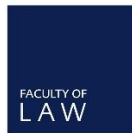


Call for Papers

Conference on Judicial Activism and Resistance in Eastern Europe and Beyond



We are pleased to invite submissions for a **conference** that will conclude the research project on *Judicial Activism in Times of Crisis*, to be held on **5-6 June 2025 at the Institut d'études européennes of the Université libre de Bruxelles**. This project, building on prior seed-funded research by the British Academy, explored judicial activism as a modality of resistance and communication in response to crises of judicial independence across Europe, particularly in the context of democratic backsliding and authoritarian challenges in Poland, Hungary and Romania with comparative perspectives on Germany. With a focus on **judicial activism** as a form of resistance and communication, our research examined how judges navigated challenges to their autonomy and independence.

Conference Aims:

This conference aims to consolidate and advance discussions on **judicial activism** and **resistance** in times of democratic strain, with a focus on both European and global contexts. With Poland transitioning back towards rule of law principles, we are particularly keen to explore the challenges and reflections arising from this shift, contributing to a broader understanding of judicial resistance and its implications in Europe and beyond.

Themes for Contributions:

We invite **empirically oriented** contributions, both qualitative and quantitative, that offer robust evidence, analysis and engage with the following themes:

- **Judicial Self-Reflections:** Personal and professional reflections from judges on judicial activism, resistance, and the challenges of upholding judicial independence.
- **Academic Perspectives on Judicial Independence:** Theoretical and empirical insights into the role and resilience of judicial independence during political crises and transitions.
- **Challenges of Transition from Authoritarianism:** Analyses of judicial and institutional hurdles in countries undergoing transitions from authoritarianism to rule of law, with a particular emphasis on Poland.

- **Comparative Perspectives:** Contributions that offer cross-national comparisons, especially drawing on experiences from outside Europe (e.g., **Latin America, Asia**), where courts face similar challenges.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit an **extended abstract** of up to **750 words** by **25 January 2025** to **Agnieszka Kubal** at agnieszka.kubal@csls.ox.ac.uk. The extended abstract should include:

- **Methodology:** A clear description of the empirical approach (whether qualitative or quantitative).
- **Discussion of Findings:** A concise presentation of key findings.
- **Contribution to Scholarship:** A discussion of how these findings contribute to the broader field of judicial independence and activism.

The aim is to evaluate not only the topic's relevance but also the **analytical soundness** and **scholarly contribution** of the work. We encourage you to highlight the significance of your empirical findings within the broader literature on judicial activism and democratic governance. Selected papers will be invited for inclusion in a **special issue or edited volume** with a leading academic publisher.

Conference Dates: 5-6 June 2025

Location: Room Kant, Institut d'études européennes,
Université libre de Bruxelles, Avenue F. D.
Roosevelt, 39, 1050 Bruxelles

Submission Deadline: 25 January 2025

For any inquiries, please contact **Agnieszka Kubal**.

We look forward to your contributions and to an engaging and insightful conference!

Professor [Ramona Coman](#), University Libre Brussels

Professor [Birgit Apitzsch](#), University of Bochum

Dr [Agnieszka Kubal](#), University of Oxford



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