

PNRR-TNE International Mobility Programme
Assessing Constitutional Crisis Impact and Security (IMP-ACCTS)
Project Proposal TNE23-00057 – CUP B61I24000450006

Advanced Skills for Junior Scholars
Constitutional Crisis and Cyber Security: Institutions, Rights, and Global Challenges
co-organized by the University of Siena and the University of Milano-Bicocca
Siena-Milano, 21 February-4 March 2026

Dear Partners,

We are pleased to share the program for the **Advanced Skills for Junior Scholars**, focused on **Constitutional Crisis and Cyber Security: Institutions, Rights, and Global Challenges**, co-organized by the **University of Siena** and the **University of Milano-Bicocca**.

Applications can be submitted until **15th December 2025** following the procedures reported in the **Call for Application** (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PxtvmsTHOsvH7oKq6LFjEhMetu20MpXH/view>).

The course will be held according to the following schedule:

- Arrival on **21st February 2026**;
- **From 22nd February 2026 to 28th February 2026** first module at the University of Siena, at Certosa di Pontignano (<https://www.lacertosadipontignano.com/en/?r>), the University of Siena's conference center located approximately 10 km from the city;
- Transfer from Siena to Milan on **1st March 2026** (organized and covered by the Host Universities);
- **From 2nd March 2026 to 3rd March 2026** second module at the University of Milano-Bicocca, in Milan (venue to be confirmed);
- Departure on **4th March 2026**.

Participation in the course involves an **individual support fee of €190,00 per day**, in addition to a **travel support fee of €410,00** (€470,00 if green transportation options are selected). An additional **research grant of €1.000,00 per person is offered** to participants who will present a paper in the Roundtable Sessions organized during the Course and publish it in the Proceedings of the Project, according to the **Call for Papers** annexed to this document.

Accordingly, we kindly request to fill the **Application Form** (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cZK0t4leulu9n0wdhApQ02SQY_W81SMa/view) "**Junior Winter School on Security: January/February 2026, University of Siena**" and "**Junior Winter School on Constitutional Crisis: January/February 2026, University of Milan-Bicocca**"; and to select the items "**Individual Support**," "**Travel Support**," and, in case it is applicable, "**Research Support**", in the "Financial Support" section of the same **Application Form**.

During the whole duration of the Course, **accommodation and meals** will be organized by the Host Universities and covered through the individual support paid to participants. As for the part in Siena, the expenses will be directly detracted from the individual support. As for the part in Milan, participants will pay directly for their accommodation and meals. More details will be provided before the beginning of the Course.

We would like to take this opportunity to **save the date** for "**Final Workshop on Security and Constitutional Crises in Contemporary Constitutional Systems**" organized by the **University of Cagliari**, from **March 5th to March 6th, 2026**. Considering two travel days (arrival and departure), the mobility period will be from **March 4th to March 7th, 2026**.

We trust you will join us with enthusiasm and look forward to your participation.

Best regards,

Mario Perini e Stefania Ninatti

P.I.



Programme

21st February 2026

- Arrival

22nd February 2026

- Visit to Monteriggioni
- Photographic exhibition "Building the Future: Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Potential of Constitutional Pluralism"
- Inauguration of the Course with H. E. Andrea Cascone, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE (invited speaker)

23rd February 2026

- Giammaria Milani (University of Siena) "Integrity of Electoral Processes"
- Paolo Zicchittu (University of Milano-Bicocca) "Constitutional Crisis and Constitutional Courts"

24th February 2026

- Bernardo Mageste (University of Milano-Bicocca) "Human Rights and States of Emergencies in International Law"
- Ornella Feraci (University of Siena) "Security in the European Integration Process"

25th February 2026

- Workshops with Senior Scholars
- Pablo Lerner (Zefat Academic College)
- Nasir Muftic (University of Sarajevo)
- Marko Bozic (Union University of Belgrade)
- Denis Preshova (Ss Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje)
- Lejla Hasanovic (University of Sarajevo)

26th February 2026

- Roundtable for Young Scholars
- Participants selected through Call for Papers

27th February 2026

- Edin Skrebo (University of Milano-Bicocca) "Constitutional Identities"
- Matteo Corsalini (University of Siena) "Religious Pluralism"

