

ACELG NEWSLETTER 2015-2

The Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) is a research centre of excellence at the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam. Established in 2009, it studies European Union Law in the context of the surrounding legal and political systems as well as wider structures of (global) governance.

The ACELG Newsletter is published twice a year.



DEIRDRE CURTIN TAKES UP POSITION AT EUI



Deirdre Curtin as from 1 January 2016 will take up a new position as Professor of European Law at the European University Institute in Florence, a Joint Chair of the Law Department and the Robert Schuman Centre. Deirdre Curtin, Professor of European Law and Governance at the University of Amsterdam since 2008, founded ACELG in 2009.

ACELG under her leadership developed into an established centre of excellence at the Faculty of Law, gaining international visibility and prominence with its excellent researchers and activities. The procedure for finding her successor is under way. Deirdre Curtin will remain a professor at the law department in Amsterdam and closely affiliated to ACELG and its researchers.

ACELG V: INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION



Panel 3 in dialogue with the audience

On 20 November 2015, ACELG held its **5th Annual Conference**. This year's focus was Inclusion and Exclusion in the EU. The well-attended conference considered inclusion and exclusion both from an internal and external perspective, with panels on migration, social exclusion and national protectionism. As follow-up of the conference, ACELG will publish an open access edited collection of position papers by the conference speakers and discussants.

In the meantime read the [conference report](#) by Annette Schrauwen.

NEW ACELG POSTDOC



On 1 November, **Szilárd Gáspár-Szilyági** joined ACELG as a postdoctoral researcher, funded by ACELG's partner ACCESS EUROPE. Szilárd Gáspár-Szilyági acquired his doctoral degree at the University of Aarhus with a dissertation on *The 'Direct Effect' of EU International Agreements Through a US Lens*. He is the author of several academic articles in among others *European Law Review*, *Common Market Law Review* and *European Public Law*. At ACELG he will pursue research on existing and negotiated ISDS clauses in the new generation of EU and US free trade and investment treaties. [More ...](#)

ACELG PUBLICATIONS

Steven Blockmans: The Netherlands, in: R. Balfour and C. Stratulat (eds.) *EU Member States and Enlargement Towards the Balkans* (Brussels: EPC 2015), pp. 211 - 221

Christina Eckes: The Reflexive Relationship between Internal and External Sovereignty, *Irish Journal of European Law*, 18(1), pp. 33 - 47

Deirdre Curtin & Tatevik Manucharyan: Legal Acts and Hierarchy of Norms in EU Law, in: A. Arnulf & D. Chalmers (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of European Union Law* (OUP 2015), pp. 103 - 125

R. de Groot & **Katja Swider** & O. Vonk: *Practices and Approaches in EU Member States to Prevent and End Statelessness*, Report commissioned by the LIBRE Committee, European Parliament, available [here](#)

Maria Weimer & Ellen Vos: The Role of the EU in Transnational Regulation of Food Safety: Extending experimentalist governance?, in J. Zeitlin *The Role of the EU in Transnational Regulation: Extending experimentalist governance?* (OUP 2015), pp. 51 - 80

[ALL 2015 ACELG Publications](#)
[ACELG Working Papers on SSRN](#)

MOST RECENT ACELG BLOGS

[Autonomous EU law concepts or deference to national law? The unsteady ground of CJEU judgments](#) by Eljalil Tauschinsky & Thomas Vandamme
[Mutual Trust before the Court of Justice. A view from CJEU Judge Sacha Prechal](#) by Szilárd Gáspár-Szilyági
[C-62/14 Gauweiler: How the ECJ avoided Stockholm syndrome but risks either a standoff or a stalemate](#) by Tomi Tuominen

[Regulatory Cooperation under TTIP: Democracy on this Side of the Bridge](#) by Joana Mendes

[All ACELG blogs](#)

DOCTORAL THESIS ON SECRECY DEFENDED



On 11 December 2015, **Vigjilence Abazi** successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled *Secrecy and Oversight in the European Union: The Law and Practice of Classified Information*. In her work, which was praised by members of the doctorate committee as a major contribution that combines legal analysis with insights from political science and public administration, she examines how official secrets impede the realisation of democratic scrutiny and fundamental rights in the European Union. Drawing from 40 interviews with EU officials, MEPs, experts, and civil activists, she not only maps the regulatory regime of official secrets but also investigates its practice or, in her own words, ‘opens the black box’ of the European Union Classified Information system. [More...](#)

After **Anniek de Ruijter** and external PhD researcher **Jeremy Bierbach**, Vigjilence Abazi is the third ACELG PhD candidate to successfully defend her PhD project in 2015. She is currently postdoctoral researcher and a research coordinator at the Centre for European Research (CERiM) at Maastricht University.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH EU DECISION-MAKING?




On Monday 2 November, Professor **Jürgen Neyer**, European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), delivered a lecture within the project **The Architecture of Postnational Rulemaking**, co-directed by the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, carrying the simple but evocative title *What is wrong with EU decision-making?*. According to Neyer, it is the lack of contestation that eventually becomes unsustainable for the European Union: ‘Discourse and conflict are two sides of the same coin - they are both necessary.’ Read more on the [ACELG blog](#) by Maarten Hillebrandt


RESEARCH STAY

In the month of January, ACELG welcomes Professor **Nanette Neuwahl** for a research stay in Amsterdam. Nanette Neuwahl is a Full Professor at the Université de Montréal’s Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP) and has since 2008 held the Jean Monnet chair in European Union Law at the same university. She combines a sabbatical in Europe with a research stay at ACELG in her home country The Netherlands.


ARCHITECTURE PROJECT

ACELG co-directs the project **The Architecture of Postnational Rulemaking**. In the **Dialogue Series** leading and upcoming scholars are invited to engage with the theme. Next in the series:

 18.1.2016: **Sahib Singh**, University of Helsinki & University of Cambridge

 18.4.2016: **Poul Kjaer**, Copenhagen Business School

 30.5.2016: **Joanne Scott**, University College London

 16. & 17.6.2016: Workshop ‘Austerity and Law in Europe’



Happy holidays!