

CECILIA ISOLA

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Nova School of Law**, Lisbon, PT Feb 2026–Present
 - *Postdoctoral Researcher* in European private law, consumer law and sustainability
 - *Adjunct Professor*, Law of Online Platforms
- **SERICS Foundation (SEcurity and RIghts in the CyberSpace)**, Rome, IT 2025-2026
 - Researcher*, consumer collective redress mechanisms in digital markets & third-party litigation funding
- **Arche' Law Firm**, Genoa, IT 2019-2024
 - Associate Lawyer*, specialized in international commercial law and consumer law
 - Represented clients in litigation and advised on pre-litigation and out-of-court dispute resolution
 - Advised clients on EU consumer law and regulatory compliance, including the implementation of new legal requirements
 - Liaised with industry stakeholders and trade unions on regulatory and policy developments

EDUCATION

- **University of Genoa**, IT
 - *Ph.D.*, Security, Risk & Vulnerability (Security & Law) 2021- 2025
 - Dissertation: *Regulating dark patterns in the EU: the interplay between the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive and the Digital Services Act* (defended in November 2025)
 - *Master's degree*, Law 2012- 2019
- **University of Surrey**, London, UK Sept 2023- Mar2024
 - Visting Ph.D.*
- **Nova School of Law**, Lisbon, PT Feb-Sept 2023
 - Visting Ph.D.*
- **ISS F. Liceti Technological Institute**, Genoa, IT 2021- 2024
 - Diploma*, Computer Programming

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

- **Adjunct Professor**, Nova School of Law, Lisbon, PT 2026-2027
 - Course: Law & Tech
- **Lecturer**, University of Genoa, IT 2022-2025
 - Courses: European private law; Law & Tech; Mass Media law; IP law; Legal theory
- **Guest Lecturer**, Nova School of Law, Lisbon, PT 2025-2026

Courses: E-Governance; Law & Tech

- **Teaching assistant**, Bocconi University, Milan, IT 2022-2023
Course: Philosophy of law
- **Examiner**, Nova School of Law, Lisbon, PT 2025-Present
Member of 5 master's thesis defence committees
- **Master's dissertation supervision**, University of Genoa, IT 2025-Present
Supervision of four master's dissertations in European private law, Private law, Law & Tech

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- [1] Cecilia Isola, 'Back to the Future-proof: Four reforms for the Better Regulation of dark patterns under the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive and Article 25 Digital Services Act', *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, Cambridge University press (co-authored with Fabrizio Esposito & Cristiana Santos, *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, Cambridge University Press, 2026).
- [2] Cecilia Isola, 'The fine of over €98 million imposed by the Italian Competition Authority (AGCM) on Apple for abuse of a dominant position in relation to the App Tracking Transparency policy' (La sanzione di oltre 98 milioni di euro irrogata dall'AGCM ad Apple per abuso di posizione dominante in relazione alla policy App Tracking Transparency), *Persona e Mercato* (forthcoming 2026).
- [3] Cecilia Isola, 'A systematic literature review on dark patterns for the legal community: definitional clarity and a legal classification based on the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive', 2025, *Computer Law & Security review*, 58, 1-16 (co-authored with Fabrizio Esposito).
- [4] Cecilia Isola, 'Augmented reality, advertising and consumer protection in the light of European Union law', in *Actualidad jurídica iberoamericana*, 18, 2023, 1478-1509.
- [5] Cecilia Isola, 'The CICR Resolution of 9 February 2000 and the Nullity of Intra-Annual Capitalisation of Bank Interest' (La Delibera CICR del 9.2.2000 e nullità della capitalizzazione infra-annuale degli interessi bancari, in *Pactum Giuridica*, 2022, 1-5.
- [6] Cecilia Isola, Cosimo Melella, 'Patching Strategy for National Security' (Strategia di patching per la sicurezza nazionale), in *Quaderni di Cyber Intelligence*, 1, 2022, 96-104 (co-authored with Cosimo Melella).

