

ROXANA VATANPARAST

Associate Professor of Law

Capital University Law School • 303 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

rvatanparast@law.capital.edu • roxanav.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research sits at the intersection of public international law, law and technology, and global governance. I examine how communications infrastructure, data architectures, computational systems, and artificial intelligence reshape the production, reach, and distribution of international legal authority. Drawing on critical legal theory, science and technology studies, and political economy, I treat seemingly technical arrangements as sites of legal and political power, showing how they reproduce, contest, and remake global knowledge and hierarchies. My ongoing projects extend this inquiry to the governance of AI and computational power, the environmental politics of data infrastructures, and the historical genealogies of international law's engagement with technology.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Capital University Law School

Columbus, OH

Associate Professor of Law (without tenure); Assistant Professor of Law

2026 – Present; 2023 – 2026

Courses: Property I & II; Business Associations; Law & Technology

VISITING & RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Summer School Lecturer — Global Digital Law & Politics

2023 – Present

Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Cambridge, MA

Visiting Fellow, Program on Science, Technology & Society (STS)

2020 – 2021

Columbia Law School

New York, NY

Affiliate, Center on Global Legal Transformation

2019 – 2020

Harvard Law School

Cambridge, MA

Visiting Researcher, Institute for Global Law & Policy (IGLP)

2019 – 2020

Sciences Po Law School

Paris, France

Visiting Researcher

March – June 2018

EDUCATION

University of Turin, Faculty of Law

Turin, Italy

Ph.D., Law & Institutions, cum laude

2020

Dissertation: Cable Empires: The Co-Production of Empire, Technology, and International Law

University of Turin & International University College of Turin

Turin, Italy

LL.M., Comparative Law, Economics and Finance

2016

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

J.D., International Law Concentration

2008

Notes Editor, Hastings International & Comparative Law Review

University of California, San Diego

San Diego, CA

B.A., Philosophy; B.A., Political Science – International Relations, cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

2005

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *Cable Empires: The Co-Production of Infrastructure, Technology, and International Law* (under contract with Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Works in Progress

- *Allocating Computational Power: Experimental Regulation and the Governance of AI Futures* (invited article in symposium, forthcoming 2027).
- *From the “Missing Link” to the Digital Divide: Infrastructural Inequalities and International Law* (in progress)

Articles

- *EJLS Symposium Editorial: Is Fairness in Digital Governance a Trap?*, *European Journal of Legal Studies* (2025) (peer-reviewed) (with Stefania di Stefano, Rebecca Mignot-Mahdavi, Barrie Sander, and Dimitri Van Den Meerssche).
- *Internet Infrastructure and Global Politics: The Role and Impact of Technical Standards on Digital Global Governance*, 117 *Proceedings of the ASIL Annual Meeting* (2024).
- *David Dudley Field and the Technological Sensibility of International Law Codification*, 52(1) *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy* 67 (2024).
- *Digital Monetary Constitutionalism: The Democratic Potential of Monetary Pluralism and Polycentric Governance*, 30(2) *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* 165–195 (2023) (invited).
- *The Code of Data Capital: A Distributional Analysis of Law in the Global Data Economy*, 1/2021 *juridikum — Austria’s Critical Law Review* 98–110 (2021) (invited article in symposium).
- *Designed to Serve Mankind? The Politics of the GDPR as a Global Standard and the Limits of Privacy*, 8(4) *Heidelberg Journal of International Law* 819–845 (2020) (peer-reviewed).
- *Data Governance and the Elasticity of Sovereignty*, 46(1) *Brooklyn Journal of International Law* 1 (2020).
- *Data and the Elasticity of Sovereignty*, 14:7 *European Society of International Law (ESIL) Conference Paper Series*, Conference Paper No. 25/2019 (2020).
- *Data Waste*, 61 *Harvard International Law Journal Online* (2020) (with Elettra Bietti).
- *The Infrastructures of the Global Data Economy: Undersea Cables and International Law*, 61 *Harvard International Law Journal Online* (2020) (featured in The Syllabus).
- Note, *International Law Versus the Preemptive Use of Force: Racing to Confront the Specter of a Nuclear Iran*, 31 *Hastings International & Comparative Law Review* 783–806 (2008).

Book Chapters

- *Submarine Cables & Public-Private Power*, in *Civil and Military Law* (René Sève ed., Lefebvre-Dalloz, forthcoming 2026).
- *Algorithmic Environmentalism: Data Infrastructures in Global Environmental Governance*, in *Global Governance by Data: Infrastructures of Algorithmic Rule* (Fleur Johns, Gavin Sullivan & Dimitri Van Den Meerssche eds., Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2026).
- *Cables, Pipelines, and Power: International Laws Governing Critical Marine Infrastructure*, in *Infrastructure, Grids, and Networks: The Challenge Ahead, Amid Security and Efficiency* (Carlo Secchi & Alessandro Gili eds., Ledizioni LediPublishing, 2025).
- *Data Waste: The Environmental and Democratic Problems Associated with Data-Driven Infrastructures*, in *Wastuary* 18–24 (Michael Picard et al. eds., UCL Press, 2023) (with Elettra Bietti).

