

Diego Sebastián Almonacid Almarza

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via Balbi 30/18, Genoa, Italy, 16126

Email: dalmonacid.a@gmail.com / diego.almonacid@edu.unige.it

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6143-6524>

PROFILE

His research focuses on legal philosophy, with particular emphasis on the instrumentality of law and on how legal norms causally contribute to the achievement of social objectives. He approaches these issues through the concepts of efficacy and through functional, causal, and mechanistic explanations of legal phenomena. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the programme in Philosophy of Law and History of Legal Culture at the Università degli Studi di Genova. His doctoral dissertation, *The Efficacy of Legal Norms: An Analysis of the Instrumentality of Law*, critically examines the concept of the efficacy of legal norms and its relation to legal instrumentality. He is a licensed attorney in Chile, holds a Master's degree in Global Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy from the Università degli Studi di Genova, and earned his law degree from Universidad Austral de Chile. His teaching experience includes work as a Teaching Assistant at Universidad Austral de Chile and as a Lecturer at Universidad de Magallanes.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Native)
- English (Fluent)
- Italian (Sufficient)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theory and philosophy of law; efficacy of legal norms; instrumentality of law; functions of law; functional and mechanistic explanations in legal theory; rule of law; theory of legislation; and philosophy of collective action.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant (cultore della materia), Università degli Studi di Genova Nov 2022 – Present

- Facilitated oral examinations and served on the assessment commission for *Philosophy of Law*, *Practical Philosophy*, *Techniques of Interpretation and Argumentation*, and *Philosophy of Punishment*.

Teaching Assistant, Universidad Austral de Chile Mar – Nov 2022
Mar – Aug 2021
Apr – Sep 2020

- Delivered interactive lectures and practical activities in legal theory and private law.
- Developed course materials and streamlined assessment processes to support student success.

Lecturer, Universidad de Magallanes Mar – Aug 2022

- Designed and implemented a comprehensive syllabus for *Legal Reasoning*.

- Delivered engaging lectures and facilitated interactive seminars.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Law, Università degli Studi di Genova **2022 – Present**

- Curriculum: Philosophy of Law and History of Legal Culture.
- Dissertation: *The Efficacy of Legal Norms: An Analysis of the Instrumentality of Law*. Supervisors: Giovanni B. Ratti, Maria Cristina Redondo, Sebastián Figueroa.

Master in Global Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy, Università degli Studi di Genova **2020 – 2022**

- Dissertation: *Legislative Assemblies and Collective Action. Elements for a Descriptive Theory of Legislation*. Supervisors: Pierluigi Chiassoni, Daniel Oliver-Lalana.
- Graduated with highest distinction.

Bachelor of Laws, Universidad Austral de Chile **2014 – 2019**

- Graduated with highest distinction.

Qualification as a Lawyer (Chile) **2022**

- Conferred by the Supreme Court of Chile.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- “Contribuciones de J. Waldron a una teoría descriptiva de la legislación” [Contributions of J. Waldron to a Descriptive Theory of Legislation], *Revista Telemática de Filosofía del Derecho*, no. 26, 2023, pp. 107–133.
- “Principio de eficacia e imperio de la ley. Observaciones en torno a su relación” [Principle of efficacy and rule of law. Observations about their relationship], *Isonomía – Revista de teoría y filosofía del derecho*, no. 58, 2023, pp. 1–31 [Scopus].
- “Racionalidad teleológica legislativa y eficacia como éxito. Un panorama de dificultades” [Legislative teleological rationality and effectiveness as success. An overview of difficulties], *Revista de Derecho (Valdivia)*, vol. XXXIV, n^o1, 2021, pp. 9–27 [Scopus].

Book Chapters

- “Una teoría de la legislación con enfoque lógico. Apuntes sobre la legislación-proceso y el legislador en la obra de Eugenio Bulygin” [A theory of legislation with a logical approach. Notes on the legislation-process and the legislator in Eugenio Bulygin’s work], in *Eugenio Bulygin en la teoría del derecho contemporánea*, edited by Giovanni B. Ratti, Julieta Rábanos, and María Cristina Redondo, Marcial Pons, 2022, pp. 407–422.

Short Format

- “Un breve ejercicio meta-legisprudencial” [A Brief Meta-Legisprudential Exercise], in *Interfolio. Proceedings of the VIII Interescuelas de Filosofía del Derecho*, edited by Ricardo Guibourg, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 18 Sept. 2022.

