



**Università degli Studi di Ferrara  
Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza**

**Dottorato di ricerca in Diritto dell'Unione Europea e  
ordinamenti nazionali - Le politiche dell'Unione Europea**

**Giovedì 3 aprile 2014, ore 9.30 (Sala consiliare)**

**Samuel Fulli-Lemaire  
(Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris II)**

**Is European Private International Law Bringing  
Substantive Laws Closer, or Keeping Them Apart?**

The mere existence of Private International Law (PIL) is often presented as an obstacle to the movement of unification of substantive laws. Unification is superfluous, or so the reasoning goes, because the diversity of substantive laws is perfectly managed by choice of law rules - even more so if those rules have been unified, as is increasingly the case within the European Union. Yet this depiction, while not completely groundless, only captures a part of the complex interaction between PIL and the dynamic of unification of substantive laws. PIL rules can be, first of all, a necessary complement to unifying substantive law instruments. In a much more controversial manner, these rules can also, when they provide space for party autonomy, give rise to regulatory competition. This mechanism, in turn, might serve unification. Seminar background readings are available on <http://docente.unife.it/claudia.amodio/european-private-law-seminars-ferrara.zip/view>.

**Samuel Fulli-Lemaire** is currently pursuing a PhD on Private International Family Law at Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2) University. He has been a Visiting Researcher at the European University Institute in Florence, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. He has published, in French and English, articles on both Private International Law and Family Law, and teaches or has taught courses in Private International Law, Contract Law, Tort Law and Family Law.