- *Waging Peace: Ambiguities, Contradictions, and Problems of a Jus Post Bellum Legal Framework*, in *Jus Post Bellum: Mapping the Normative Foundations* (Carsten Stahn, Jennifer Easterday & Jens Iverson eds., Oxford University Press, 2014).

Guest-Edited Special Issues

- Special Issue: *When Renewal Repeats? International Lawmaking in a Digital Era*, *Computer Law and Security Review* (peer-reviewed) (forthcoming 2026).
- Special Issue: *Is Fairness in Digital Governance a Trap?*, *European Journal of Legal Studies* (peer-reviewed) (2025).

Book Reviews

- Review of *The Web Beneath the Waves: The Fragile Cables That Connect Our World*, *Lawfare* (forthcoming 2026).
- Review of *The New Knowledge: Information, Data and the Remaking of Global Power*, *19 Regulation & Governance* (2025).
- Review of *The Ecology of Law: Toward a Legal System in Tune with Nature and Community*, *8(2) Journal of Human Rights & The Environment* 305–310 (2017).

Other Publications

- *Designed to Serve Mankind? The Politics of the General Data Protection Regulation*, *Völkerrechtsblog* (May 2019), doi: 10.17176/20190529-121845-0.
- *The Copyright Act's Preemption of Right of Publicity Claims*, *25 Communications Lawyer* (July 2008) (with James Chadwick).

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- **Sciences Po Law School**, *Invited Guest Lecturer*, "Cable Empires," Paris, France (March 2026).
- **Sciences Po Law School / University of Chicago Paris Center**, *Invited Workshop Participant*, "Experimental Regulation of Data & AI," Paris, France (March 2026).
- **Yale Digital Ethics Center**, *Invited Panelist*, "Infrastructure Vulnerabilities, Digital Vulnerabilities in the Age of AI Summit," New Haven, CT (December 2025).
- **American Branch of the International Law Association**, *Invited Panelist*, "The Digital Divide in International Cyber Law," New York, NY (October 2025).
- **Law and Society Annual Meeting**, *Invited Roundtable Panelist*, "Global Governance by Data," Chicago, IL (May 2025).
- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Invited Discussant, Keynote Panel*, "Technology and Regulatory Regionalism: Europe as Centre or Periphery?," Vilnius, Lithuania (September 2024).
- **International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) Annual Conference**, *Invited Panelist*, "International Organizations as 'Digital Infrastructure'-Makers," Madrid, Spain (July 2024).
- **University of Toronto Faculty of Law**, *Guest Lecturer*, "The Infrastructures of the Global Data Economy: Undersea Cables and International Law," Toronto, Canada (January 2024).
- **European University Institute**, *Roundtable Discussant*, "The New Knowledge: Information, Data and the Remaking of Global Power (Haggart & Tusikov)," Fiesole, Italy (October 2023).
- **Harvard Summer School**, *Invited Panelist*, "Globalization," Cambridge, MA (July 2023).
- **Law and Society Annual Meeting**, *Invited Panelist*, "Digital Development(alism)," San Juan, Puerto Rico (June 2023).

- **American Society of International Law Annual Meeting**, *Invited Panelist*, "Extra-legal Global Governance: Displacing the Global Legal Order?," Washington, DC (March 2023).
- **University of Edinburgh**, *Invited Panelist*, "Global Governance by Data: Infrastructures of Algorithmic Rule," Edinburgh, Scotland (September 2022).
- **Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law**, *Invited Participant*, "Digital Constitution: On the Transformative Potential of Societal Constitutionalism," Heidelberg, Germany (June 2022).
- **Universidad de los Andes**, *Guest Lecturer*, "Cyber Election Interference & International Law," Bogotá, Colombia (February 2022).
- **Harvard Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies & Harvard Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies**, *Invited Panelist*, "Connecting the World-Island: What Will China's PEACE Cable Bring to Pakistan and East Africa?," Cambridge, MA (October 2021).
- **Summer Academy on Law, Money and Technology: Toward Democratic Futures**, *Featured Academic*, Manchester, UK (July 2021).
- **University of Muhammadiyah Malang**, *Guest Lecturer*, "Law, Digital Technology, and Society: The Impacts of the GDPR on the Global South," Malang, Indonesia (May 2021).
- **Harvard Kennedy School**, *Presenter, STS Circle*, "Of Nations Linked Together?: Cables, the League of Nations, and Imagined Global Communities," Cambridge, MA (March 2021).
- **University of Manchester School of Law**, *Guest Lecturer, Law and Technology Initiative*, "Data Waste," Manchester, UK (February 2021).
- **The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University**, *Invited Participant*, "Expert Roundtable on Vulnerabilities of Digitalization," Medford, MA (March 2020).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS

- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Co-Organizer and Discussant*, "When Renewal Repeats: The Dis/Continuities of International Law and Technology," Vilnius, Lithuania (September 2024).
- **Northeastern University School of Law**, *Presenter*, "Algorithmic Environmentality: Data Infrastructures in Global Environmental Governance," Boston, MA (March 2024).
- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Co-Organizer and Discussant*, "Is Fairness in Digital Governance a Trap?," Aix-en-Provence, France (August 2023).
- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Co-Organizer and Discussant*, "Algorithmic and Technological Modes of In-/Exclusion — International Legal Method and Critique," Utrecht, Netherlands (August 2022).
- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Co-Organizer and Discussant*, "International Law in the Age of the Algorithm," Stockholm, Sweden (September 2021).
- **Harvard Kennedy School**, *Presenter*, "The Submerged Infrastructures of the Global Data Economy: Undersea Cables and International Law (GRiSTS Conference)," Cambridge, MA (September 2020).
- **Faculté Libre de Droit, L'Université Catholique de Lille**, *Invited Participant*, "COALA Workshop on Technology Enabled Global Governance," Paris, France (May 2020).
- **Harvard Law School, IGLP**, *Organizer and Chair*, "IGLP Roundtable with Ayça Çubukçu," Cambridge, MA (April 2020).
- **Harvard Law School, IGLP**, *Organizer and Chair*, "IGLP Roundtable with John Haskell," Cambridge, MA (November 2019).

- **Harvard Law School, IGLP / INET**, *Roundtable Discussant*, "The Code of Capital by Katharina Pistor," Cambridge, MA (October 2019).
- **European Society of International Law Annual Conference**, *Presenter*, "Data and the Elasticity of Sovereignty," Athens, Greece (September 2019).
- **Harvard Law School, IGLP**, *Co-Organizer*, "Idea Lab: The Fate of Law as Technology," Cambridge, MA (June 2019).
- **INET Young Scholars Initiative (YSI)**, *Leading Organizer*, "Rethinking the Post-Crisis Relationship between Finance, Law and Economics," Los Angeles, CA (February 2019).
- **Harvard Law School, IGLP**, *Participant*, "2019 IGLP Scholars Workshop," Bangkok, Thailand (January 2019).
- **INET YSI Summer Academy**, *Discussant*, "Challenges of Global Legal Diversity," Turin, Italy (July 2018).
- **Sciences Po Law School**, *Participant*, "Intensive Doctoral Week," Paris, France (June 2018).
- **Sciences Po Law School**, *Panelist*, "The Commodification of Expertise, Workshop on Narratives of Commodification, Intensive Doctoral Week," Paris, France (June 2017).
- **University of Turin**, *Presenter*, "Introduction to the International University College of Turin (Lectio Magistralis of Yanis Varoufakis)," Turin, Italy (March 2016).
- **Leiden University, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies**, *Presenter*, "Waging Peace: Jus Post Bellum as a Continuation of Politics by Other Means?," The Hague, Netherlands (May 2012).

GRANTS, HONORS & AWARDS

- **Italian Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research (MIUR) Doctoral Fellowship**, 2016–2019.
- **Capital University Law School Summer Research Grant**, 2023.
- **Phi Beta Kappa**, University of California, San Diego, 2005.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard University	<i>Cambridge, MA</i>
<i>Summer School Teaching Assistant, Global Law, Global History</i>	Summer 2020 & 2022
Columbia Law School, Center on Global Legal Transformation	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Research Consultant to Katharina Pistor — The Properties of Data</i>	2019 – 2020
Collegio Carlo Alberto	<i>Turin, Italy</i>
<i>Editorial Assistant to Ugo Mattei & Pier Giuseppe Monateri</i>	2017

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- **Coordinator**, European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on International Law and Technology, 2020–2026.
- **Advisory Board Member**, Routledge Series on AI, Law and Politics, 2023–Present.
- **Senior Executive Editor**, The Italian Law Journal, November 2017 – December 2020.
- **Peer Reviewer** — London Review of International Law; Leiden Journal of International Law; Law & Critique; Australian Yearbook of International Law; Journal of Law, Market & Innovation.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- Law School Dean Search Committee, Capital University Law School (2026)
- Academic Affairs — 1L Curriculum Subcommittee, Capital University Law School (2025–Present)
- Distinguished Speakers Committee, Capital University Law School (2025–Present)
- Academic Affairs Committee, Capital University Law School (2024–Present)
- Law Review Committee, Capital University Law School (2023–2025)
- Library Committee, Capital University Law School (2023–2025)
- Honor Code Committee, Capital University Law School (2023–2024)

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Snell & Wilmer LLP

Senior Attorney

Costa Mesa, CA

2021 – 2023

Bryan Cave LLP

Associate; Member of Recruiting Committee

San Francisco, CA

2012 – 2015

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Associate; Summer Associate

San Francisco, CA

2008 – 2010; Summer 2007

BAR ADMISSIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- **Bar Admissions:** California State Bar (Bar No. 260368); Ohio State Bar (Faculty Member).
- **Fellow**, European Law Institute (ELI), 2018–Present.
- **Member** — European Society of International Law (2019–Present); American Society of International Law (2023–Present); Law & Society Association (2023–Present); International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) (2024–Present); International Studies Association (2025–Present).