

Crafting your ELS career:

Narrative, Visibility, and Growth in Empirical Legal Studies

ELS Academy Kick-off Event

Tuesday 13 October 2026

Leiden University

Keynote by an expert in the field (t.b.a.);

Presentation sessions;

Panel discussion;

Possibility to win a research grant (2000 euros)!



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The ELS Academy is pleased to announce the Kick-Off Event for the academic year 2026–2027 on Tuesday 13 October at Leiden University (Kamerlingh Onnes Building, room A0.51). This event aims to inspire and support PhD candidates and scholars engaged in Empirical Legal Studies (ELS), with a focused exploration of shaping skills, careers, visibility and more!

This is a career-focused opportunity: alongside sharing your research, you'll receive constructive feedback on your presentation skills, your research design and methods, and how you position your work within the field. We are especially interested in creating a space where researchers can discuss not just what they're studying, but how to grow as scholars; from sharpening your academic voice to navigating publication strategies, building a research profile, and thinking ahead to the next stages of an ELS career.

We welcome abstracts on any empirical legal research topic, at any stage of development; What matters most is your openness to feedback and discussion.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission Guidelines

Deadline:	23 September 2026
Notification of Acceptance:	Within two weeks of the deadline
For individual presentations:	Please submit an abstract of 200–300 words.
For full panel proposals:	Submissions should include: • A brief introduction outlining the panel's central theme • The name of the panel chair • The names of any discussants (if needed, we can assign discussants) • Abstracts (200–300 words each) for each individual presentation within the panel
Where to submit:	The ELS Academy website

We look forward to your contributions to what promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking event.

In case of questions please contact contact@elsacademy.nl