

**World Comparative Law journal - Call for contributions on**

**Corporations in comparative constitutional law in geoeconomic times**

**for conference, blog symposium, and journal special special issue**

World Comparative Law (WCL) journal invites contributions for its annual conference, a blog symposium, and special journal issue. Selected abstracts will be presented as full papers at the annual WCL conference on 10 July 2026 at Erfurt University/Germany and /or be invited to submit blogposts for a symposium over the summer. Selected contributions will be invited to submit full articles for a special issue of World Comparative Law in autumn 2026.

Business corporations are a not only a core feature of modern capitalist economies, but also key actors in many contemporary global problems, ranging from economic inequality, sustainability and climate change to free speech, democracy and good governance. While this key role is debated in corporate law, international law, and business and human rights scholarship, comparative constitutional law has paid less attention to the corporation. Extant comparative literature is often focused on comparing constitutional rights of corporations in a limited number liberal-democratic constitutional orders in Europe and North America.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of this call is to gain a more comprehensive and representative understanding of the corporation in comparative constitutional law. We want to broaden the case selection especially to the Global South, and to pluralize analytical frameworks beyond liberal theories of corporate rights. We thus welcome contributions that address the multiple dimensions in which constitutional law addresses the business corporation<sup>2</sup>, especially in jurisdictions in the Global South. Contributions should ideally be comparative, but can also cover individual jurisdictions, and can address, without being limited to, the following dimensions:

- **Corporate rights:** To what extent do business corporations enjoy constitutional rights in jurisdictions beyond North America and Europe? Which fundamental rights are granted to corporations, and which ones are not? Are corporate rights protected as intensely as constitutional rights of human beings? What normative rationales and theories are advanced to justify corporate constitutional rights, and what historical and political contexts have shaped approaches to corporate rights?
- **Corporate obligations:** Does constitutional law impose specific obligations on business corporations? How do doctrines such as horizontal effect, state action and business and human rights adapt to hold multinational enterprises accountable for human rights and mass torts? What actors are corporate constitutional obligations owed to – shareholders, stakeholders, the communities or the state?
- **Corporate governance/organization:** Are there constitutional norms or interpretations that address corporate governance and the internal organization of the corporation? Does constitutional law (e.g property rights) require or facilitate particular arrangements of ownership and control, or otherwise limit the legislator when regulating these issues in ordinary corporate

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<sup>1</sup> For a broader overview that informs this call for papers, see Kroncke/Riegner (2020), Corporation, in *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law*, available at <https://oxcon.ouplaw.com/browse?prd=MPECCOL> or from the authors.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this special issue, “constitutional law” should be understood broadly to include constitution-making and constitutional text, constitutional practice and case law, constitutional scholarship, constitutional history and theory, empirical causes and effects of constitutional norms of corporations etc. While this call is primarily interested in for-profit business “corporations”, constitutional law does not always differentiate between corporate types (e.g., non-profits).

law? Or does constitutional law mandate workers' participation in the management of the corporation?

- **Corporate mobility, deglobalization and geoeconomic conflict:** Does constitutional law enable or limit the transnational mobility of corporations across jurisdictional boundaries, e.g. through provisions on foreign investment, investment protection, recognition of foreign corporate personality and corporate rights? Are there constitutional norms, cases or theories concerning corporations that address entanglements between Global North and Global South, such as competing jurisdictional claims of host and home countries and the like? How do geoeconomic conflicts and the reordering of global supply chains and corporate ownership structures affect corporate constitutionalism?

Besides these dimensions, we are also interested in contributions that address crosscutting and contextual issues, such as:

- **Corporations and Democracy:** How do constitutional provisions address corporate political activity, such as lobbying and campaign finance? Are democratic frameworks (e.g., economic democracy) extended to corporate institutions?
- **Leading Cases and Conflicts:** Have specific corporate disputes or the general presence of corporations shaped constitutional doctrines, provisions, or broader legal orders?
- **Constitutional Theories:** How do different constitutional frameworks (e.g., liberal, social, transformative, authoritarian) theorize the corporation? Do corporations generate specific constitutional theories or adapt existing ones?

**Submissions:** In a first step, we invite submissions of abstracts (max. 500 words) that set out the topic, research questions and methodological approach of a prospective conference contribution, blogpost, and/or journal article in World Comparative law. These abstracts should be submitted by 10 May 2026 to Jasmin Wachau [jasmin.wachau@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:jasmin.wachau@uni-erfurt.de).

Selected abstract authors will be invited to present their contribution at the WCL annual journal conference at Erfurt University on 10 July 2026, and/or submit a blogpost to a symposium on for the blog symposium. Selected authors will be notified by 20 May at the latest. Those contributions selected for the special issue journal symposium should be submitted to WCL by 1 October 2026. The article submissions will undergo double blind peer review and be published, subject to the review and possible revisions, in a special issue of the 2027 volume of World Comparative Law.

Substantive questions regarding abstracts, articles and publication schedule should be directed to [michael.riegner@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:michael.riegner@uni-erfurt.de).