

Dr. Samson Yoseph Esayas

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Professional Profile

Dr Samson Esayas is an Associate Professor at the Department of Private Law, University of Oslo, and a Faculty Associate at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. He teaches and researches in the areas of data protection law, AI regulation, and competition law. Prior to joining the University of Oslo in September 2025, he was Associate Professor at BI Norwegian Business School, Department of Law and Governance (2019–2025), where he now continues in a 20% position. He has extensive experience working on several EU and Norwegian government financed research projects dealing with regulatory aspects of various technologies. His research explores the power dynamics stemming from control over data and mediated communications, with a focus on how these evolving power paradigms are addressed by competition and data privacy law. Dr Esayas has published in several renowned journals covering these issues. His article, 'The Idea of Emergent Properties in Data Privacy: Towards a Holistic Approach', has been ranked as one of the top ten privacy papers of 2017 and 'must read' scholarships for policy makers by the Future of Privacy Forum. He earned his PhD from the University of Oslo in 2020 and his dissertation was awarded His Majesty the King's Gold Medal for outstanding research in 2021. His book on the Interface between data privacy law and competition law has been published by Oxford University Press in 2024. Dr. Esayas was a visiting researcher at Berkman Klein Center in 2023 where he collaborated on a project that seeks to offer a global perspective on the societal impacts of AI and its governance.

Professional Experience

2011 – date **UNIVERSITY OF OSLO**
Department of Private Law

2025 – date **Associate professor**

2022 – 2023 **Associate professor II (Department of Public Law)**

- Researching on legal requirements for publication of personal data in court judgments

2015 - 2019 **PhD candidate**

- Title “The Commercialization of Personal Data and its Theoretical and Practical Implications for the Foundations and Policy Boundaries of Data Privacy Law and Competition Law”

Involved in teaching the following courses

- JUS5630 - Privacy and Data Protection
- JUS5641 - Electronic Communications Law
- JUS5650 - Enforcement and Dispute Resolution in a Digital Context
- JUS5679 - Electronic Commerce Law
- JUS5650 - Cybersecurity Regulation
- JUS5310 - EU Competition Law

2013 - 2015 **Researcher, EU-Funded Research Projects**

RASEN Research Project (316853) – concluded with ‘excellent’ remark as a result

- Developing a structured methodology capable of combining compliance and information security risk assessment using concrete case studies focused on eHealth and Netbank services

Coco Cloud Project (610853) – concluded with ‘excellent’ remark as a result

- Examining the current legal and contractual requirements relevant to the design of cloud computing infrastructure, focusing on data management and the automated enforcement of data sharing agreements

2011 - 2013 **Research assistant**

Igov2 Project - “Governance of the Domain Name System and the Future Internet”

- Undertaking research on IP addresses in developing countries and privacy issues in cloud computing
- Commended for ‘diligent’ research assistance in Lee A. Bygrave, *Data Privacy Law: An International Perspective*, (Oxford, 2014)

Professional Experience con.

2019 – date **BI NORWEGIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL**
Department of Law and Governance

2025 - date **Associate professor II (20%)**

2019 – 2025 **Associate professor**

Teaching

- GRA4137 – Data Protection and Ethics
- GRA6149 – Compliance, Cybersecurity and Accountability
- EBA 3520 – AI and Data Ethics
- JUR3608 – Market and Public Law Regulation
- EDI 3620 – Digital Business Law
- MAN5194 – Responsible AI Leadership
- BIK2550 – AI in the Financial Sector
- ELE3801 – EU Data Law

2023 - date **HARVARD UNIVESITY**
Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society

2023 - date **Faculty associate**

2016 – 2019 **QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**
Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS)

Part-time lecturer

- Teaching Internet governance (web-based learning program)

2008 - 2010 **MEKELLE UNIVERSITY**
College of Law and Governance, Department of Law (Ethiopia)
Assistant lecturer

Education and Qualifications

Ph.D Law (2020)
University of Oslo
 Thesis: ‘Data Privacy and Competition Law in the Age of Big Data: The Commercialization of Personal Data and its Theoretical and Practical Implications for the Foundations and Policy Boundaries of Data Privacy Law and Competition Law’

LLM Information and Communication Technology Law (2012)
Norwegian Research Centre for Computers and Law, University of Oslo
 Thesis: ‘Cross-Border Flow of Personal Data in the Cloud: A European Perspective’

