WORKSHOP GUIDE

June 16-17, 2025

WHEN FOR PROFIT GOES PRO BONO - Motivations, Practices and Impact

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
"PROBONO – Private law firms as transnational advocates" (2025-2029)
Grant agreement number 101164875.

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTRE UNIVERSITAIRE DE NORVÈGE À PARIS

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

CESSP CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE SOCIOLOGIE ET DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

cnrs

Organised by
LOLA AVRIL &
NINA REINERS

Funded by the European Union

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Welcome to Paris for the Workshop on "When Profit goes Pro Bono - Motivations, Practices and Impact"

This two-day workshop brings together scholars researching pro bono actors and activities in global politics and law. It aims to foster a collaborative discussion that bridges the gap between social science research and legal practice in the realm of pro bono services.

Many for-profit actors increasingly offer their services as advocates for societal causes at no or low cost—pro bono—within and across national borders. Originating in US law firms, pro bono has expanded globally, leading to a reconfiguration of the public-private divide and reshaping the scope of state intervention.

The workshop explores the growing role of private actors in transnational pro bono advocacy, examining who engages in this work, what strategies they use, and how existing theories explain their influence. It investigates the motivations behind pro bono work, the influence of domestic factors in shaping the impact of pro bono, possibly resulting in conflicts of interest. Finally, the workshop asks how pro bono advocacy by for-profit actors benefits from a shrinking space for civil society and redefines the public/private divide.

We are very much looking forward to discussing these topics with you!

Lola Avril, CNRS, CESSP, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Nina Reiners, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo

IMPORTANT:
Guidelines for Paper Presentations, Discussions and Submissions

Submission of Papers and Presentations:

- Those selected are expected to **submit their papers** of around 6,000 to 8,000 words **by June 9, 2025.**
- Please send your paper by e-mail to Ellen Vrålstad: **ellen.vralstad@nchr.uio.no.** Papers will be uploaded in a closed online folder, which will be **shared with all participants on June 9.**
- If you plan to use a **PowerPoint** or similar for your presentation, we ask that you submit this in advance, **by 16 June 09:00 CET.** Please send your presentation by e-mail to Yann Hascoet: **yann.hascoet@hf.uio.no**

Format of panels:

- **Paper presenters** are given **10 minutes** to present their papers.
- **Discussants** are expected to provide **5 minutes of feedback to each** of the papers they are assigned to discuss.
- For each panel we will have **45-60 minutes of open discussion** following presentations and discussant comments. **All participants are expected to read the papers** and engage in the discussion.

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

JUNE 16

LOCATION

Fondation Maison Des Sciences de l'Homme
54 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris, France

SCHEDULE

9.00-9.15: WELCOME

9.15-10.30 PANEL 1: Pro Bono, Professions and Professional Ideals

- Pro Bono as Professional Constitution and Reproduction - Magnus Hannibal Esmark Schrøder
- Pro Bono Practice in Large Law Firms: a Sociodicy of the Corporate Elite - Charles Bosvieux-Onyekwelu

Discussant: Antoine Vauchez
Chair: Elias Demant Werner Thomsen

10.45-12.00 PANEL 2: Critical Approaches to Pro Bono

- Critical reflections on Pro bono in Corporate Legal practice - *Leigh Rice*
- *Pro Bono, Anti bono, and the Authoritarian Challenge - Nina Reiners*

Discussant: Antoine Vauchez
Chair: Elena Heiss

LUNCH

12.00-13.30: Catered (EHESS Cantine)

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

JUNE 16

13.30-15.00 PANEL 3: Pro Bono and Justice

- Privatized Justice and the Pro Bono Paradox - *Julia Emtseva*
- Pro Bono Work and the Forced Displacement of the Maasai in Ngorongoro: A Struggle for Human Rights and Social Justice (Online) - *Anna Cichecka*
- Border Justice, Individual Lawyers, and the ECtHR: What is the Role of Pro Bono? - *Ezgi Özlü*

Discussant: Daria Sartori
Chair: Olena Sønsteby

15.15-16.30 PANEL 4: Pro Bono and Consultancies

- First results on exploratory fieldwork: consultancies and migration policies - *Lola Avril*
- 'Ordering the chaos': Global consultancy firms and the politics of EU migration - *Eleni Karageorgiou*

Discussant: Anna Leander
Chair: Olena Sønsteby

DINNER

Details Forthcoming

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

JUNE 17

LOCATION **Fondation Maison Des Sciences de l'Homme**
54 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris, France

9.15-10.30 PANEL 5: Pro Bono and Advocacy

- The Influence of Foundations and Pro Bono Services on Minority Rights: From Key Benefactors to Tainted Allies? - *Alexandra Cosima Budabin*
- Following the Money and the Law:Why Legal Form and Funding Models Matter for NGOs - *Nina Hall*
- Private Law Firms and Pro Bono in Global Governance - *Nina Reiners & Ellen Vrålstad*

Discussant: Daria Sartori
Chair: Elena Heiss

10.45-12.00 PANEL 6: Pro Bono in Domestic Context

- A Growing Pro Bono Movement in Southeast Asia: Questioning the Dominance of American and English Legal Education - *Tikumporn Rodkhunmuang*
- Pro Bono in Context: The Role of For-Profit Law Firms in Indonesia's Civic and Political Landscape - *Karell Mawla Ibnu Kamali & Kemala Nababan*

Discussant: Anna Leander
Chair: Elias Demant Werner Thomsen

12.15-12.45: Wrapping Up & Going Forward

LUNCH & DEPARTURE

12.45: Catered (EHESS Cantine)

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

PARTICIPANTS

LOLA AVRIL
CNRS, CESSP, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France

ELENA HEISS
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

CHARLES BOSVIEUX - ONYEKWELU
CNRS, CNE, Marseille, France

KARELL MAWLA IBNU KAMALI
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

ALEXANDRA COSIMA BUDABIN
Institute for Minority Rights, Bolzano, Italy

ELENI KARAGEORGIOU
Department of Law, Lund University, Sweden

ANNA CICHECKA
Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław, Poland

ANNA LEANDER
Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland

JULIA EMTSEVA
Department of Law, European University Institute, Italy

KEMALA NABABAN
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

NINA HALL
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, USA

EZGI ÖZLÜ
University of Strasbourg, France

PARTICIPANTS

NINA REINERS
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

OLENA SØNSTEBY
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

LEIGH RICE
School of Law, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

ELIAS DEMANT WERNER THOMSEN
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

TIKUMPORN RODKHUNMUANG
School of Law, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

ANTOINE VAUCHEZ
CNRS, CESSP, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France

DARIA SARTORI
EU Public Interest Law Clinic, NYU Paris, France

ELLEN VRÅLSTAD
Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

MAGNUS HANNIBAL ESMARK SCHRØDER
Department of Law, University of Inland, Norway

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE SOCIOLOGIE ET DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

WHEN FOR PROFIT GOES PRO BONO - Motivations, Practices and Impact

Organised by
LOLA AVRIL &
NINA REINERS

Funded by the European Union

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

