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Contextual Research in Law  
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## Employment

### Unpaid employee

Metajuridica  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium  
14 Mar 2025 → 31 Oct 2025

### Undefined

Metajuridica  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium  
1 Nov 2022 → 31 Oct 2025

### Metajuridica

Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium  
10 Oct 2022 → present

### Contextual Research in Law

Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium  
10 Oct 2022 → present

### PhD, Faculty of Law and Criminology

Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium  
21 Sep 2022 → present

## Research outputs

### How to fly with letters

Freitas Mendes, J., 2025, In: Rechtsfilosofie & Rechtstheorie.

### Senso comum e esperanças perdidas

Freitas Mendes, J., 2024, In: Forma de Vida. 28

### **Slowness and Conventional Forms**

Freitas Mendes, J., 2024, *IPS Belgium Seminars* .

## **Activities**

### **Law without Lawyers (Laurent de Sutter/ Joao Freitas Mendes, org.)**

João Freitas Mendes (Organiser)

2025

### **Slowness and Conventional Forms**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker)

22 Nov 2024

### **Associate Lecturer - Transformative Lawyering, Birkbeck School of Law**

João Freitas Mendes (Lecturer)

1 Oct 2024 → 13 Dec 2024

### **Associate Tutor for Legal Systems and Methods**

João Freitas Mendes (Lecturer)

1 Oct 2024 → 13 Dec 2024

### **Inquietação, Inquietação**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker)

18 Sep 2024

### **Non-negotial sociability**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker)

4 Jun 2024

### **How to fly with letters**

João Freitas Mendes (Invited speaker)

8 May 2024

### **How to fly with letters**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker), Frederik Dhondt (Contributor) & Laurent De Sutter (Contributor)

7 May 2024

### **Workshop on Letters and Objects that Let**

João Freitas Mendes (Organiser)

6 May 2024 → 8 May 2024

### **Visiting Doctoral Student at Birkbeck Univ. of London (summer term 23/24)**

João Freitas Mendes (Visitor)

27 Apr 2024 → 15 Jul 2024

### **CORE Legal Theory Seminar: Prof. Tamar Herzog (Harvard) on A Short History of European Law. The First Two and a Half Millenia (Harvard University Press, 2018)**

Laurent Desutter (Chair), Tamar Herzog (Visitor), Frederik Dhondt (Participant), João Freitas Mendes (Participant), Louis Debersaques (Participant), Dave De Ruyscher (Participant), Rodrick Van Der Smissen (Participant), Max Zingo Van Den Bosch (Participant), Alice Whelan (Participant) & Antoine Leclère (Participant)

24 Apr 2024

**"Breve Curso de Literatura" by Joao Pedro Vala**

João Freitas Mendes (Member)

13 Mar 2024 → 17 Apr 2024

**Philosophy and Literature Workshop / Univ. of Lisbon**

João Freitas Mendes (Member)

5 Mar 2024 → 23 Apr 2024

**Jour Fixe at Department Auer**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker), Christian Boulanger (Contributor) & Fabian Steinhauer (Contributor)

20 Feb 2024

**CORE weekly gathering: 'A new concept of sociability'**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker), Frederik Dhondt (Presenter), Laurent De Sutter (Contributor), Rodrick Van Der Smissen (Contributor) & Stefano Cattelan (Contributor)

30 Jan 2024

**José Afonso, Amor e Verdade**

João Freitas Mendes (Speaker)

2024

**Law without Lawyers (Laurent de Sutter/ Joao Freitas Mendes, org.) (Event)**

João Freitas Mendes (Editor)

2024

**Richard Rorty Society (External organisation)**

João Freitas Mendes (Member)

2024

**Slowness and Conventional Forms - IPS Belgium**

João Freitas Mendes (Member of programme committee)

2024

**Socio-Legal Studies Association (External organisation)**

João Freitas Mendes (Chair)

2024 → ...

