

Abstracts

"Intellectual Property Rights as Enablers of Systemic Collaboration for Sustainable Innovation", Jaakko Siltalo (University of Tampere) and Rosa Ballardini (University of Lapland)

Abstract: Sustainability transitions require new forms of collaboration that enable diverse actors to work across sectoral boundaries towards system-level change. At the same time, intellectual property rights (IPRs) play a critical role in shaping how knowledge, technologies, and innovations are shared and developed. This presentation examines how IPRs can support, rather than hinder, systemic collaboration for sustainable innovation. Drawing on research at the intersection of innovation studies and intellectual property law, the presentation first discusses the limitations of traditional open innovation and IPR frameworks in addressing complex sustainability challenges. It then introduces an innovation ecosystem perspective that highlights the co-specialisation of heterogeneous actors and the importance of system-specific coordination structures in developing sustainability-enhancing solutions. Finally, it explores the extent to which current IPR regimes accommodate such collaborative innovation processes and identifies opportunities to adapt and leverage IPRs to better support sustainability transitions. The presentation offers insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to promote sustainable innovation through effective governance and intellectual property strategies.

"The Multi-Stakeholder Regulation of Access to AI Training Data in the EU", Professor Alexander Peukert, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Abstract: Training large AI models requires access to vast amounts of data, much of which is protected by copyright. The fairness of AI training, as well as the sustainability of the AI industry and human creativity more broadly, depend largely on the rules governing access to AI training data. This lecture will outline how EU copyright and AI laws regulate this access in a highly dynamic and multi-stakeholder based manner.

"Sustainability considerations in merger control and the incentives for sustainability-oriented innovation", Professor Hans Vedder, Groningen University

Abstract: Mergers and takeovers are the bread and butter of many markets and nearly always seen as benign to competition. However, recent studies have found that the economic efficiency gains proffered to support most mergers are often not attained whereas the economic harm of industry concentration is very real. These concerns are now compounded by the debate on whether sustainability-related concerns have a role to play in merger control. Sustainability-related concerns are most prominent in relation to the innovation aspects of mergers, given that with the current trajectories, innovation for increased sustainability may well be the only way to attain a degree of sustainability. This session will explore the ways in which sustainability-related innovation can play a role in merger control and the way in which merger control can contribute to such innovation. It will do so by looking at the technicalities involved as well as asking some of the more foundational questions underlying this.

Multi-stakeholder market shaping for sustainability: Collaboration, contestation, and competing visions (Kaisa Koskela-Huotari, Stockholm School of Economics)

Abstract: Sustainability transitions require collaboration among businesses, policymakers, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Yet, even when these actors agree on the importance of sustainability, they may have fundamentally different visions of what a sustainable market should look like. How can we understand and navigate such differences when seeking to advance sustainability transitions?

Drawing on a multi-case study of four B2B markets, this presentation examines how heterogeneous stakeholders collectively seek to shape markets for sustainability. The findings identify four types of multi-stakeholder market-shaping efforts that pursue different—and sometimes opposing—market-level outcomes: maintaining existing markets, pursuing targeted or infrastructure reform, or contracting markets. We also identify four pathways through which stakeholders enact sustainability-related issues, explaining how their field embeddedness and perceptions of legitimacy influence the market futures they advocate.

The presentation discusses what these findings mean for designing and governing multi-stakeholder collaboration. In particular, it highlights the importance of recognizing competing sustainability visions, understanding how stakeholders align around shared objectives even without direct coordination, and identifying opportunities for complementary strategies that can advance sustainability transitions.