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Latest News from The Competition Law Hub

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Working Paper

Can Competition Law Save Democracy?
Reflections on Democracy's Tech-Driven Decline and How to Stop It
Ariel Ezrachi* and Vicky Robertson**

1 Introduction

Democratic governance is anchored on the principle that power is vested in the people, and that people can choose freely. To make it, citizens must benefit from an unadorned flow of

[Can Competition Law Save Democracy?](#)

In a recent working paper, Ariel Ezrachi (Oxford University) and The Hub's [Vicky Robertson](#) ponder democracy's tech-driven decline and competition law's role in stopping it. Read their working paper on [SSRN](#).

[The Future of Digital Merger Control](#)

At the European Commission celebratory conference on the 20th anniversary of the EU Merger Regulation, [Vicky Robertson](#) spoke about the future of merger control, including her work on digital mergers at national level (see her [2022 Report](#)). Fellow speakers were Hans Zenger and Anemiek Wilpsaar (both European Commission) as well as Jenine Hulsmann (Weil, Gotshal & Manges). Aiofe White (Politico) moderated. Rewatch the panel [here](#).



[Gender and Competition Law](#)

On 3 May 2024, Natalie Harsdorf-Borsch (BWB) and [Vicky Robertson](#) discussed the extent to which gender can and needs to have an influence on competition law enforcement. They touched on the [OECD toolkit](#) for gender-inclusive competition law and gender-based algorithmic pricing (find Vicky's recent contribution [here](#)).

[DMA and Ecosystem Power](#)

The Competition Law Hub had the pleasure to host two talks by visiting researchers in April: by [Helena Drewes](#) (University of Düsseldorf) on the extraterritorial effects of the Digital Market, and by [Yibo Li](#) (University of Antwerp) on ecosystem power and contractual leverages. Many thanks for sharing your insights and for the lively debate!



[Digital Platforms and Competition Law](#)

On 18 and 19 April 2024, [Klaudia Majcher](#) participated in the conference on 'Digital Platforms and Competition Law: „Glocal“ Trends and Challenges' organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Klaudia provided an overview of the recent developments related to the intersection of competition law and data protection in Europe.

[European Super League and Digital Mergers](#)

On 14 and 15 March 2024, the Institute for Business Law of WU Vienna hosted its annual seminar, this year in Waidhofen/Ybbs. [Fabian Ziermann](#) talked about his recent research on the European Super League preliminary ruling and its implications for EU competition law. [Vicky Robertson](#) presented her research on digital mergers and updating theories of harm.



Competition Law Hub will once again host the *Vienna Competition Law Days*. Bringing together leading academics, competition enforcers and practitioners, the workshop aims to foster discussions on current issues in competition law and economics.

Interactions between EU Competition Law and Data Protection

In her new chapter (see [here](#)) forthcoming in the 'Research Handbook on Competition and Technology', [Klaudia Majcher](#) discusses the interactions between EU competition law and data protection in digital markets. The chapter focuses on abuse of a dominant position and merger control, and explores how to make them more coherent with data protection.

Interactions between EU Competition Law and Data Protection in Digital Markets: Striving for Coherence

Chapter in *Research Handbook on Competition and Technology* (Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2024)
30 Pages • [Full Text](#)
[Klaudia Majcher](#)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), The Competition Law Hub
Date Written: February 3, 2024



Computational Antitrust and the Future of Competition Law Enforcement

Victoria W.S. Robertson & Jürgen Fleiß
Here, new cases are starting to explore antitrust theories of harm, including novel theories of harm. Digitalization has been a driver for legal change, as the EU Commission and other enforcers have been forced to adapt to new digital markets. In 2022, the European Union adopted the Digital Markets Act (DMA), which aims to support the enforcement of competition rules in digital markets. This will have significant implications for digital markets, such as Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft and in the future, possibly also for other digital markets. Many of its obligations can be directly linked to antitrust law. Antitrust enforcers have long regarded an anti-competitive in digital markets.

The Future of Competition Law Enforcement

Against the background of their recent [DataCom](#) project, [Vicky Robertson](#) and [Jürgen Fleiß](#) published an editorial in GRURInt reflecting on the influence of digitalization on competition law. They highlight what it takes to make full use of computational antitrust in the public enforcement of competition law. Access the editorial [here](#).



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