**CORE Weekly Gathering 21 XI 2023: The Ostend Company and the Law of Nations**

Frederik Dhondt (Chair), Stefano Cattelan (Participant), João Freitas Mendes (Participant), Léna Sylvestre (Participant), Elien Jeannine Denoyelle (Participant) & Nies Lieve L Vanduffel (Participant)

21 Nov 2023

**Jour Fixe/Joao Bachur on Rule Following and Implicit Normativity**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)

21 Nov 2023

**Julian Knevez commenting 'Earth system law: The juridical dimensions of earth system governance'**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)

13 Nov 2023

**Common Law Seminar/ An empire of judges: British judicial imperialism in 18th-century Bengal, Robert Travers**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)

23 Oct 2023

**Kolloquium Privatrecht und Theorie: Recht des/im/für das Anthropozän**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
16 Oct 2023

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar: Cosmin Cercel on Lawyers, Guns and Money**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant) & Laurent De Sutter (Chair)  
12 Oct 2023

**Joffrey Martelly on The Role of Violence in the Interpretation of Norms. A Nietzschean Perspective**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
11 Oct 2023

**Guest Researcher at Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory**

João Freitas Mendes (Visitor)  
1 Oct 2023 → 28 Feb 2024

**Socio-Legal Studies Association (External organisation)**

João Freitas Mendes (Member)  
18 Sep 2023

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar: Laurent De Sutter on Post-Critical Legal Studies**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant) & Laurent De Sutter (Chair)  
20 Apr 2023

**CORE Weekly Gathering: dr. Stefano Cattelan on neutrality and the Nine Years' War (1688-1697)**

Frederik Dhondt (Chair), Stefano Cattelan (Participant), Rodrick Van Der Smissen (Participant), Senne De Kerpel (Participant), João Freitas Mendes (Member), Wouter De Rycke (Member) & Léna Mélanie Renée Sylvestre (Member)  
18 Apr 2023

**CORE Weekly Gathering: drs. Rodrick Van der Smissen. Cessio bonorum and cession de biens.**

Frederik Dhondt (Chair), Dave De Ruysscher (Chair), Stanislas Horvat (Participant), Stefano Cattelan (Participant), João Freitas Mendes (Participant), Manon Hofströssler (Participant) & Hannah Aziza Ghulam Farag (Participant)  
28 Mar 2023

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar: Hyo Yoon Kang on Legal Materialities**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
21 Mar 2023

**Legal sociability as the need for clarity / CORE Weekly Gathering**

João Freitas Mendes (Presenter)  
14 Mar 2023

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar. Jean d'Aspremont on After Meaning**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
16 Feb 2023

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar. Fernanda Pirie (Oxford University) on The Rule of Laws**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
1 Dec 2022

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar. Marietta Auer on What Is Legal Theory**

João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
3 Nov 2022

**CORE Legal Theory Seminar. Marco Wan on Law & Literature**  
João Freitas Mendes (Participant)  
27 Oct 2022

## **Prizes**

**FCT Portugal Doctoral Grant**  
Freitas Mendes, João (Recipient), 2021

**Summer School Grant - DSH VUB**  
Freitas Mendes, João (Recipient), 2023

**Travel Grant - Doctoral School Humanities VUB**  
Freitas Mendes, João (Recipient), 1 Apr 2024

**Travel Grant VUB DSH**  
Freitas Mendes, João (Recipient), 2024

**6-months Fellowship Max Planck Institute (Frankfurt)**  
Freitas Mendes, João (Recipient), 1 Oct 2023

## **Press/Media**

**Medien der Rechtsprechung**  
João Freitas Mendes  
16/02/24  
1 Media contribution

**Professor Adam Gearey review of my paper Slowness and Conventional Forms**  
João Freitas Mendes  
22/11/24  
1 Media contribution

**Sozialisierbar/ Sozialbar**  
João Freitas Mendes  
22/02/24  
1 Media contribution

## **Impacts**

**Adam Gearey's critique of my paper Slowness and Conventional Forms**  
João Freitas Mendes (Participant)

**Blog reference to my work**  
João Freitas Mendes (Participant)