In Press

- “Rule of Law, Fidelity, and Mediated Efficacy: Addressing the Distance Dilemma in Postema’s Theory”, *Ratio Juris*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **16 Sept 2025:** “Knowledge and Efficacy: Rethinking Kelsen’s Explanation of Law’s Instrumentality” – Workshop on the Vienna School of Jurisprudence and the Pure Theory of Law, University of Freiburg.
- **27 Aug 2025:** “The Distance Dilemma: Mediated Efficacy: Mediated Efficacy and the Knowledge of Legal Norms” – 16th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytical Philosophy, University of Turin.
- **19 Dec 2024:** “The Efficacy of Legal Norms and the Imperativist Image of the Instrumentality of Law. A Genealogical Exercise” – I Seminario Interdottorale Genova-Milano, Università degli Studi di Genova
- **11 Jul 2024:** “Exploring Legal Mechanisms: Assessing the Efficacy of Legal Rules” – Special Workshop 8, Legal Philosophy and Legal Practice, Soongsil University, Seoul.
- **09 Jul 2024:** “What Does it Involve Explaining the Instrumentality of Law?” – Special Workshop 78, Legal Tools and the Instrumental Dimension of Law, IVR Congress, Soongsil University, Seoul.
- **23 May 2024:** “Eficacia, efectividad e instrumentalidad del derecho” [Efficacy, Effectiveness, and the Instrumentality of Law] – Workshop Internacional, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.
- **18 Apr 2024:** “La instrumentalidad del derecho: el lugar de funciones y mecanismos jurídicos” [The instrumentality of Law: the Place of Functions and Legal Mechanisms] – Universidad de Girona.
- **02 Apr 2024:** “The Instrumentality of Law: The Place of Functional and Mechanistic Explanations” – Horizon Widera Project: Advancing Cooperation on the Foundations of Law, Ph.D. Session, comment by Kenneth Ehrenberg, University of Surrey – University of Belgrade.
- **07 Mar 2024:** “Apuntes sobre la instrumentalidad del derecho” [Notes on the Instrumentality of Law] – Ph.D. Seminar, Law & Philosophy Group, Pompeu Fabra University.
- **07 Nov 2023:** “La acción colectiva de las asambleas legislativas. Lecciones a partir de los modelos de J. Waldron y R. Ekins” [The Collective Action of Legislative Assemblies. Lesson from the Models of J. Waldron and R. Ekins] – Encuentro doctoral Genova – Girona, University of Girona.
- **13 Oct 2023:** “Raiteri on the Compliance and Efficacy of Legal Rules” – Discussant, Università degli Studi di Genova.
- **12 May 2023:** “The Concept of efficacy of Legal Norms: An Analysis of the Instrumental Social Dimension of Law” – Third Seminar for Ph.D. Students, Ph.D. Colloquium International, Horizon Widera Project: Advancing Cooperation on the Foundations of Law, University of Belgrade.
- **09 Mar 2023:** “The Centrality of the Efficacy of Legal Norms in Understanding the Functioning of Law” – Ph.D. Seminars, Philosophy of Law and History of Legal Culture, Università degli Studi di Genova.
- **17 Dec 2021:** “Contribuciones de J. Waldron a una teoría descriptiva de la legislación [Contributions of J. Waldron to a Descriptive Theory of Legislation]” – Jornadas de jóvenes investigadoras e investigadores, Sociedad Chilena de Filosofía Jurídica y Social. Commentator: Samuel Tschorne, Universidad Adolfo Ibañez.

- **05 Nov 2021:** “La protesta social como acción colectiva. Un enfoque desde una concepción minimalista [Social Protest as Collective Action. A Minimalist Approach]” – III Seminar of the International Society of Public Law (I-CONS) Colombian Chapter, Resistencia y resiliencia: constitucionalismo, regulación y globalización.
- **03 Nov 2021:** “Principio de eficacia e imperio de la ley. Observaciones en torno a su relación [Principle of Efficacy and Rule of Law. Observations on its Relationship]” – 5^a Edition of Diálogos Transandinos de Filosofía del Derecho. Commentator: Pablo Perot, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata.
- **05 Oct 2021:** “Principio de eficacia e imperio de la ley. Observaciones en torno a su relación [Principle of Efficacy and Rule of Law. Observations on its Relationship]” – VII Congreso Nacional de Filosofía, Asociación Chilena de Filosofía.
- **30 Nov 2018:** “Eficacia como éxito y evaluación del rendimiento de las normas. Un itinerario de dificultades [Efficacy as Success and Evaluation of Norm Performance. An overview of Difficulties]” – Jornadas Nacionales de Filosofía del Derecho, Sociedad Chilena de Filosofía Jurídica y Social, Universidad de Chile.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- Co-organiser, “Legal Tools and the Instrumental Dimension of Law: Theoretical and Practical Reflections” – Special Workshop, IVR Congress, Soongsil University, Seoul, 09 Jul 2024 (with Agnès Diaz Castellano).

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- **MAECI 2024/25 Borsa di Studio** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy.
 - Awarded through a competitive selection process to partially fund doctoral studies, recognizing academic excellence and research potential.
- **MAECI 2023/24 Borsa di Studio** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy.
 - Awarded through a competitive selection process to partially fund doctoral studies, recognizing academic excellence and research potential.
- **Beca Chile for Doctoral Studies Abroad** – Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo, Chile (2022–2026).
- **Scholarship for complete tuition fee exemption** Scholarship for complete tuition fee exemption – Master in Global Rule of Law, Università degli Studi di Genova (2020).
 - Awarded for being the top-ranked candidate in the merit-based selection process.
- **Award for the best cumulative overall grade point average** – Universidad Austral de Chile, Faculty of law.
- **Jorge Millas Award for excellence in legal sciences**– Universidad Austral de Chile, Faculty of law.
- **Manuel Egidio Ballesteros Award for excellence in procedural law**– Universidad Austral de Chile, Faculty of law.
- **Juan Bustos Ramírez Award for excellence in criminal law**– Universidad Austral de Chile, Faculty of law.

- **Arturo Alessandri Award for excellence in civil law** – Universidad Austral de Chile, Faculty of law.
- **Rector Eduardo Morales Miranda Scholarship** – Universidad Austral de Chile (2014–2018).
 - Partial Tuition Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies. Awarded based on academic merit for exceptional performance in the university entrance examination.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

- June 2025 — Summer School on Quantitative and AI Tools for Empirical Legal Research, Toulouse Capitole University.