julius-Maximilians-Universität of Würzburg and TMC Asser Institute

Grants, scholarships and awards

- 01|2025 - 12|2025 **Fourth-year finishing grant** for doctoral researchers of the European University Institute
€19.500 in monthly grant payments
- 09|2021 - 12|2025 **Doctoral Grant** of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for conducting research at the European University Institute (competitive)
€55.545 in monthly grant payments until 12|2024
€5304 in monthly payments for research costs
Equivalent of €15.600 per annum in tuition fees

- 06|2022 - 11|2025 **Mission funding** of the European University Institute
€2180 for travel expenses regarding various conferences and meetings
- 03|2024 - 11|2024 **Early Stage Researchers grant** of the European University Institute for fieldwork at the Green Climate Fund (competitive)
€1800 for research expenses
- 07|2019 **Finalist** in the Best Thesis Prize of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 04|2019 - 07|2019 **Scholarship** of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (competitive)
For pursuing the LLM Law and Politics of International Security

Other academic experience

- since 09|2021 **Peer review activity**
for the European Journal of International Law, Transnational Environmental Law, and European Journal of Legal Studies
- 09|2021 - 08|2022 **Assistant editor**
European Journal of International Law

Non-academic experience

- 09|2019 - 05|2020 **Trainee legal and political advisor**
European Parliament, office of Daniel Freund MEP (Greens/EFA), Brussels;
Responsible research on and strategic planning of an independent ethics body for the EU, support of the MEP's work in the Committees on Constitutional Affairs and Budgetary Control, administrative tasks
- 10|2017 - 08|2018 **Student assistant**
AWA Foreign Trade Academy Münster
Organisation of seminars, research on export controls and international sanctions regimes, administrative support
- 01|2018 - 02|2018 **Intern**
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, Washington D.C.
Project development and public diplomacy

Trainings and certifications

- 04|2024 **Training Transition Plans**
Florence School of Banking and Finance
- 05|2023 - 06|2023 **Training and certificate: Teaching and Learning in Higher Education**
European University Institute
- 04|2018 **Training Start up Export Control**
AWA Foreign Trade Academy Münster

Languages

German	native
English	business fluent (C2)
Italian	business fluent (C2)
French	fluent, to be refreshed (C2)
Spanish	fluent, to be refreshed (C1)

Methodological and analytical skills

Research design	Doctrinal legal research
Grounded theory	Qualitative content analysis
Interviewing	Discourse analysis
Participant observation	Genealogical analysis
Case study research	Data analysis
Research communication	MaxQDA
	Nvivo

Memberships

2026 and 2022	European Society of International Law (ESIL)
since 12 2025	Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA)
since 11 2025	European Association of Climate Law (EACL)

Extracurricular activities

since 09 2023	Founder , Project 'Sdoppiatore' for inclusion in cycling Development, construction and open-source distribution of a solution for safe one-handed hydraulic braking on bicycles, in cooperation with Scarpelli Biciclette Firenze and the Sensory-Motor Systems Lab at ETH Zürich For more information, see the crowdfunding website sdoppiatore.org
01 2023 - 12 2023	Member , Harassment Policy Committee, European University Institute Collaboration with the EUI administration on an updated Harassment Policy
01 2022 - 12 2022	Researcher representative , European University Institute Representing PhD researchers at the Doctoral Programme Committee, Research Council, Harassment Committee, and Department of Law; Handling cases and pre-case complaints of alleged harassment and bullying