

## NOMINATION – MARIA BOTTIS

I hereby nominate Dr. Maria Bottis, Assistant Professor of Information Law, School of Information Science and Informatics, Ionian University Greece, for IACAP's 2014 Herbert A. Simon Award.

As her *curriculum vitae* indicates, Maria Bottis's educational background includes Athens Law School, Cambridge Law School (UK), and Yale Law School (US); during 2000-2001, she was appointed Faculty Fellow at Harvard University. Bottis entered the Athens Law School, ranking first out of all (49,000) candidates for all Greek national universities in all disciplines, and she also graduated first in her class. Dr. Bottis has since held several prestigious scholarships; for example, she has been a NATO Scholar, a Harvard Scholar, a Yale (Law School) Scholar, a Clare Hall (Cambridge University) Scholar, and an Onassis Scholar. She has also been the recipient of several awards, including the Athens Rotary Club Award and the IKY (the Greek national scholarship foundation) Award. Bottis has served as editor of the *Athens Law Review*, and (since 2010) is the editor the *Ionian Law Review*.

Dr. Bottis's publications include thirteen books/monographs (five as an author, and eight as an editor) and more than 80 articles (appearing in international and Greek journals, periodicals, collected works, and so forth). The topics on which she has written cover a wide range of philosophical issues in computer ethics, information law, and beyond; for example, she has examined philosophical aspects of "information" as a research theme in various domains (including intellectual property, data protection, computer security, privacy, surveillance, freedom of information, media ethics/law, the digital divide and social/economic justice, and so forth). Her latest book, *A Defense of Intellectual Property Rights* (co-authored with Richard Spinello, and published by Edward Elgar), examines foundational issues underlying philosophical arguments for a moral right to intellectual property. And she has co-authored (with Kenneth Himma) two important papers that examine philosophical arguments underlying access to information in the context of the global digital divide.

From its inception in 2008, Bottis has edited the series of ICIL (International Conference on Information Law) proceedings (published by Nomiki Bibliothiki, Athens). Additionally, Bottis edited a book of proceedings for the 2009 CEPE (Computer Ethics – Philosophical Enquiry) Conference, which was also published by Nomiki Bibliothiki, and she has co-guest edited special issues of journals and periodicals comprising selected papers originally presented in the CEPE conference series; her edited volumes have been an important contribution to the fields of computer ethics and information law.

Having established herself as an international speaker, Dr. Bottis has presented at more than sixty conferences, seminars, colloquiums, etc., held at institutions spanning multiple continents. For example, she has been an invited lecturer at the following institutions: Institute for Information law of the University of Amsterdam; NEXA Center for Internet and Society in Torino, Italy; Edinburgh Law School, UK; and the Information Science Department of the University Heinrich Heine of Dusseldorf, Germany. Bottis is also

recognized as an EU expert on privacy/data protection/copyright; she has been selected for EU for missions in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Poland, and the Netherlands.

Dr. Bottis is among a handful of scholars who has been a sole founder of an international conference series; in 2008, she founded the International Conference on Information Law (ICIL). In 2014, the sixth annual ICIL 2014 will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece. ICIL has significantly helped to promote the field of computer/information ethics in hosting several prominent professors, scholars and researchers interested who come together each year to present their research in topics on ethical/legal aspects of computer/information-related themes. Since 2009, ICIL has been co-organized with INSEIT (International Society for Ethics and Information Technology), an organization for which Dr. Bottis currently serves as Co-Executive Director; to date, four volumes of ICIL proceedings have been published.

Dr. Bottis has been consistently sponsored by organizations such as the NEXA center for Internet and Society, Italy; the International Center for Information Ethics (ICIE), Germany; the Institute for Legal Informatics, Germany; and E-themis, the Greek association for computer law. I believe these collaborations serve to illustrate Bottis' ability to work in teams, and they also demonstrate the high degree of recognition she has received from her peers in the fields of computer ethics and information law. In addition to her roles as founder and director of the ICIL series, Bottis has also started two Greek conference series: the Medical Responsibility and Bioethics Conference (MRBE), in Athens; and the History of Information: from papyrus to electronic document (INFOHIST). MRBE published its first volume of proceedings in 2013 and the INFOHIST proceedings is currently in press, with Bottis as an editor in both works.

Maria Bottis has taught courses in computer ethics and information law (both at the graduate and postgraduate levels), as well as courses on freedom of information. In her role as "mentor," Bottis founded a research team called "Information: History, Regulation and Culture," whose members include recent Ph.D.'s and Ph.D. candidates that participate in regular meetings with accomplished scholars. And in her role as Director of the ICIL series, Bottis has instituted a special forum for young researchers, the Young Scholars Forum. Initiated in 2010, this forum has already hosted a large number of young presenters in the field.

On a personal note, I would like to say a few words about Maria Bottis – the person (having already commented extensively on her professional accomplishments). I have known Maria for approximately ten years. During that period, I have had the opportunity to work closely with her on a personal, as well as a professional level. (For example, she and I have co-authored articles and conference papers and have co-guest-edited special issues of journals, and we served together as Co-Chairs of the CEPE 2009 Conference.) Not only is Maria an outstanding and very promising young scholar, she is also a dedicated family person and a very compassionate human being! Her interpersonal qualities have no doubt contributed to her being selected by the EU and other international organizations to represent them at numerous venues. Also, when I was president of INSEIT (2008-2011), I had the opportunity to work closely with Maria, who was elected to the INSEIT Board in 2009. During that period, I discovered first-hand that

Maria is not only a first-rate academician/scholar/administrator, but a wonderful colleague as well! So, in light of all her professional achievements (to date), as well as her collegial attributes, I am very pleased to nominate Maria Bottis for IACAP's 2014 Herbert A. Simon Award.

Please note that more detailed information about Dr. Maria Bottis, including her CV, is available <http://bottis.ihrb.gr/en/>. If you have any questions pertaining to my letter of nomination, or if I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at [htavani@rivier.edu](mailto:htavani@rivier.edu).

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