LLB Law (2008)
Hawassa University, Ethiopia
 Distinction and Gold Medal

Diploma Advanced Course on EU Competition Law (2016)
College of Europe

Diploma Basic Pedagogical Competence (2021)
BI Norwegian Business School

Publication

The total number of publications during career **39** (one book, **11** peer-reviewed journal articles, **8** book chapters, **7** peer-reviewed conference proceedings, and **12** working papers and reports)

Book

- *Data Privacy and Competition Law in the Age of Big Data: Unpacking the Interface Through Complexity Science* (Oxford University Press 2024) 350 pp.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- ‘The Important Role of Emergence in Conceptualizing the Challenges of New Technologies to Private Law’ *European Review of Private Law* 31(4) (2023) pp. 779- 822
- ‘Data Privacy in European Merger Control: Critical Analysis of Commission Decisions Regarding Privacy as a Non-Price Competition’ *European Competition Law Review* 40(4) (2019) pp. 166-181
- ‘Competition in (Data) Privacy: ‘Zero’ Price Markets, Market Power and the Role of Competition Law’ *International Data Privacy Law* 8(3) (2018) pp. 181-199.
- ‘The Proposed Australian Consumer Right to Access and Use Data: A European Comparison’ *European Competition and Regulatory Law Review* 2(3)(2018) pp. 187-202 (with Angela Daly)
- ‘Digital Platforms under Fire – What Australia Can Learn from Recent Developments in Europe’ *Alternative Law Journal* 43(4)(2018) pp. 275-282 (with Dan Svantesson)
- ‘The Idea of ‘Emergent Properties’ in Data Privacy: Towards a Holistic Approach’ *International Journal of Law and Information Technology* 25(2) (2017) pp. 139-178
- ‘The Role of Anonymisation and Pseudonymisation under the EU Data Privacy Rules: Beyond the ‘All or Nothing’ Approach’ *European Journal of Information Technology and Law* 6(2) (2015) ca 28 pp
- ‘Breach Notification Requirements under the EU Legal Framework: Convergence, Conflicts and Complexity in Compliance’, *John Marshall J. Info. Tech. & Privacy L.* 31(3)(2015) pp. 317-368
- ‘Modeling Compliance Risk: A Structured Approach’ *Artificial Intelligence and Law* 23(3) (2015) pp. 271-300 (with Tobias Mahler)
- ‘The IP Address Divide: The Quest of Developing Countries for an ITU-Based Distribution Regime.’ *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* 11(1) (2014) pp.102-122
- ‘A Walk into the Cloud and Cloudy it Remains: The Challenges and Prospects of ‘Processing’ and ‘Transferring’ Personal Data.’ *Computer Law and Security Report* 28(6) (2012) pp. 662-678

Book Chapters and Conference Papers

- ‘Article 61. Informed Consent to Participate in Testing in Real World Conditions Outside AI Regulatory Sandboxes’ in Peggy Valcke, Nikolaus Forgó, and Ceyhun Pehlivan (eds), *The EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act: A Commentary* (Wolters Kluwer 2024) pp. 1004-23 (with Luca Tosoni)
- ‘Article 81. Union Safeguard Procedure’ in Peggy Valcke, Nikolaus Forgó, and Ceyhun Pehlivan (eds), *The EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act: A Commentary* (Wolters Kluwer 2024) pp. 1228-37 (with Luca Tosoni)
- ‘Article 9. Risk Management System’ in Martin Ebers and Mimi Zou (eds) *The Artificial Intelligence Act: A Commentary* (C.H.BECK 2025 forthcoming) (with Tobias Mahler)
- ‘Article 82. Compliant AI Systems Which Present a Risk’ in Martin Ebers and Mimi Zou (eds) *The Artificial Intelligence Act: A Commentary* (C.H.BECK 2025 forthcoming) (with Luca Tosoni)
- ‘Article 74. Market Surveillance and Control of AI Systems in the Union Market’ in Martin Ebers and Mimi Zou (eds) *The Artificial Intelligence Act: A Commentary* (C.H.BECK 2025 forthcoming) (with Luca Tosoni and Peter Davis)
- ‘Public Sector Digitalisation in Norway: Current Trends and Challenges in the Legal Framework’ in Hanne M. Motzfeldt (eds), *Public Digitalisation in a Legal Perspective: Status, Challenges and Opportunities for Nordic-Baltic Cooperation* (Nordic Council of Ministers, 2024) pp 193-230 (with Mathias Hauglid)
- ‘Privacy-as-a-Quality Competition Parameter: Some Reflections on the Scepticism’ in Björn Lundqvist and Michal Gal (eds.), *Competition Law for the Digital Economy* (Edward Elgar, 2019) pp 126-172
- ‘Privacy Fixing (Cartel): The Evolving Frontier of Antitrust Law in the Wake of Texas v. Google LLC.’ *ASCOLA (Academic Society for Competition Law) Conference 2024* ca 40 pp

