



Università
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International Society for Labour and Social Security Law
Société internationale de droit du travail et de la sécurité sociale
Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la Seguridad Social

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ISLSSL YOUNG LEGAL SCHOLARS' SECTION CALL FOR PAPERS

“For A Global Labour Law: Rights, Social Governance and regulatory scenarios”

**TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAW**

5 December 2025

Dear colleagues,

The 12th International Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law will take place in Venice, at Ca' Foscari University on 27th May 2026 – 30th May 2026.

The 2026 edition of the Seminar will deal with the following issue:

“For A Global Labour Law: Rights, Social Governance and regulatory scenarios”

All attendants are invited to take part in the discussion with an interdisciplinary perspective. On the 30th May, the papers by the Young Legal Scholars of the ISLSSL will be presented during a special session. This call for paper is open also to all Young Scholars who would like to take part in the International Seminar.

Of course, the interested scholars can also submit additional perspectives of analysis, while still linked to the general theme of the Seminar. Researchers and Young Scholars from countries around the world are invited to submit original papers with new and innovative results on scientific, technical and practical experience.

The Seminar aims to analyse – through a predominantly legal approach – the prospects for the foundation of a global labour law as a still not fully coherent set of rules, instruments and practices that regulate labour relations at different legal levels and with varying degrees of binding force. This system, while being fragmented, plays a central role in promoting respect for fundamental social rights and in influencing the behaviour of multinational companies, assuming increasing importance in terms of social justice, sustainability and global responsibility.

The seminar addresses the issue in a polycentric and comparative manner, considering

both established international labour law and heterogeneous regulatory instruments, including social clauses in international trade agreements, corporate codes of conduct, transnational collective bargaining, European directives on due diligence, reporting, social audits and technological devices for transparency and traceability of working conditions. Although these instruments belong to different regulatory frameworks and vary in their effectiveness, they collectively contribute to a complex regulatory framework, whose interactions, limitations and potential are the subject of reconstruction and critical analysis.

The initiative aims to combine regulatory knowledge and critical reflection, stimulating debate on the forms, content and objectives of a potentially effective Global Labour Law. Particular attention is paid to the tensions between the universalism of fundamental rights and regulatory pluralism, the dialectic between binding instruments and soft law, the power asymmetries between public and private actors, and the capacity for enforcement in different socio-economic contexts.

In this context, the seminar is designed as a theoretical and comparative workshop, aimed at stimulating reflection on how to integrate public and private instruments, binding rules and codes of conduct, in order to develop a coherent, polycentric global labour law capable of responding to the challenges posed by globalisation, digitalisation and the fragmentation of employment relationships. The aim is to contribute to the development of an advanced reflection on labour law that combines academic rigour with practical application, offering analytical and conceptual tools in order to understand, interpret and, where possible, guide the evolution of Global Labour Law in the 21st century.

The seminar includes three days of thematic sessions, while the fourth will be dedicated to the presentation of the papers by young scholars selected by the scientific committee.

1. In the **first thematic session**, the Seminar intends to focus attention on “*New Theoretical Approaches to Global Labour Law*”.

The session aims to provide an opportunity for discussion on the latest theoretical developments in labour law from a global perspective. The objective is to critically analyse the new interpretative and regulatory paradigms that are emerging in the field of Global Labour Law, in light of the transformations brought about by economic globalisation, technological evolution and climate change. From this perspective, we intend to address the theme of the "dogmatic reconstruction" of discipline in light of the theories on regulation that can be used in the construction of global labour law. We will try to understand whether they offer adequate responses to the challenges of labour regulation in the contemporary global context, by evaluating their contents, application potential and systematic limits. While we cannot be thorough on the matter, what we are referring to are theories that emphasize value structures (global constitutionalism, theory of human and fundamental rights; sustainability) and also those that focus on the tools, techniques and levels of regulation (polycentric, multilevel, hybrid, co-regulation approach).

The reflection will focus on the main lines of theoretical development, highlighting their content, methodological assumptions and systematic implications.

Particular attention will be paid to continuity and discontinuity with regard to domestic and European labour law, as well as to the problems posed by the spread of soft law (private standards, transnational codes of conduct) and the entry of non-public actors into regulatory processes. Among the strengths of the approaches examined are the greater adherence to the global dimension of production chains, the possibility of bringing labour protection within supranational legal frameworks, and the ability to intercept atypical and digitised forms of work.

However, structural limitations will also be explored: risks of fragmentation and regulatory inconsistency, lack of legitimacy of transnational sources, tensions with national legal systems and with the guaranteed system of classical labour law, as well as difficulties in enforcement and accountability of global private actors. This section aims to assess, from a systematic perspective, the real scope of these new paradigms for the reconstruction of labour law and their suitability for providing effective responses to contemporary transformations of work on a global scale.

