

Ioan Sumandea-Simionescu

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SAFE LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL RESEARCH

✉ sumandea@safe-frankfurt.de

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2025–present | Postdoctoral Researcher in Law & Finance | SAFE LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL RESEARCH | Research in empirical legal studies, law and finance, banking law & financial regulation. Teaching: Sustainable Corporate Governance (Goethe University Law School). |
| 2025–present | Associated Postdoctoral Researcher | LAWFIN CENTER, GOETHE UNIVERSITY FRANKFURT | Research collaboration on law & finance, focusing on soft law, corporate governance, and empirical methods. |
| 2022–present | Associated Researcher | EUROPEAN BANKING INSTITUTE (EBI) | Contributing to projects on banking regulation, governance, and sustainability. |
| 2025 | Visiting Scholar | INSTITUTE OF LAW & ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG | Research in network analysis and stakeholder preferences, joint work with Prof. Georg Ringe. |
| 2013–present | Associated Researcher | CENTER FOR BUSINESS LAW AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (CBLIT), UBB | Research on company law, corporate governance, banking law, soft law. Leading the group on quantitative research in law & finance. |
| 2014–2025 | Associated Assistant Professor | BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY UBB | Teaching LLB and LLM level courses, in the UBB Law School. |
| 2015 | Visiting Researcher | QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON | EU-funded (POSDRU) doctoral research stay in corporate governance/financial regulation. |

EDUCATION

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| 2021 | Ph.D. in Banking Law <i>Summa cum laude</i> | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY, ROMANIA |
| 2022 | European Master in Law & Economics (EMLE) <i>Award of Distinction & First in Class.</i> | UNIVERSITIES OF HAMBURG, ERASMUS ROTTERDAM, GHENT |
| 2022 | M.Sc. in Droit, Économie, Gestion (Économie du Droit) <i>Mention très bien avec félicitations du jury</i> (highest distinction). | AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITY, FRANCE |
| 2013 | LL.M. in European Business Law <i>First in class (Summa cum laude)</i> | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY, ROMANIA |
| 2012 | LL.B. in Law Graduated top percentiles | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY, ROMANIA |
| 2015 | Certificate of Higher Education in Common Law Courses in Contracts, Criminal Law, Employment Law, and English Legal Process. | UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, UK |

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

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| 2024 | Teaching Excellence Award | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL |
| | Best Professor in Law School, awarded at university level (student vote). | |
| 2025 | Honorary Membership / Student Mentoring Award | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL |
| | Elected Honorary Member of the Student Association - support to student activities. | |
| 2022 | EMLE Award of Distinction | UNIV. OF HAMBURG, ERASMUS ROTTERDAM, GHENT |
| | Graduated first in cohort; thesis among best of the year. Top exam scores in <i>General Law & Economics, Law & Economics of Private Law, Corporate Governance & Finance</i> . | |
| 2022 | MSc in Applied Economics (Économie du Droit) | AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITY |
| | Graduated with <i>mention très bien avec félicitations du jury</i> (highest distinction). | |
| 2021 | PhD in Law | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY |
| | Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i> , ranked first in admission exam. | |
| 2013 | LLM in European Business Law | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY |
| | <i>First in class (Summa cum laude)</i> ; perfect GPA (10/10); thesis grade 10/10. | |
| 2012 | LLB in Law | BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY |
| | Graduated top percentiles; thesis grade 10/10. | |

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Fixed Pay, Fixed Problems? Rethinking Supervisory and Internal Control Remuneration in EU Banks. Panel DiD analysis of 2019–2021 (COVID-19 shock) assessing remuneration design, risk profile, and performance outcomes.

Enhanced Soft Law Disclosure and Market Reactions: The VEKTOR Corporate Governance Index. Event study of stock price reactions (CARs) to soft law governance disclosures; evaluates market-based effectiveness of stock exchange soft law, looking at investor and firm behavior.

Stakeholder Engagement and ESG Diffusion: A Network Analysis of Law and Finance. Dataset on companies worldwide, 2019–2021; analysis of convergence in business, environmental, and social materiality areas via stakeholder networks.

Soft Law in EU Financial Regulation: NLP/textual analysis of EBA/ESMA/EIOPA guidelines. Law & economics study of regulatory hardness, compliance patterns, and norm diffusion in EU financial soft law instruments.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Grant, Vereinigung von Freunden und Förderern der Goethe-Universität (2025). Competitive grant to support research dissemination and travel.

Max Planck Advanced Training Grant (2025) — Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg. Awarded for the project “A Law and Economics analysis of the impact of ESG bonds on the net zero ambitions and sustainable governance of corporations (RevEU-ESGCorpBonds).” Competitive international fellowship; declined due to overlapping postdoctoral appointment at SAFE/Goethe University.

SAFE Young Researcher Grant (2025) — SAFE. Awarded for postdoctoral research to support research dissemination and travel.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Seal of Excellence (2023) — European Commission. Top-ranked MSCA PF proposal, evaluated above funding threshold; awarded Seal of Excellence (funding not granted due to budget limitations).

