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Call for Applications

ENGAGE·EU PhD & Early Career Scholars Seminar 2026

21-22 May 2026 at Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Constitutional Jurisprudence as a Core National and European Legal Paradigm

Courts often play a pivotal role in upholding constitutionalism, both within national democracies and the European multilevel legal order. Yet, debates persist about the role of (constitutional) courts and whether in some instances they have become (too) influential as political actors.

This seminar invites PhD & Early Career scholars to submit proposals exploring legal, comparative, and theoretical dimensions of courts and constitutionalism in Europe. Topics may include:

- Proposals for reforming constitutional review
- Constitutional identity questions and the courts
- Legal vs. political constitutionalism in safeguarding rights
- Institutional design and the impact of constitutional review
- Dialogue between national (constitutional) courts, the CJEU and the ECtHR.

We welcome critical reflections on the paradigmatic role of constitutional jurisprudence in shaping the European legal space.

Jointly organised by:

- Dr. Cristina Fasone (LUISS)
- Prof. Aurore Gaillet (Toulouse Capitole)
- Prof. Christoph Grabenwarter (WU University)
- Prof. Ralf Müller-Terpitz (University of Mannheim)
- Prof. Giovanni Piccirilli (LUISS)
- Prof. Monika Polzin, LL.M. (NYU) (WU University)
- Dr. Gerhard van der Schyff (Tilburg University – host institution)

The Seminar will take place on
21 and 22 May 2026 at Tilburg University, The Netherlands.
Every presentation will be commented upon by one of the
organisers or another specialist.

Interested applicants should send a **short abstract** (*not more than 500 words, including your name and explaining if you are a PhD Researcher or Early Career Scholar*) to **Gerhard van der Schyff** (g.vdrschyff@tilburguniversity.edu) until **1 February 2026**.

Successful applicants will be informed by **16 February 2026**. An introductory meeting will be held online in March 2026 to discuss any questions by the participants.

Participants are strongly encouraged to submit a working/draft paper (maximum 7500 words - incl. footnotes) to benefit the discussion and for the possible purpose of writing a publishable piece. The organisers are willing to support possible publication projects.

The maximum number of symposium participants is 12. Participation is free of charge. The organisers are not able to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Accepted participants can explore the funding possibilities provided by their institutions, such as the Erasmus Mobility programme where applicable.



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