

16th ASCOLA Conference

ON ALL COMPETITION LAW ISSUES

Porto, Portugal

July 1-3, 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 16th annual conference from Thursday July 1st to Saturday July 3rd, 2021 at Católica University, in Porto, Portugal. **Should the pandemic not enable this option, it will be conducted online. Should some members not be able to travel due to the pandemic, we will organize a hybrid conference, where papers could also be presented via zoom.**

Main Topic: Competition and Innovation in Digital Markets

The digital economy poses challenges to competition and to innovation. These are also reflected in the application of competition laws to digital markets. Accordingly, at the 16th ASCOLA conference, we would like to reflect systematically and critically on the application of competition laws in digital markets in a way which furthers competition and/or innovation. The conference topic is not limited to any specific jurisdiction, but aims to promote a general discussion on such issues. We also invite scholars from the field of competition economics. The papers should preferably facilitate a discussion with regard to (relatively) similar problems encountered worldwide.

Additional Sessions

Additional sessions allow scholars to present their most recent research on any topic related to competition law (including jurisdiction-specific topics). Thus, submissions need not relate to the main theme of the conference. For example, papers may cover the implications of the pandemic on competition law, finance for competition, issues of sustainability, climate change and competition law, or the relationship of fundamental rights and competition law, or any other competition-law-related subject.

Papers for all subjects will undergo the same evaluation process. Papers will be selected solely on the basis of the quality of reviews they receive (see below).

Papers that were recently submitted or accepted for publication are also eligible.

Submission of Papers

ASCOLA members are invited to submit DRAFT PAPERS or EXTENDED ABSTRACTS (minimum of 8 pages) no later than **February 8, 2021**. Authors will be informed by March 26, 2021, by the latest, whether they have been selected for the conference.

Each paper will be evaluated by two independent reviewers who will be asked to evaluate them in accordance with different pre-set parameters. To ensure merit-based selection, the process is a double-blind review, in which reviewers do not know the identity of authors, and vice versa.

Accordingly, please submit two versions of your paper: one which includes all details, and one which removes all traces of the identity of the author(s) and is marked as such. To ensure as fair a process as possible, the only ones who see the review scores are the conference organizers. Non-members can submit papers, but must apply for membership and become members before the conference.

Submissions should be sent to ascola.porto@gmail.com.

Those submitting also to the Best Junior Paper award (see below) should indicate this fact at the time of submission.

Authors of selected papers will then have until **June 1, 2021** to submit their papers for the conference. The organisers retain the right to exclude a paper that does not meet the quality requirements set for the conference.

Potential venues for publication of the conference papers

Provided their authors agree, the papers will be published on the conference website.

In addition, authors of papers accepted to the conference and relating to its main topic may be invited to submit their papers to a **book**, published by Edgar Elgar, as part of the ASCOLA book series. The editors might need to make a selection based on quality.

In addition, ASCOLA has reached an agreement with the **Journal of Competition Law and Economics** and the **Journal of Antitrust Enforcement** (both published by Oxford University Press), that authors whose papers have been accepted to the ASCOLA conference can request ASCOLA to submit the reviews received to the journal(s). This, in turn, will shorten their review processes.

Authors are not obliged to take advantage of any of these publication venues and can choose to publish their papers elsewhere.

Costs

Speakers are expected to cover their costs for travel and hotel expenses but ASCOLA will provide scholarships, depending on available funds, to those who cannot finance their participation otherwise, in line with the Guidelines for Financial Aid set by its Scholarship Committee. Decisions on scholarships will be taken by a Scholarship Committee. Scholarships will mainly be granted to those presenting in the general sessions.

Awards

Two awards will potentially be given during the conference.

- A **Best Junior Paper Award** will be given for the best contribution among those submitted by authors not older than 35 years. In order to be eligible for this award, scholars should specifically state their date of birth at the time of submission.

- An **Award for Distinguished Services to ASCOLA** might be given to one or several ASCOLA members who have made a substantial contribution to the development of the association.

[ASCOLA- THE place to showcase competition law scholarship!](http://www.ascola.org)
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