



**Institute of European
and Comparative Law**

Faculty of Law



Conference on

Characterisation in the Conflict of Laws

at the University of Oxford, 20-21 March 2025

Thursday 20 March

Morning session (9 am – 12.30 pm)

- **Introduction**
 - Opening remarks (Johannes Ungerer, Caterina Benini, and Felix Berner)
- **The history of characterisation**
 - Historical perspectives across civil law jurisdictions (Martin Gebauer)
- **The process and problems of characterisation**
 - Is there any magic in characterisation? (Andrew Dickinson)
 - The intersection of jurisdiction and choice of law (Roxana Banu and Brooke Marshall)
 - Conflicts of characterisation and '*renvoi de qualification*' (Pietro Franzina)

Afternoon session (2 – 5.30 pm)

- **The challenges of characterisation in specific areas**
 - Substance/procedure and right/remedy distinctions (Joanna Langille)
 - Characterising equitable concepts (Man Yip)
 - Characterisation of contractual arrangements in the context of family law (Alex Critchley)
 - Characterisation in international M&A disputes (Thomas Klink)

Friday 21 March

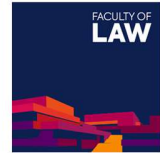
Morning session (9 am – 1 pm)

- **Rethinking characterisation**
 - Characterisation from a unilateralist perspective (Jeremy Heymann)
 - Against characterisation? (Ralf Michaels and Philomena Hindermann)
 - Characterisation as a tool to manage diversity (Veronica Ruiz Abou-Nigm)
- **Private meets public international law**
 - Private international law treaty interpretation and characterisation (Alex Mills)
 - Characterisation in the work of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (Marta Pertegás Sender)



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List of speakers (in alphabetical order)

- AssocProf Roxana Banu, University of Oxford
- Dr Alex Critchley, Westwater Advocates, Edinburgh
- Prof Andrew Dickinson, University of Oxford
- Prof Pietro Franzina, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
- Prof Martin Gebauer, University of Tübingen
- Prof Jeremy Heymann, University of Lyon III Jean Moulin
- Philomena Hindermann, Max Planck Institute, Hamburg
- Dr Thomas Klink, Oberlandesgericht Stuttgart
- AsstProf Joanna Langille, University of Western Ontario
- AssocProf Brooke Marshall, University of Oxford
- Prof Ralf Michaels, Max Planck Institute, Hamburg
- Prof Alex Mills, University College London
- Prof Marta Pertegás Sender, Maastricht University & University of Antwerp
- Prof Veronica Ruiz Abou-Nigm, University of Edinburgh
- Prof Man Yip, Singapore Management University

The conference is jointly organised by

- Dr Johannes Ungerer, University of Oxford & University of Notre Dame in England
- Dr Caterina Benini, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
- PD Dr Felix Berner, University of Tübingen

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