

20th ASCOLA Conference

Chicago, 26-28 June 2025

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 20th annual conference from **Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 June 2025 at Loyola University of Chicago**. The local organizer is Professor Spencer Weber Waller.

Submission of papers

ASCOLA members are invited to make a submission by no later than **27 January 2025**. Authors will be informed by 31 March 2025 at the latest, whether they have been selected for the conference. Submissions should be sent to ASCOLA2025@luc.edu

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. Please observe the requirements for each stream, especially regarding word count. On your submission, you must indicate to which stream you are submitting.

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. Eligibility for this stream are authors who have been awarded their PhD in 2020 or later and PhD candidates. 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 PhD thesis 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: Early project ideas. This is for all ASCOLA members who are developing a new idea for a research paper or project and wish to test their ideas, concepts used and/or appropriate methods. A short (maximum 1-2page in length) abstract should be sent to be considered for this stream. Please note that abstracts exceeding this length will instead be treated as submissions to Stream 1. Preference will be given to submissions which present a new, original project idea that is in preliminary, developmental stages. Selected authors will present the latest version of their project idea at the conference.

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: one which includes all details,

* 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.

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, 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 must submit an anonymized version of their paper. They must adhere to the ASCOLA Ethics Declaration (<https://ascola.org/declaration-of-ethics/>). **It is expected that each submission will contain an appropriate declaration with disclosures, if any are required, in the cover letter.**

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 for Streams 1 and 2 will have until **19 May 2025** to submit their papers for the conference. Members whose submissions are selected for Stream 3 will be asked to provide the latest version of their project idea. 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 2020 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 Chicago

Chicago is a dynamic world center of business, culture, sports, and the arts with two international airports each with convenient train service to downtown. Chicago is located on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan, one of the 5 Great Lakes in North America and one of the world's largest fresh water bodies. The ASCOLA 2025 annual meeting at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the home of the Institute for Consumer Antitrust Consumer (www.luc.edu/antitrust) now celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. The Law School is located in the Water Tower District, just west of Michigan Avenue, one of the prime shopping and cultural centers of the city. The law school is walking distance to the lakefront which has 26 miles of parklands, running and biking trails, beaches, museums, and sports facilities. The law school is also walking distance to the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Chicago Children's Museum, the Chicago History Museum, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Grant Park Symphony, Navy Pier, the River Walk, theater, music, pubs, and shopping galore. More about the many attractions of Chicago can be found here: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/about/facts.html>.