2. In the **second thematic session**, the focus shifts to the topic “*A Comparative Analysis on Global Labour Law*”.

The session is part of an essential reflection on the nature, limits and evolutionary possibilities of Global Labour Law. In recent decades, discipline has experienced exponential growth thanks to the development of global value chains, the transnationalisation of production processes, the proliferation of private standards and the growing importance of non-state actors in regulating working conditions.

The session assumes that any attempt to outline a truly “global” paradigm requires the ability to recognise the plurality of legal experiences and the diversity of socio-economic structures that characterise the regions of the world. Adopting a broad comparative perspective makes it possible to highlight not only regulatory and institutional differences, but also different conceptions of legality, the effectiveness of rights and the representation of collective interests.

The variety of forms of labour protection, enforcement mechanisms and models of trade union participation shows that global labour law cannot be viewed solely through the lens of European institutions, the ILO or international standards from advanced economies.

The session therefore aims to promote an academic dialogue capable of bringing out new interpretative categories and critically questioning the theoretical roots of Global Labour Law. The comparison between “internal” and “external” perspectives in relation to the Western model allows us not only to highlight the cultural and institutional assumptions that have guided the dominant thinking, but also to identify possible paths for integration or polycentric recomposition. The aim is to stimulate a redefinition of the field, to bring together the universality of rights and regulatory pluralism, the need for protection and diversity of contexts, democratic demands and emerging forms of private-centric governance.

3. The **third thematic session** explores the topic “*Actors and Tools to Build an*

Effective Global Labour Law”.

The session aims to offer an in-depth comparative analysis of the main actors and instruments that contribute to the construction of an effective global labour protection system. The growing complexity of contemporary work, characterised by the globalisation of production chains, the proliferation of atypical forms of employment and the increasing importance of private actors, calls for rigorous reflection on the polycentric governance of Global Labour Law.

The seminar will examine the role of international organisations (such as the ILO and the UN), supranational institutions, states, multinational companies, transnational trade unions and civil society networks in the definition, implementation and monitoring of global labour standards. The reflection will focus – besides the main actors – on regulatory instruments, ranging from international conventions and private codes of conduct to transnational collective bargaining, due diligence and auditing systems, and technological devices for transparency and traceability.

Particular attention will be paid to the operational tools of Global Labour Law: international standards and multilateral conventions, soft law, private standards, codes of conduct, transnational collective bargaining, mandatory and voluntary due diligence, social monitoring and audit systems, as well as new technological devices for traceability and transparency. The seminar aims to assess the effectiveness of these instruments, considering issues of legal compliance, accountability and enforcement, as well as the role of emerging practices such as human rights due diligence and co-regulation models.

The objective is to critically examine the polycentric configuration of global labour law, characterised by complex interaction between public and private actors, heterogeneous regulatory levels and formal and informal legal instruments.

Selected papers will be presented and discussed in thematic sessions and posted on the meeting website.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Full papers or long abstracts (minimum 1000 words) in pdf format should be **submitted online** no later than **April 1st, 2026**.

Please note that paper selection has become increasingly competitive in recent years. Submissions that fully describe a complete analysis are generally more likely to be accepted than long abstracts. When submitting a long abstract, please ensure that the study and results are sufficiently described to allow comparison with full paper submissions. Each person can present only one selected paper, although multiple submissions and co-authorship are allowed.

The papers and the abstract must be sent to the following addresses:
stefanobellomo@mmba.it, adaper@unive.it, islssl@unive.it.

The abstract paper will be examined by the Seminar’s organizers and, if accepted, the full paper (max 30.000 characters, including spaces, footnotes and appendix) must be presented at the Session of May 30th 2026.

Presentation of the Papers - Young Scholars' Session:

During the Session of 30th May, Young Scholars will present their papers. **Scholars may present their papers in presence or from remote.**

Please notice that all Scholarship winners (ISLSSL scholarship; AIDLaSS scholarship; Ca' Foscari Scholarship) must write a paper for the Young Scholars' Session of the Seminar.

For any further information about this Call for paper, please contact Prof. Stefano Bellomo (stefanobellomo@mmba.it), Prof. Adalberto Perulli (adaper@unive.it) or write an email to islssl@unive.it.

For any further information about ISLSSL Seminar, please write to islssl@unive.it

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Warm regards

Prof. Adalberto Perulli

Prof. Vania Brino

Prof. Stefano Bellomo