28th February 2026

- Valentina Carlino (University of Siena) "Migration and Security"
- Ester Stefanelli (University of Siena) "Energy Security"

1st March 2026

- Transfer from Siena to Milan (organized and covered by the Host Universities)





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2nd March 2026

- Joseph David (Sapir College) "Constitutional crises and the AI"
- Marco Bassini (Tilburg University): "AI and disinformation in times of crisis"
- Immersive Trial (first session)

3rd March 2026

- Roundtable for Young Scholars
- Participants selected through Call for Papers
- Discussant Giulia Tiberi (Insubria University)
- Immersive Trial (second session)

4th March 2026: Departure

Call for Papers

Background and Aims

In recent decades, the interconnection between constitutional governance, technological transformation, and security imperatives has given rise to unprecedented challenges for democratic legal systems. Contemporary constitutional crises are increasingly intertwined with cyber insecurity, digital interference, and disinformation, testing not only the balance of powers but also the resilience of fundamental rights and the legitimacy of public institutions.

Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, hybrid warfare, and global technological competition, constitutional and international legal frameworks face the urgent task of reconciling national security and the rule of law. The digital domain has become both a field of conflict and a constitutional frontier, raising fundamental questions about sovereignty, accountability, and democratic integrity.

In this evolving context, regulatory frameworks such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the forthcoming Artificial Intelligence Act (AIA) play a crucial role in shaping the constitutional dimension of technological governance.

These instruments illustrate the growing need to reconcile innovation with the protection of fundamental and emerging digital rights. Beyond traditional freedoms—such as privacy, freedom of expression, and cognitive liberty—new rights, including data protection, the right to explanation, and the right to be forgotten, are increasingly central to the legal discourse on technology and security.

At the same time, technological transformation offers opportunities to strengthen institutional accountability, promote transparency, and enhance democratic participation through innovative governance solutions.

The PNRR-TNE International Mobility Programme – Assessing Constitutional Crisis Impact and Security Winter School 2026 seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for junior scholars to critically engage with the nexus between constitutional crisis and cyber security, drawing on insights from constitutional law, comparative law, international law, political theory, and security studies.

Suggested Themes

- Cyber security and the separation of powers: constitutional limits on executive authority in the digital domain.
- Digital states of emergency: cyber threats as a new paradigm of constitutional crisis.
- Disinformation, electoral interference, and the constitutional protection of democracy.
- Digital sovereignty and constitutional autonomy in an era of global platform governance.



- Fundamental rights in the cyber age: balancing privacy, freedom of expression, and public security.
- Cyber warfare and constitutional international law: between collective defence and the right to peace.
- Constitutional implications of data governance: GDPR, the AI Act, and the protection of emerging digital rights.
- Supranational responses to cyber threats: the role of the EU, NATO, and the United Nations.
- Artificial intelligence and national security: ethical, legal, and constitutional implications.
- Opportunities for constitutional innovation through technology: transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in the digital era.

Target Participants

This call is open to junior scholars, including PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career academics from the fields of constitutional law, political science, international relations, and related disciplines.

Other proposal focused on the general topics of the project (Security and Constitutional Crisis) will be considered as well.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit:

- an abstract (maximum 8.000 characters);
- a short biographical note (maximum 150 words);
- their institutional affiliation and main research interests.

Proposals and inquiries should be sent to: paolo.zicchittu@unimib.it

Subject line: CFP – Winter School 2026 “Constitutional Crisis and Cyber Security”

Deadlines

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 December 2025

Notification of acceptance: 20 December 2025

Submission of the provisional paper: 31 January 2025

Submission of the final paper: 10 March 2025

Presentation and Publication of the Paper

Selected papers will be presented during the Roundtable Sessions of the Advanced Skills for Junior Scholars (Siena-Milano, 21 February-4 March 2026) and consider for publication in the Proceedings of the Project, subject to a peer-review. Presentation and Publication of the paper are necessary to receive the payment of the Research Grant of € 1.000,00 provided by the Call for Application.

