



JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY IN KRAKÓW

18th Annual Legal Research Network Conference

Bristol, Budapest (ELTE), Ghent, Göttingen, Groningen, Kraków (Jagiellonian),
Lille, Roma Tre, Turku, Uppsala

Borders

24-25 September 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Faculties of Law of the Universities of Bristol, Budapest (ELTE), Ghent, Göttingen, Groningen, Kraków (Jagiellonian), Lille, Roma Tre, Turku and Uppsala cordially invite researchers to the 18th annual Legal Research Network Conference on the 24th and 25th of September 2026. The conference will be hosted by the Jagiellonian University Doctoral School of Social Sciences (Law Programme) and the Faculty of Law and Administration.

Aim of the Legal Research Network Conference

The LRN conference aims at creating a stimulating research environment and a common space for senior and junior scholars to present and discuss international oriented legal research. The conference provides for the opportunity for especially PhD students and early career academics to present their research and discuss their ideas with academics from the different Universities of the Legal Research Network. The conference language is English. The conference will be organized in-person.

The 2026 LRN Conference Theme: Borders

The optimism that accompanied the turn of the millennium - driven in particular by the collapse of the communist system, long perceived as the main threat to global peace - encouraged the belief that state borders would gradually lose their importance as barriers to movement, and

that disputes over borders would become largely historical. After the first quarter of the new millennium, this perspective clearly requires reassessment. The violent seizure of territory is not foreign to the twenty-first century, and for some societies it has become an unexpected reality. Global terrorism and climate change have intensified migration flows. Migrants seeking to move between states often become victims of human trafficking or humanitarian catastrophes, sometimes deliberately caused. State borders have therefore become areas of particular sensitivity from a human-rights perspective. At the same time, they are spaces where the primacy of law over force is tested - more precisely, where fundamental rights and the state's right to territorial integrity confront unjustified violence against other states and individuals.

While contemporary developments have not diminished the significance of borders between states, they have brought about an increasing integration of fields of knowledge. Disciplinary borders - understood metaphorically - are becoming blurred in many areas. Inter- and transdisciplinarity also affect law. Ensuring that legal systems remain adequate to the complexity of modern reality now requires not only closer links between branches of law and the use of hybrid legal institutions, but also integration with fields such as sociology, psychology, and information technology. This does not simply concern drawing on external knowledge, which has always been part of law's regulatory function, but rather the development of new convergent methods and approaches. These open up genuinely new and qualitatively different research perspectives for legal scholars.

In this context, borders are also shifting within private law. Once rooted in territorially bounded relationships between private actors, private law increasingly operates in transnational settings shaped by cross-border contracts, digital markets, and migration. The traditional boundaries between domestic and international private law are becoming blurred, turning private law into a key arena where legal certainty confronts social vulnerability and the need for coordination beyond the state.

For legal scholarship, borders therefore occupy a central position today – both where they unexpectedly retain or even gain importance, as in the case of state borders, and where they are increasingly blurred, as with the boundaries between academic disciplines.

Submission and deadlines

We welcome contributions in all legal areas where the theme Borders (understood literally or metaphorically as boundaries, barriers or limitations) may be applied. We especially encourage doctoral and early career researchers from all LRN partners to participate, but any member of the Network is most welcome to participate in the conference without submitting a paper.

Submission of abstracts	end of March 2026	Short proposal, max one A4 (surname_short title.doc), should be sent to: zuzanna.nowicka@doctoral.uj.edu.pl
Notification of accepted abstracts	end of April 2026	
Submission of papers	24th of August 2026	The paper should consist of 5-12 pages (ca. 2500-3000 words) (surname_short title.doc), should be sent to: zuzanna.nowicka@doctoral.uj.edu.pl

Costs and venue

Participation is free of charge. Lunches, coffee and dinner are included without costs for all conference participants. Travel and accommodation costs are, however, not covered.

The conference will take place on the premises of Jagiellonian University, in the centre of Kraków (Old Town).

Contact

For any further questions regarding this invitation, please email Zuzanna Nowicka: zuzanna.nowicka@doctoral.uj.edu.pl