Erasmus Mundus Full Scholarship (2021–2022) — European Master in Law & Economics (EMLE). Highly competitive full EU scholarship; one of few EU recipients in cc. 100-student global cohort.

EU-funded Doctoral Research Grant (POSDRU Programme, 2014–2015) — European Structural Funds. Competitive award for doctoral research; supported research and visiting research stay at Queen Mary University of London.

Full Academic Merit & Tuition Scholarships (2012–2022) — Babeș-Bolyai University (PhD & LLM & LLB). Multiple scholarships for outstanding academic performance, including full tuition coverage.

 ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION

(RECENT)

Hamburg Lecture Series in Law & Economics (2026, invited) — Presenting research on stakeholder engagement networks analysis.

European Law & Economics Association Conference (ELEA, 2025) — Presented research on remuneration regulation and risk.

European Society of Empirical Legal Studies Conference (ESELS, 2025) — Presented empirical analysis of remuneration and bank performance and risk.

Canadian Law & Economics Association Conference (CLEA, 2025) — Presented remuneration study with continuous DiD methodology.

NYU/SAFE/ESCP Paris Law & Finance Workshop (2025) — Presented remuneration study to an international law & finance audience.

National Bank of Romania Law Seminars (2025) — Invited presentation empirical research in fee disclosure in consumer loan contracts.

Romanian Law & Finance Conference (2025) — Invited presentation on VEKTOR corporate governance index and market impact.

 PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTERS AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

1. **Transparency of fees and charges in consumer credit contracts.** In Willett & Bergamini (eds.), Routledge (forthcoming, 2026).
2. **The Private International Law of Companies as applied in Romania.** In *The Private International Law of Companies in Europe*, C.H. Beck (2019).
3. **Shareholders' Agreements: Regulation, Practice and Comparative Analysis in Romania.** In *International Handbook on Shareholders' Agreements: Regulation, Practice and Comparative Analysis*, edited by Sebastian Mock, Kristian Csach, and Bohumil Havel. De Gruyter (2023) (with Radu Catană).
4. **Fixed Pay, Fixed Problems? Rethinking Supervisory and Internal Control Remuneration in EU Banks.** *under review for submission to Journal of Law, Finance, and Accounting* (2025).
5. **ESG bonds and the use of proceeds.** *Revue Banque & Droit* (2024).
6. **What's in a word? Divergence on the definition of a merger.** *European Company Case Law*, Nomos Publishing (2023).
7. **La commercialisation à distance des services financiers: Rapport roumain.** *Revue Internationale des Services Financiers / International Journal for Financial Services*, 2020. (with A. Oprea).
8. **Study on the Law Applicable to Crowdfunding – Country Report for Romania.** *Revue Internationale des Services Financiers / International Journal for Financial Services*, 2016. (with Radu Catană).

 TEACHING

Goethe University Frankfurt (2025–present) — New course designed at the Law School in *Sustainable Corporate Governance*.

Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), Romania (2014–2025) — Taught *Commercial Law, Business Law, Corporate Governance*, and *Law & Economics*. Awarded the **Teaching Excellence Prize (2024)** at Babeş-Bolyai University Law School, voted “Best Professor” by students at the university level.

Invited Lectures at International Universities — Delivered guest lectures and seminars on corporate governance, banking law, and law & economics at several universities in Europe. Topics included soft law in financial regulation, ESG diffusion, and empirical methods in law & finance.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

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Corporate Governance Committee, Bucharest Stock Exchange (2025–present) — Expert member nominated by the Romanian Investor Relations Association (ARIR) and the Association of Financial Analysts. Involved in shaping corporate governance standards, soft law tools and practices in the Romanian capital market.

Romanian Investor Relations Association (ARIR) (Vice-Chair, ongoing) — Played a leading role in governance initiatives, including the co-development of the changes in enhanced corporate governance tools like *VEKTOR* corporate governance index, a flagship soft law instrument for listed companies.

Banca Transilvania (2013–ongoing) — Consultant, eq. Head of Corporate Governance and Capital Markets Legal at the largest bank in Southeastern Europe. Led compliance with governance regulations, market disclosure, and shareholder engagement.

Victoriabank, Moldova (2022–2023) — M&A expert providing lead consulting on merger law and corporate governance. Successfully finalized the first merger between two banks in Moldova (Victoriabank and BCR Chişinău), advising on regulatory approval, governance structures, and integration.

SKILLS

Quantitative Methods — Econometrics (OLS, DiD, event studies, panel FE/RE models), financial data analysis, robustness testing.

Software & Programming — Stata, Python (pandas, statsmodels, networkx, event study analysis), R (igraph, statnet), Gephi. Experience with Power BI for visualization and reporting.

Textual & Network Analysis — Computational text analysis (soft law guidelines, ESG disclosures), natural language processing (stance detection, FinBERT applications), network metrics (centrality, ERGM, SAOM).

Languages — Romanian (native), English (C2), French (B2).