Publication con.

- ‘Privacy as a Non-Price Competition Parameter: Theories of Harm in Mergers’ *International Conference on Competition, Digital Platforms and Big Data*, Valencia June 27-29 (2018) 61 pp
- ‘Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Terms? Visualising Contract Terms and Data Protection Requirements for Cloud Computing Users.’ In S. Casteleyn et al. (Eds.): *ICWE 2016 Workshops, LNCS 9881* (Springer 2016) pp. 1–18 (with Kevin McGillivray and Tobias Mahler).
- ‘An Integrated Method for Compliance and Risk Assessment: Experiences from a Case Study’ In *Communications and Network Security (CNS), 2015 IEEE Conference* (2015) pp. 568-576 (Co-authored with Tobias Mahler, Fredrik Seehusen, Frode Bjørnstad and Veda Brubakk)
- ‘Structuring Compliance Risk Identification Using the CORAS Approach: Compliance as an Asset’ *IEEE International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering Workshops* (2014), pp. 281-286
- ‘Utilizing Security Risk Analysis and Security Testing in the Legal Domain’ in: T. Bauer et al. (Eds.): ‘Risk Assessment and Risk-driven Testing’ *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* Vol. 8418 (2014) pp. 51–67 (Springer International Publishing Switzerland 2014).
- ‘Running out of Address Space: The Depletion of IPv4 Addresses and What it Entails for Developing Countries’ in Dag Schartum and Anne Gunn (ed). *Yulex 2012*. (University of Oslo) pp. 139-162

Short Articles, Reports and Working Papers

Media and Popular Scientific Article

- ‘Regulering av KI i offentlig sektor – hva vi har, hva vi får og hva vi trenger’ *Rett24*, 15 March 2024 (with Mathias Hauglid)
- ‘The EU AI Act: A Realtime Experiment to Regulating Generative AI’. *Medium, curated by the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University* 2023
- ‘Slik Vil Kongressen i USA Temme IT-Gigantene’ *Rett24*, 27 Oct 2020.
- ‘Competition in Dissimilarity: Lessons in Privacy from the Facebook/WhatsApp Merger’ *CPI Antitrust Chronicle* August 1(2) (2017) pp. 57-64
- ‘An Integrated Approach for Compliance and Security Risk Assessment.’ *Lov & Data: Tidsskrift for Rettsinformatikk 2015*; Volume 121. pp. 32-35 (Co-authored with Tobias Mahler and Bjørnar Solhaug)
- ‘Confidential and Compliant Clouds: Using Technology to Enhance Confidentiality and Regulatory Compliance by Design’ *Lov & Data*: 121 (2015) pp. 32-35 (with Kevin McGillivray and Tobias Mahler)
- ‘What's With the 32-Bit Numbers That the Internet Keeps Defying?’ *CircleId Blog Entry*, 04 Dec 2014
- ‘Ethiopia's Ban on Skype: An Excessive Stretch.’ *CircleId Blog Entry*, 22 June 2012

Reports

- ‘Data Licensing for the Reuse of Judgments: An Analysis of Select European Jurisdictions.’ (2024, Study conducted for the Council of Europe as part of the TJENI project (Foster Transparency of Judicial Decisions and Enhancing the National Implementation of the ECHR) (with Baste and Langford)

Working Papers including under review

- ‘Open Justice Data in Europe: A Patchwork’ (with Baste, Weitzenboeck, Cyndecka, Langford and Lison) (under review in *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*)
- ‘Regulatory Sandboxes as Liminal Forms of Governing Technological Transitions’ (with Hjorth-Johansen, Fieseler, & Guio)
- ‘Privacy Considerations in Publication of Court Judgments: A Comparative Analysis of European Jurisdictions’ (with Baste, Weitzenboeck, Cyndecka, Langford and Lison)
- ‘Governance Through Guardrails Theorizing Regulatory and Normative Checks-and-Balances For Responsible AI’ (with Fieseler, and Johansen) (Review and submit in *Research Policy*)
- ‘Systemic Risk as a Legal Transplant in the Artificial Intelligence Act’ (with Mahler and Langford)

Project and role, funding from.

