

Participant Bios

The Science and Politics of Glyphosate Workshop

Thursday 6th June
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Paviljoen (Pavilion)

Alberto Alemanno

Prof. Dr. Alemanno is a Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law and Policy and Director of the EU Public Interest Clinic with NYU School of Law. Due to his commitment to bridge the gap between academic research and policy action, Alberto pioneered innovative forms of civic engagement and activism in the EU transnational space via his civic start up The Good Lobby, as well as the campaigning organisation We Move and European Alternatives. His last book, 'Lobbying for Change: Find Your Voice to Create a Better Society' provides a timely analysis and guide to levelling the democratic playing field by empowering ordinary citizens to speak up and inform policy decisions. The World Economic Forum nominated him Young Global Leader in 2015. He's the author of more than twenty scientific articles and several academic books such as 'Nudge and the Law – A European Perspective'. Originally from Italy, Alberto is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the College of Europe and holds a PhD in International Law & Economics from Bocconi University.

Alessandra Arcuri

Alessandra Arcuri is Professor of Inclusive Global Law and Governance at the Department of International and European Union Law, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research focuses on international economic law and the relationship with human rights and environmental law, as well as on the global governance of risks and the emergence of global technocracy. She has also lived and held positions at various international institutions, including the European University Institute, New York University and Hamburg University. Professor Arcuri holds a law degree from La Sapienza University, Rome (cum laude), an LL.M. from Utrecht University and a Ph.D. from the Erasmus School of Law. Professor Arcuri is Co-Chair of the Young Erasmus Academy, Member of the Erasmus Institute of Public Knowledge and Member of the Erasmus Initiative on Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity.

Charles Benbrook

Dr. Benbrook obtained his PhD in agricultural economics in 1980 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has worked on the impact of farming systems and technology on public and environmental health, with a focus on pesticides and GE crops. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers on pesticides, biotechnology, food nutritional quality, and other subjects (see <https://hygeia-analytics.com/about/who-we-are/#publications>). He has served as an expert witness in pesticide and GMO-related lawsuits, including the current litigation in the U.S. on Roundup and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He has conducted many research projects identifying the ways organic food and farming can promote animal and human health, improve soil and water quality, and help support healthier farms and rural communities.

Ton van den Brink

Dr. Van Den Brink is associate professor of EU law at the Europa Institute Utrecht. He is a member of the leadership of the Utrecht Research Centre for Regulation and Enforcement in Europe (RENFORCE) and director of the LL.M program in EU law. His research interests are broad and include EU/Member States' relations; the EU legislative system; the role of parliaments in the EU; EMU and the national dimension of EU membership. Van den Brink

obtained his PhD from Erasmus University Rotterdam in 2004, focusing on the implementation of European Law in the Dutch legal system. He has also worked as a project coordinator at the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy, inter alia on projects on Dutch foreign and European policies.

Nicolas Defarge

Dr. Defarge's strongest interest is to study the impacts of pollutants on health and the environment. During his PhD and a following PostDoc he investigated the toxic and endocrine-disrupting (ED) effects of pesticides (glyphosate-based herbicides -GBH- as well as others) on human cells and rats. Together with his colleagues he evidenced that commercial formulations are more toxic and ED than the declared active ingredients, due to adverse effects of formulants and contaminants such as heavy metals including arsenic. The major chronic effects observed on rats include kidney and liver pathologies, as well as dysbiosis of the gut microbiome, most of them showing gender specificity. And since 80% of GM crops are tolerant to herbicides (mostly glyphosate), he also gained expertise in the toxicological assessment of GMOs. He joined Angelika Hilbeck's group to study the other class of GM plants i.e. insect-resistant GMOs. These produce modified Bt toxins whose effects on non-target beneficial insects are debated, together with their mode of action. Finally, since more and more GMOs are both herbicide tolerant and insect resistant, and sprayed with pesticides, investigating the combinatorial effects is also one of his exciting tasks.

Kate Guyton

Dr. Kate Guyton is a senior scientist at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), World Health Organization in Lyon, France. Prior to joining IARC, she worked for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (2005-2014), receiving a Gold Medal for exceptional service. She also has experience, as the Director of Scientific Affairs at CCS Associates (1998-2005), a woman-owned small business, working with the United States National Cancer Institute. Dr. Guyton earned her BA (cum laude) and her PhD degrees from Johns Hopkins University, and completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Guyton has been certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology since 1998. She has authored more than 80 scientific publications in her area of expertise.

Yogi Hale Hendlin

Dr. Yogi Hale Hendlin is assistant professor in the Erasmus School of Philosophy and core faculty in the Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity Initiative at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Dr. Hendlin is also a research associate with the Environmental Health Initiative at the University of California, San Francisco, working there on the social determinants of health, focusing on environmental and chemical pollution. Teaching and researching on the topics of carbon taxes, deep sustainability, and public health ethics, Dr. Hendlin holds a PhD in environmental philosophy (magna cum laude) from the University of Kiel, Germany, and is a graduate of the Universities of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Sheila Jasanoff

Prof. Dr. Sheila Jasanoff is Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She obtained her PhD in linguistics from Harvard University in 1973, as well as her J.D. degree in Law in 1976. Prof. Dr. Jasanoff is the founder of the Kennedy School's Program on Science, Technology and Society (STS). Prof. Dr. Jasanoff's research targets the interactions of law, science and politics in democratic societies. A special research interest is the construction of public

reason in different cultural contexts and the role of science and technology in national/global institutions.

