

## 18th ASCOLA Conference

Athens, Greece, June 29 to July 1, 2023

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 18th annual conference from **Thursday June 29 to Saturday July 1, 2023** at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in Athens, Greece.

## **Main Topic: Competition as an Institution and Economic Transformations: A Change of Paradigm?**

+ sessions ON ALL COMPETITION LAW ISSUES

### Submission of Papers

ASCOLA members are invited to submit DRAFT PAPERS or EXTENDED ABSTRACTS (minimum of 8 pages) no later than **January 27, 2023**. Authors will be informed by **March 31, 2023**, 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. Nonmembers that meet the criteria for membership (academics specializing in competition law and economics) can submit papers, but must apply for membership and become members before the conference.

Submissions should be sent to [ascola2023athens@gmail.com](mailto:ascola2023athens@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 **May 19, 2023** 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.

### Elaboration on the main topic

The protection of the competitive process or competition constitutes one of the main consensus points that have emerged since the political and economic transformations of the 1990s globally. Competition is considered as an important institution in a modern capitalist economy, with some jurisdictions also elevating competition law norms to a constitutional or quasi-constitutional level of protection.

However, in recent years, this consensus has been increasingly challenged due to different confounding factors. *First*, digitalisation has profoundly changed the process of economic production and value generation in modern capitalist economies: by enabling greater modularity in production it has led to the development of global value chains and ecosystems in which independent firms are aligned and cooperate with the aim to offer unique value propositions to their customers while competing for the surplus value generated by the

innovation activities of their ecosystem/value chains. *Second*, the financialization of the economy requires a wider understanding of competitive interactions, these taking place not only in product markets but also in financial markets, and highlights the crucial role now played by finance in organizing economic activity in the era of financial capitalism. *Third*, the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation necessitate an intense effort of economic transformation so to achieve the goals of environmental sustainability. *Finally*, the rise of inflation and the macroeconomic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and of recent geopolitical tensions have led to the emergence of protectionism and possible fragmentation of global value chains.

The joint impact of the Digital and the Green Economy transitions, financialisation as well as the importance of managing the effects of economic crises, have progressively transformed the role of the State during this period, which, in addition to its traditional role of regulating economic activity (the Regulatory State), has become an enabler of economic change, with an increasingly more important room given to industrial policy considerations (the Industrial or Entrepreneurial State). The Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical turbulence and their economic and social impact has also led to unprecedented levels of state intervention in the economy, at least since the immediate post-World War II era. Competition had in some instances to be sacrificed to ensure affordability of prices (through the imposition of price or revenue caps), security of supply and energy sufficiency.

During this period, different conceptions of competition have emerged to justify the shifting priorities and accommodate the need to incorporate the value and principle of competition in the context of an increasingly more complex economy and society. This process of transformation raises significant questions over not only the meaning, but also the value of competition, as an important institution in modern capitalist systems. Answering these questions is not just a matter of politics but also depends on the legal nature of the concept of competition as an institution in each jurisdiction, that is, the constitutional dimension of the competition principle, the scope of its application, its interplay with other values, as well as the efficiency and legitimacy of the institutional setting that has been put in place to ensure its protection.

In national legal orders, these realities give rise to inevitable tensions between competing priorities which may result in the re-identification of competition in view of the new emerging needs and a possible change of paradigm in current competition policy. Questions relating to whether and how should competition be reconciled with other values and re-adapted in a broader context, and related questions, will be the main topic of the ASCOLA Athens Conference. We seek fresh answers.

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: ALL competition law topics**

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 finance for competition, issues of sustainability, climate change and competition law, competition law and macroeconomic conditions 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), rather than their topic.

### **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.

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. In joint papers all authors must meet this criteria.

- An **Award for Distinguished Services to ASCOLA** will 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!

[www.ascola.org](http://www.ascola.org)