The “Young Scholars Papers” series is a collection of the papers submitted by early career researchers during the “Young Scholars Informal Symposium” organized annually by the “European Centre for Law, Science and New Technologies” (ECLT).

The aim of the Symposium is to create a forum for post-graduate scholars, Ph.D. students and early-career researchers working in the area of Law and Science. It provides participants with an opportunity to present and discuss their research with senior researchers of the Law Science community in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.

The papers concern the particular area of the interaction between law, science and new technologies. The use of English and the selection of participants through a review process in several steps by international referees assure the scientific quality of the papers. Each candidate’s work is assessed by three members of the international evaluation panel at abstract stage and by another three members at paper stage.

Chiara Boscarato and Franco Caroleo are Ph.D. students in the Faculty of Law of the University of Pavia. Their researches are part of the activity of the Interdepartmental Research Centre “European Centre for Law, Science and New Technologies” (ECLT).

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Introduction

This volume contains the materials of the “Law&Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium – 2011 Round”. The event is the only one of its kind and is intended by the Interdepartmental Research Centre “European Centre for Law, Science and New Technology” (ECLT) to be a constant reference point in ensuring that the focus on young researchers (which has been the subject of much but not always fruitful discussion) may be maintained within the scientific and academic communities.

ECLT, instituted by the University of Pavia in 2004 under its previous name of “European Centre for Life Sciences Health and the Courts” (ECLSC), studies issues relating to the connection between law, science and new technologies from an international perspective.

The Centre pays particular attention to those young people who are just starting off in the world of academic research. A young scholars’ session is, therefore, always one of the numerous events organized by the ECLT, offering them the opportunity to become involved in institutional conferences alongside well-known experts.

The idea of organizing one single day completely for young people came about in 2010 and was followed, within a few weeks, by the first edition of the Symposium, aimed at Italian researchers. Researchers responded with enthusiasm and papers of an extremely high standard were submitted.

The 2011 event started off from the same idea and built upon it, also thanks to the precious collaboration of the Collegio Ghislieri, Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori (IUSS) of Pavia and the Fondazione Maugeri of Pavia (which funded the “Fondazione Maugeri Prize”). The 2011 Symposium also took on an international dimension (with the decision to have English as the sole working language) so that young scholars would have the chance to work directly with colleagues from around the world.

The aim of the “2011 Law & Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium” was therefore to be both an institutional and an informal forum within which young researchers (post-graduate researchers, Ph.D. students, post-doc students or early-career researchers in general) in the field of Law&Science could discuss their research results, meet other young scholars in the sector, enjoy the experience of participating in a conference and publish their papers.

Special attention was paid to the participant selection procedure. An international commission of legal and scientific experts examined candidate proposals by double anonymous crossed revision. Each abstract was evaluated by three referees, one scientist and two lawyers (not the same nationality as the candidate). The full papers of the admitted abstracts were reviewed by three different referees. At both stages each candidate received the referees’ observations on the strong points of his/her work and some advice on how to improve weak areas, thus obtaining precious and authoritative feedback. The names of the referees and the details of the selection procedure were published on the ECLT website page on the event (<http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu/lang1/2011-
The morning and afternoon sessions opened with a Keynote Lecture from an eminent scholar. It was a real honour for the ECLT and the University of Pavia to welcome John Searle, Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley, one of the most important living philosophers and widely noted for his contributions to the study of the philosophy of language and of the mind. The scientific Keynote Lecture, given by Orsetta Zuffardi, Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Pavia, addressed the most hotly-debated issues in current genetic research.

By way of further recognition for young scholars, the two best papers were awarded a money prize by the Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri, the “Fondazione Maugeri 2011 Law&Science Young Scholar Prize” while the third best paper received a special mention.

The three best papers constitute the first three chapters of the volume, in the order of classification achieved. Other contributions are presented in the alphabetical order of the authors’ names.

We would like to thank the academic institutions of Pavia and everyone who made this event possible.

Chiara Boscarato, Franco Caroleo, Amedeo Santosuosso*

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* Chiara Boscarato and Franco Caroleo, Ph.D. students at the University of Pavia were responsible for the scientific organization of the event. Amedeo Santosuosso is the President and one of the founders of the ECLT.
L’evento “Law&Science Young Scholars Informal Symposium – 2011 Round” è stato realizzato su iniziativa del Centro di Ricerca Interdipartimentale “European Centre for Law, Science and New Technologies” (ECLT) dell’Università di Pavia in collaborazione con il Collegio Ghislieri, l’Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori (IUSS) di Pavia e la Fondazione Maugeri di Pavia.

Il Simposio prevede la partecipazione di giovani ricercatori nel settore Diritto&Scienza. Una Commissione internazionale di esperti in materie giuridiche e scientifiche seleziona i partecipanti, fornendo anche a ciascun candidato considerazioni sui punti forti e consigli per migliorare i punti deboli del proprio contributo. L’intento è quello di creare un evento interamente dedicato ai giovani, in cui presentare i risultati delle proprie ricerche, conoscere e confrontarsi con altri giovani studiosi attivi nello stesso campo e ricevere un prezioso feedback sul proprio lavoro.


I contributi riguardano il particolare settore dell’interazione tra diritto, scienza e nuove tecnologie, in particolare neuroscienze, biobanche, test genetici e biologia sintetica. L’uso della lingua inglese e la selezione dei partecipanti tramite un processo di revisione in più fasi, svolto da un gruppo di esperti provenienti da tutto il mondo, assicurano la qualità scientifica dei contributi raccolti.

Per maggiori informazioni si può visitare la pagina web dedicata all’evento sul sito del centro ECLT: <http://www.unipv-lawtech.eu>.

Chiara Boscarato e Franco Caroleo sono dottorandi di ricerca presso il Dipartimento di Diritto Privato, Diritto Romano e Cultura Giuridica Europea della Facoltà di Giurisprudenza dell’Università di Pavia. La loro attività di ricerca è svolta in collaborazione con il Centro ECLT.

Amedeo Santosuosso, docente del corso “Law, Science and New Technologies” presso l’Università di Pavia, è tra i fondatori e il Presidente del Centro ECLT.