Martin de Jong

Prof. Dr. Martin de Jong obtained his PhD from the Delft University of Technology in the field of Systems Engineering and Policy Analysis in 1999. Among other fields, Prof. Dr. de Jong specializes in planning and decision-making in China, sustainable urban development and CSR. Today, Prof. Dr. de Jong is the director of the Erasmus Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity Initiative, a joint initiative of the Erasmus School of Law, Rotterdam School of Management and Erasmus School of Philosophy. The initiative aims to assess the inclusion of weaker stakeholders in governance and management. Furthermore, the initiative has an agenda-setting function. As the Scientific Director, Prof. Dr. de Jong leads the scientific research team.

Robert Lepenies

Dr. Lepenies is a research scientist at the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research in Leipzig and a member of the Global Young Academy. He works on the politics of nudging, as well as on sustainability issues (particularly SDGs and water policy). He holds a Ph.D from the Hertie School of Governance, and has held several positions and fellowships at the EUI, Yale, WZB and the FU Berlin where he also taught courses in philosophy, political economy, politics, and the history of economic thought.

Angeliki Lysimachou

Dr. Lysimachou obtained her PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Barcelona, in 2009 and continued her research in environmental toxicology at University of Porto until 2014. Dr. Lysimachou research focusses on the effects of pollutants on environmental ecosystems, mechanisms of endocrine disruption being of special interest. Due to her expertise, Dr. Lysimachou researches pesticide toxicity issues and coordinated the campaigns on endocrine disrupting pesticides risk assessment in the Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN Europe). PAN Europe advocates the use of ecological practices as an alternative to harmful pesticides. PAN Europe has been highly critical on the unrestricted authorization and use of glyphosate in Europe.

Marta Morvillo

Dr. Marta Morvillo is a constitutional lawyer interested in the interaction between technical and democratic legitimacy, with a focus on EU constitutional law and expert governance. Dr. Morvillo is currently post-doctoral researcher and Marie Curie fellow at the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG), University of Amsterdam. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Bologna, an LL.M. in Public law and global governance from King's College London. Before joining ACELG, she has held post-doctoral positions at the University of Bologna and at the European University Institute.

Vesco Paskalev

Vesco Paskalev received his PhD from the European University Institute (2013) and had studied previously in LSE, Oxford, Central European University and Sofia University. His main field of research is risk regulation and most of his contributions issues of agricultural biotechnology in Europe. Now he is entering the field of AI and is embarking on a project for comparative study of the legal issues arising from the development of driverless cars. Beyond academia Vesco has collaborated with a number of environmental NGOs in Britain, Bulgaria and the EU.

Chris Portier

Prof. Dr. Christopher J. Portier is a semi-retired expert in the design, analysis, and interpretation of environmental health data with a focus on carcinogenicity. Dr. Portier is currently a Kravits Senior Collaborating Scientist (part-time) with the Environmental Defense Fund, and an Adjunct Professor at Emory University and Maastricht University. He is also working with several governments on risk assessment issues and is a consultant on chemical-related issues (including glyphosate) to several US law firms.

Guilhem De Seze

Dr. de Seze holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering, specialising in environmental exposure to pollutants, obtained from Louisiana State University. Dr. de Seze joined the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2016 as Head of the Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO) Department. The REPRO Department provides independent scientific advice on pre-marketing risk assessment of substances, products and processes intended for use in the food chain. Unlike the IARC report, the EFSA report did not deem glyphosate carcinogenic. Prior to joining EFSA, Dr. de Seze was a Head of Unit in the Evaluation Department of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

Maria Weimer

Dr. Weimer obtained her PhD from the European University Institute in Florence. Her research focuses on exploring the potential of law and governance to address urgent environmental, health and safety risks arising from the operation of modern agri-food systems; as well as to enable the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems. She recently published a monograph with Oxford University Press entitled "Risk Regulation in the Internal Market - Lessons From Agricultural Biotechnology." Currently, Dr. Weimer is an assistant professor in European law at the University of Amsterdam as well as a senior researcher at the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance and the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies.

Laura Westra

Prof. Dr. Westra received her PhD from the University of Toronto in 1983 in philosophy, followed by her second PhD in jurisprudence obtained from the Osgoode Hall Law School. Dr. Westra is the founder of the Global Ecological Integrity Group (GEIG). The GEIG focusses on stimulating scholarly endeavor through inter- and trans-disciplinary engagement on matters affecting and governing the sustainability of life for both present and future generations. Additionally, Dr. Westra has contributed to 41 books and over 90 articles, either as author or editor.