

19th ASCOLA Conference

Würzburg, Germany 4-6 July 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 19th annual conference from **Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 July 2024 at the University of Würzburg, Germany**. Würzburg is a one-hour train ride from Frankfurt. The local organisers at the University of Würzburg are Professor Dr. Florian Bien and Dr. Björn-Christian Becker.

Submission of Papers

ASCOLA members are invited to make a submission by no later than **27 January 2024**. Authors will be informed by 31 March 2024 at the latest, whether they have been selected for the conference. Submissions should be sent to ascola@uni-wuerzburg.de

A Conference with three Streams

Submissions on any topic in the field of competition law and policy are welcome. The aim is to organise a conference to showcase disciplinary diversity in competition law scholarship: authors using innovative methods or covering less explored fields are particularly encouraged to submit papers. In responding to this call for papers, you are invited to make one submission only and to select among the following three streams:

Stream 1: Academic papers. This is open to all ASCOLA members. The submitted paper must not have been published at the time of submission.* These papers should be journal length (around 20,000 words as a maximum).

Stream 2: Early Career Researchers. Authors are eligible if they are PhD candidates or if they have been awarded their PhD in 2019 or later. Papers accepted in this stream are assigned to a dedicated commentator who will engage with the paper and lead the discussion. Authors may submit a full paper (around 20,000 words as a maximum) or a chapter of their PhD thesis. Authors sending a chapter are advised to make sure that it is properly contextualized in the introduction so that readers can see how it fits with the thesis as a whole.

Stream 3: Work-in-progress. This is for all ASCOLA members who are developing a research paper or a project and wish to receive feedback on their arguments, concepts used, and/or appropriate methods. A short (1-2page) abstract should be sent to be considered for this stream. Selected authors will not be expected to have a finalized paper at the conference but to submit the latest version of their work-in-progress.

Review: Each submission will be considered by two independent reviewers who will be asked to evaluate them in accordance with pre-set parameters for each stream. 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 a fair process, only the conference organisers see the review scores.

Only one submission per person is allowed. Authors wishing to make a jointly authored submission may not make a sole-authored submission as well and vice versa. Exceptionally,

* The purpose of the Ascola conference is to present new research to receive feedback before papers are accepted for publication in a journal or a book. Authors are therefore strongly encouraged to submit new research. Papers may be self-published on SSRN or similar platforms.

authors of a joint paper who wish to also present a sole authored paper should contact the organisers in advance of submission. In these cases the expectation is that each paper, if accepted, is presented by a different author.

Non-members who meet the criteria for membership (academics specialising in competition law and/or competition economics) can make a submission but must apply for membership and become members if their paper is selected and they wish to present it at the conference.

Authors need to adhere to the ASCOLA Ethics Declaration. <https://ascola.org/declaration-of-ethics/>

Those submitting also to the Best Junior Paper award (see below) should indicate this fact at the time of submission. **All authors in Streams 1 and 2 are eligible for this award.**

Authors of selected papers will then have until **19 May 2024** to submit their papers for the conference. Members whose proposals are selected for Stream 3 will be asked to provide the latest version of their work-in-progress. 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 accepted papers will be published on the conference website. 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, may 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. Strong preference will be given to junior scholars (such as current PhD students) and scholars based in developing countries.

Best Junior Paper Award

A **Best Junior Paper Award** will be given for the best contribution among those submitted by authors who are PhD candidates or who were awarded their PhD in 2019 or later. In order to be eligible for this award, scholars should specifically state their PhD award date. In joint papers all authors must meet this criterion. The decision is taken by a jury and cannot be contested.

Information on Würzburg

Würzburg is a charming and historic university city that spans the banks of the Main River. It is, inter alia, well-known for its Residenz, the Versailles-style castle of the former prince-bishops and Germany's second UNESCO World heritage site. It is particularly famous for the fresco painted by Tiepolo above the monumental staircase, the largest continuous ceiling fresco in the world. The foundation of the university dates back to 1402 making it the sixth university foundation in the German-speaking world. Würzburg is the capital of one of Germany's most important wine regions and is surrounded by vineyards. Würzburg is also the starting point for Bavaria's Romantic Road.