Book chapters

- [1] Cecilia Isola, 'Systemic risk and electoral integrity under the Digital Services Act: The case of *TikTok* and the 2024 Romanian Presidential elections', in M. Lisi and E. Szulc-Wałęcka (eds), *Digitalization and democracy: mapping the debate*, Springer, forthcoming 2026.
- [2] Cecilia Isola, Giulia Chiaraluce, 'Consumer protection and greenwashing behind circular narratives in the agri-food sector', Springer, forthcoming 2026.
- [3] Cecilia Isola, Dadiana Dabija, 'A Consumer Cycle Framework for assessing circular economy performance at the use phase', Springer, forthcoming 2026.
- [4] Cecilia Isola, 'Unfair Commercial Practices, Advertising and Consumer Protection', in A. Kirchner, I. Kirchner-Frei (ed.), *Legal Aspects of Virtual and Augmented Reality*, Hugo Grotius Publishers, Bremen.
- [5] Cecilia Isola, 'Enhancement and Promotion of Zero-Kilometre Agricultural and Food Products and Those from Short Supply Chains' (Valorizzazione e promozione dei prodotti agricoli e alimentari a chilometro zero e di quelli provenienti da filiera corta), in A. D'angelo, V. Roppo (eds.), *Annuario del contratto 2022*, Torino, 2023,

- [6] Cecilia Isola, 'Implementation of the Copyright Directive' (Attuazione della Direttiva Copyright), in A. D'angelo, V. Roppo (eds.), *Annuario del Contratto 2020*, Torino, 2021, 334-336.

BLOG POSTS & INTERVIEWS

- [1] Cecilia Isola, 'The AGCM's Investigations into AI Hallucinations as Unfair Commercial Practices', *Media Laws*, forthcoming July 2026.
- [2] Cecilia Isola, 'How Have Platforms Addressed Addictive Design under the DSA', *DSA Observatory*, 9 March 2026.
- [3] Cecilia Isola, 'How Have Platforms Addressed Addictive Design under the DSA', *Tech Policy Press*, 23 February 2026.
- [4] Chris Stokel-Walker, 'The EU Wants to Label 'Addictive Design' a Systemic Risk under the DSA', *Tech Policy Press*, 6 February 2026, expert commentary/interview with Cecilia Isola.

POLICY IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

- [1] European Board for Digital Services and European Commission, 2026. [my research article, "How Have Platforms Addressed Addictive Design under the DSA", was included among the independent research and civil-society sources considered in the Second Report on Systemic Risks on Very Large Online Platforms and Search Engines under the Digital Services Act].
- [2] Cecilia Isola, 'Dark Patterns and Unfair Commercial Practices', presentation at the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), United Kingdom, July 9th, 2026.
- [3] Cecilia Isola, 'Survey on Consumer Understanding of Circular Economy Commercial Claims and Labels', June 2026. [survey designed and conducted a consumer survey to inform Deliverable 4 of the ECO4ALL COST Action CA22124, *EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through Reducing, Reusing and Repairing*, concerning consumer rights and awareness within EU circular economy strategies].

CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS

Conferences

- [1] Cecilia Isola, 'Addictive design as a systemic risk under the Digital Services Act: an analysis of VLOPSEs' risk assessments', in *The DSA and Platform Regulation Conference*. DSA Observatory, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, February 2026.
- [2] Cecilia Isola, 'Did the EU shine a light on dark patterns? The (obscure) interplay between the UCPD and the Digital Services Act', in *The 20th anniversary of the Unfair Commercial Practice Directive*. University of Bruxelles, Belgium, October 2025.
- [3] Cecilia Isola, Fabrizio Esposito, 'A Systematic Literature Review on Dark Patterns for the Legal Community: Definitional Clarity and a Legal Classification Based on the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive', in *European Law Unbound: What Kind of Europe Can We Reach For?*, ELU-S 2025 Conference, European Law Unbound Society, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 25–27 September 2025.
- [4] Cecilia Isola, 'Decentralised Finance and financial instruments: a systematic literature review on definitions and regulatory boundaries under the EU Financial Law, in *Law & Fintech Conference*, University of Singapore, July 2025.