- 2024-2025 HEMISPHERES (Harmonizing European and Latin American Methodologies of Internet and Technology Policy Research), part of the EU's Jean Monnet Network on External Policy, Erasmus+ Programme, co-lead a work package
- 2023- 'Research Network on Regulatory Developments in Cybersecurity (CyberReg Network)', part of the Research Council of Norway's JUREVAL Framework, Project manager, BI Norwegian Business School
- 2020-2023 'Triple Partnership for Responsible AI (3AI)', part of the Research Council of Norway's INTPART Framework, Project manager, BI Norwegian Business School
- 2013-2016 'Confidential and Compliant Clouds' (Coco Cloud Project), part of the European Commission's FP7-ICT Framework, Researcher and principal investigator on work package dealing with legal and regulatory aspects of cloud services, University of Oslo
- 2013-2015 'Compositional Risk Assessment and Security Testing of Network Systems' (RASEN Project), part of the European Commission's FP7-ICT Framework. Researcher and principal investigator on the legal and compliance assessment of information systems, University of Oslo

Selected Invited Presentations

- 'Kunstig intelligens (KI) i offentlig sektor: Muligheter og juridiske utfordringer' (D-box nettverksmøtet, 15 Oct 2024)
- 'Regulering av KI i offentlig sektor – hva vi har, hva vi får og hva vi trenger' (Partnerforum Vårkonferanse, 700+ deltakere 6 June 2024)
- 'The Commercialization of Personal Data and its Implications for Data Privacy Law and Competition Law' (The Norwegian Tax Administration (Skatteetaten), 24 April 2023)
- 'The Commercialization of Personal Data and its Implications for Data Privacy Law and Competition Law' (Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (*Kommunal- og distriktsdepartementet*), 17 Oct 2022)
- 'The Commercialization of Personal Data and its Implications for Data Privacy Law and Competition Law' (Norwegian Data Protection Authority (*Datatilsynet*) 29 Oct 2021)
- 'Competition Law Enforcement in Digital Markets' (Juristenes Utdanningscenter (JUS) 24 March 2022)
- 'Personal Data as the 'New Oil': Implications for the Intersection between Competition & Data Protection Law' (Juristforbundet Tech Forum 9 June 2021)
- 'The Coco Cloud Pilots: The eHealth Pilot in Point' Seminar on Cloud Computing in Health Services' (Ministry of Health, Norway) (September 2014)

Awards, Nominations and Fellowships

- Recipient of His Majesty the King's Gold Medal for outstanding research for my PhD dissertation 2021
- 'Honorable mention' in the 2017 Privacy Papers for Policy Makers Award
- Nominated by the Law Faculty at the University of Oslo to Viggo Hagstrøm stiftelsens pris for unge nordiske privatrettsforskere (2022)
- Nominated for ASCOLA Junior Paper Award (2024)
- Recipient of Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE) Fellowship 2014
- Recipient of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Fellowship 2013

Professional Development

- Visiting researcher at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society (May– Sep 2023)
- Visiting scholar at Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Law (Nov 2017 – March 2018)
- Executive Committee, The Norwegian Association for Computers and Law (since 2021-2025)
- Deputy member of BI's research ethics committee (2022-2025)
- Member of COINs Research in Norway
- Member of ICANN Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group

Program Committee and Reviewer

- TrustCom2015: The 14th IEEE International Conference on Trust, Security and Privacy in Computing and Communications (IEEE TrustCom-15) (Program committee and referee)
- Reviewer for the Norwegian Research Council on a project about privacy enhancing technology.
- Review of book proposal on ‘Regulating the EU Digital Economy’ Edward Elgar
- Journal of Information Technology & Politics (per review).
- Computer Law and Security Review (per review)
- International Data Privacy Law (peer review)
- Journal of Antitrust Enforcement (per review)