

NEW DATE

INNOVATION AND THE LAW

DARE TO THINK & SHAPE THE FUTURE

PROGRAM

- 08:00 Arrivals and breakfast
- 08:30 Welcome address
- 09:00 Keynote
- 09:45 Coffee break
- 10:15 Presentations
- 12:15 Lunch
- 13:30 Presentations
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Panel discussion
- 17:30 Reception

14th Assistentenconferentie Conférence des assistant.e.s (ACCA 2025)

REGISTER NOW:

[HTTPS://EVENT.UGENT.BE/
REGISTRATION/ACCA](https://event.ugent.be/registration/acca)



PRACTICAL

WHEN? 22 May 2025

WHO? Researchers, assistants, and doctoral students of Belgian law and criminology faculties

WHERE? Ghent University, campus Aula
Universiteitstraat 4, 9000 Ghent

Participation is free but, registration is compulsory!

ABOUT ACCA 2025

The Faculty of Law and Criminology at Ghent University warmly invites you to the 14th edition of the Assistentenconferentie/Conférence des Assistant.e.s (ACCA). The central theme for this edition is that of 'Innovation and the Law.' Topics include (the lack of) innovation in legal practice, substantive law, legal and criminological research methodology, and education.

ACCA 2025 offers predoctoral researchers from all Belgian law and criminology faculties the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. The conference consists of the following activities: a keynote speech to kick off the day, presentation sessions in the morning and afternoon, a panel discussion, and a concluding reception.



WANT TO LEARN MORE:

[HTTPS://WWW.UGENT.BE/RE/MPOR/C
FMP/NL/ACTUEEL/AGENDA/ACCA2025](https://www.ugent.be/re/mpor/cfmp/nl/actueel/agenda/acca2025)



KEYNOTE BY KRISTOF DE VULDER

ACCA 2025 will start with a keynote speech by Kristof De Vulder. He is a lawyer at the Dutch-speaking Bar of Brussels and Country Managing Partner at DLA Piper. His practice focuses on the contractual framework of innovative technologies, providing advice on the many new questions that arise during the implementation of such technologies.

PRESENTATIONS AND Q&A

ACCA 2025 offers a platform for predoctoral researchers to share insights from their ongoing research in an accessible setting. This year, we welcome presentations on the following themes:

✓ CHANGES IN POSITIVE LAW

The law cannot lag behind when society and technology are evolving at a rapid pace. Blockchain, AI, and other technological innovations compel us to consider the development of new legislative frameworks, whereas changing societal views force us to reconsider or reinvent traditional legal concepts. This conference provides a platform to discuss and critically evaluate the existing, emerging, and desired regulation of emerging technologies.

✓ EVOLUTION IN THE STUDY OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

The study of law and criminology is undergoing a transformation, with an increased emphasis on the diversity of research methods and approaches. As is the case for criminologists, legal scholars are increasingly expected to be social scientists. ACCA 2025 invites you to share your own innovative methodological insights and perspectives.

✓ INTERACTION BETWEEN LAW AND SOCIETY

The interaction between society and law is more relevant than ever. For example, climate litigation vividly illustrates how law can be a tool to stimulate social change in a way that is often bottom-up (i.e., through citizen initiatives) rather than top-down (i.e., through traditional legislative bodies). However, legal instrumentalism faces limitations such as the effectiveness of enforcement policies, processing times, the debate about the law-making role of judges, conflicting societal views, and the demand for democratic legitimacy. This conference provides a unique opportunity to discuss the complex dynamics and tension arising from the interaction between law and society.



PANEL DISCUSSION: INNOVATION IN LEGAL AND CRIMINOLOGICAL EDUCATION (EN)

In addition to research, education is also a core responsibility for many academics. Therefore, ACCA 2025 aims to bring together the various Belgian faculties of law and criminology for a debate on the need for and methods of innovating legal and criminological education. A moderated panel discussion among various educational experts will cover four key themes:

- ✓ Objective(s) of education in law: legal practitioner or legal scholar?
- ✓ Composing a curriculum: the balance between positive law courses, skills training and courses on legal theory.
- ✓ The master's thesis dilemma: is there a need for a fully-fledged research master's program as a prerequisite for thorough research by students?
- ✓ Teaching methods: the (im-)possibility of integrating innovative teaching methods in programs with large numbers of students.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: YOUR RESEARCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We invite **predoctoral researchers** to present their research during ACCA 2025. Whether you are working on substantive law reforms, methodological innovations, or the interaction between law and society – we welcome contributions that align with these aforementioned themes.

How to submit? Send your abstract (maximum 500 words) along with your **contact details** and a short **biography** to **ACCA2025@UGent.be**. The **deadline** for submitting abstracts is **15 April 2025**.

Publication opportunity? Presenting researchers have the opportunity to publish their insights, following peer review, in the Law & Criminology Journal of the UGhent Faculty of Law and Criminology. The authors' guidelines can be found at <https://lcj.ugent.be/>.