- [5] Cecilia Isola, ‘Did the EU shine a light on dark patterns? The (obscure) interplay between the UCPD and the Digital Services Act’, in *Fair Markets in the 21st Century: Digital Transition, Artificial Intelligence and Technological Neutrality*, Nova School of Law, Lisbon, Portugal, May 2025.
- [6] Cecilia Isola, Fabrizio Esposito, ‘Better call your lawyer: Dark Patterns are best understood as unfair commercial practices’, in *20th International Conference of the Italian Society of Law and Economics*, La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, 2024.
- [7] Cecilia Isola, ‘Toward a Theory of Manipulation by Design in Digital Environments’, in *Bridging the gap between neurorights and cyber-rights: introducing new ethical and legal safeguards for protecting humans in the digital era*, Sant'Anna University of Pisa, Italy, 2024.
- [8] Cecilia Isola, ‘The Legal Dimension of Extended Reality: Unfair Commercial Practices, Advertising, and Consumer Protection’, in *Living Together in the Cities of the Future and Metaverse*, Nova School of Law, Lisbon, Portugal, 2023.
- [9] Cecilia Isola, ‘Extended Reality and Unfair Commercial Practices: Combining Legal, Economic, and Philosophical Perspectives’, in *18th International Conference of the Italian Society of Law and Economics*, Lumsa University of Palermo, Italy, 2022.

Invited talks

- [1] Cecilia Isola, ‘Consumer Rights and Awareness in the Circular Transition: Inefficiencies, Best Practices and Paths for Improvement’, Universitas Mercatorum, Rome, Italy, March 2026.
- [2] Cecilia Isola. *Dark patterns and consumer protection*, Juridical Observatory on Digital Innovation (JODI), University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy, December 2025.
- [3] Cecilia Isola. *The right to repair in the European Union: Directive (EU) 2024/1799*, ECO4ALL seminars, July 2025.
- [4] Cecilia Isola. *The Digital Services Act*, Portuguese Institute of International Relations, Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal, June 2025.
- [5] Cecilia Isola. *The Digital Services Act’s Impact on AI: Recommender Systems and Addictive Design*, in *International Seminar on AI, Personality and Sustainability*, University of Salerno, Italy, May 2025
- [6] Cecilia Isola. *Crypto-Assets and EU Law (MiCA Regulation): Taxonomies, Definitions, and Scope of Application*, Nova School of Law of Lisbon, Portugal, April 2025.
- [7] Cecilia Isola. *The rise, evolution and regulation of online platforms*, Nova School of Law of Lisbon, Portugal, March 2025.
- [8] Cecilia Isola. Comment on T. Sigaeva ‘Digitalization in Civil Law’, in *Conference on AI and Law*, University of Belgrade, Serbia, November 2023.
- [9] Cecilia Isola, Fabrizio Esposito. *Law and Technology in a Data-Driven Society*, Nova School of Law of Lisbon, Portugal, July 2023.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC ROLES

Scientific roles

- **EU Commission Proposals Evaluator:** expert evaluator for the European Commission in COST Action
- **Editorial Committee:** Journal of Law, Market & Innovation, University of Turin (Italy)
- **Referee:** European Journal of Risk Regulation (Cambridge University Press); SN Business & Economics, Springer Nature (UK); Journal of Law, Market & Innovation, University of Turin (Italy); Goettingen Journal of International Law, Institut für Völkerrecht und Europarecht (Germany)

Research groups

- *CEDIS - Research & Development Centre on Law and Society*, NOVA School of Law, Lisbon, PT
- 'Legal Consciousness in the Tech Community', research group funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden
- Member of European Union–funded COST Actions:
 - **EU Circular Economy Network for All (ECO4ALL)**
 - Digital Mental Health for Young People (YouthDMH)
 - Digital technologies improving civic engagement, political organisations and democracy (RELINK)

AWARDS

- **ConsciousTech: Normative Consciousness in the Tech Community** 2026 - Ongoing
EU funded grant, EUR 700.000. **Chair** and Main Proposer of a network of tech experts and professionals selected for funding as a COST Action (<https://www.cost.eu>).
- **Fairness and Transparency in Online Commercial Speech** 2023 2025
Italian government-funded grant, EUR 200.000. **Co-drafter** of a nationally funded project on EU–US approaches to transparency and non-discrimination in online commercial speech and targeted advertising.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian: Native speaker; English: Proficient; Spanish: Proficient; Portuguese: Advanced