



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



**FUTURES**

Jean Monnet Centre  
of Excellence at the  
Europa Institute



Early-Career Researcher Workshop on

## **MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH METHODS IN EU LAW**

School of Law, The University of Edinburgh

26-27 May 2022

A growing number of disciplines are seizing EU law and policymaking as their objects of inquiry, resulting in a proliferation of methodological prisms. Once dominant in law, the doctrinal approach has progressively lost ground to multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches allying law and sociology, anthropology, political science, history, economics, humanities, social psychology, gender and critical studies, and other areas. Qualitative and quantitative research designs now regularly embed interviews, archival work, statistics, or data and computational analysis to offer novel and critical insights into EU law and policymaking.

What can multi- and inter-disciplinary methods contribute to research into EU law and policymaking? How does this methodological diversity shape the (re-)thinking of EU law? How do multi- and inter-disciplinary methods shift and transform our understanding of these themes? How do methodological disputes, debates and problems define and constrain research in this area? How can a critical reflection on methods – for example, on how disciplinary thinking and idiosyncrasies *discipline* the construction of research designs, questions and contributions – advance research into EU law and policymaking? Finally, do more ‘traditional’ legal methods still have a place in modern research in EU law and how can they contribute to advancing our knowledge today?

The University of Edinburgh’s FUTURES Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and Europa Institute are delighted to convene an **Early-Career Researcher Workshop on ‘Multidisciplinary Research Methods in EU Law’** to explore these themes and questions. Taking place on 26-27 May 2022 at the School of Law (in-person if circumstances allow), the workshop will provide a forum for early-career researchers to share their work-in-progress in a constructive and interdisciplinary setting.

We welcome submissions that explore multi- and inter-disciplinary methodologies to investigate any relevant dimension of EU law and policymaking (such as justice, the environment, technology, trade, crisis management, social policy and equality, migration, the internal market, Union citizenship, or EU external relations) or the EU’s institutional design as well as contributions that reflect on, interrogate or critique current methodological approaches to EU law.

Participants will be given approximately 10 minutes on a panel to present their ideas. Chaired discussions with other participants and discussants will then provide feedback on projects. We welcome applications from early-career researchers (PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers within 5 years of their PhD defence/viva) at European universities who are employing diverse methodological approaches from the fields of political and social sciences, humanities, computer science, and interdisciplinary studies as well as law.

Interested applicants should submit a short abstract (max. 500 words) and a short academic CV to [europa@ed.ac.uk](mailto:europa@ed.ac.uk) by **6 March 2022**. Those selected to participate will be informed by the **end of March 2022**. Participants will then send written papers/summaries (max. 5,000 words) of their project by **29 April 2022**. The papers will be circulated to all participants to read in advance of the workshop.

A small **prize** will be awarded **to the best paper or project summary**. In addition, contributions may be considered for publication on [European Futures](#), the blog of the Edinburgh Europa Institute. The Centre will fund economy travel and accommodation for up to two nights for participants if the workshop can be held on campus. The Workshop is generously co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

