Jan Stajnko, PhD

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Curriculum Vitae

Academic Profile

Jan Stajnko, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maribor, where he teaches criminal law, criminal procedure and media law. His research focuses on European criminal law and mutual recognition instruments, with particular emphasis on the intersection of criminal law and the regulation of digital and social media environments, including freedom of expression, hate speech, disinformation, deepfakes and whistleblower protection.

He has been actively involved in EU and international research projects (including EU JUST, UNODC and NATO) and is a co-author of The Cambridge Companion to European Criminal Law. He also contributes as a national reporter within the International Association of Penal Law.

At the national level, he is recognized for his work in criminal law doctrine, including contributions to leading commentaries on the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act. His work has been cited by the Slovene Constitutional Court and repeatedly relied upon in the case law of the Supreme Court.

Research interests

- European criminal law and criminal procedure, with a focus on mutual recognition and cross-border investigations;
- Financial crime and enforcement in EU and comparative perspective;

- Criminal law and digitalisation, including media regulation, disinformation and platform governance;
- Foundations of criminal law theory (selected issues) and comparative criminal law.

Professional experience

2016 – *Assistant Professor (Department for Criminal Law), Faculty of Law, University of Maribor*

- Lecturing (course holder): **Criminal Law: Selected Topics (MA), International Criminal Law (MA), Misdemeanour Law (BA)**.
- Independently taught seminar sessions in **Criminal Procedural Law (BA)** and **Media Law (BA)**.
- Co-mentor to multiple Master's thesis, including a thesis on the European Investigation Order Directive awarded in 2025 by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Research activities, including **drafting of project proposals, coordination and research** involvement in national and international projects (including UNODC, NATO and EU JUST projects).
- Managing of the faculty's ERASMUS+ network and incoming academics as an **assistant to the ERASMUS+ coordinator**.
- Member of faculty commissions such as the Ethics Commission and the Commission for Amending the Examination Regulations.
- Mentor to students participating in international Model United Nations (MUN) competitions (Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Jordan, etc.).

2026 – Visiting Assistant Professor (Department for International and EU Law), Faculty of Law, University of Pécs

- Lecturing (block course holder): **European Criminal Law, Digital Platforms and Media Regulation (BA+MA).**

2026 – *AIDP Slovenian National Group at the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology in Slovenia*

- **Slovenian national reporter (AIDP)**, drafting and presenting the national report on "Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Criminal Law", in the section coordinated by Prof. Dr. Gert Vermeulen.

2025 – *Editor, Pécs Journal of International and European Law*

- Involved in **editorial decision-making** and development of the journal's academic profile in European criminal law.

2025 – *Journal Secretary, Przeglgd Karnistyczny, The Journal of Criminal Law*

- Language editing of academic papers in English language and assisting in the editorial process of a developing Polish academic journal.

2025 *Visiting Scholar (Fellowship Holder), Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

- **MPI scholarship holder** for research of continental criminal law instruments (social adequacy of conduct) in relation to topics including corruption, money laundering and sexual offences.

Select project participation

Present:

1. EU COST; *Globalization, Illicit Trade, Sustainability and Security* – »GLITSS«; 10. 2022 – 10. 2026. Action Chair: Francesco Giumelli, University of Groningen. Slovene member of the project Management Committee. Research focused on trafficking in human beings.

2. NATO STO; *HFM-SAS-406 The Ethical and Legal Challenges of Cognitive Warfare*; 4. 2025 – 4. 2028. Researcher focusing on criminal law aspects of cognitive warfare and freedom of expression.

3. **Minister of Education and Science (Poland)**; *Effective Justice - International and Comparative Approaches*; 1. 2025 – 12. 2027. Coordinator: Adam Mickiewicz University. Project performer, member of Section IV - Modelling Effective Criminal Justice in a Digital Era – Comparative Perspective. Research work focused on digital platform regulation and criminal procedure.

Past:

4. EU UAFP; *Professional Privileges in Financial Investigations: A European and Comparative Study on Administrative and Criminal Enforcement – »PRIVILEGED«*; 6. 2024 – 6. 2026. Coordinator: University of Luxembourg. Slovenian expert on professional privileges and financial investigation.

5. EU JUST; *Freezing ORders and Confiscation orders: Effort for common standards* – »FORCE«; 4. 2021 – 4. 2023. Coordinator: University of Torino. Core member of the Slovene

research team, tasked with coordination of Slovene, Croatian, Romanian, Czech and Austrian researchers.

6. ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Network*; Academic network supporting the EU policy towards Western Balkans with emphasis on regional cooperation based on reconciliation* – »ANETREC«; 9.2019 – 9. 2023. Coordinator: ISCOMET. Member of the academic network, expert on EU criminal law and policy. Research work focused on hate speech and freedom of expression.

7. EU JUST; *European Investigation Order – Legal Analysis and Practical Dilemmas of International Cooperation*, »EIO-LAPD«; 4. 2019 – 10. 2021. Coordinator: University of Maribor. Core member of the coordinator research team, tasked with coordination of the dissemination workpackage, national workshops and involved in the monograph publishing process.

8. EU ISF Police; *Whistleblowing open data impact. An implementation and impact assessment*, »WOODIE«; 1. 2019 – 4. 2021. Coordinator: University of Turin. Core member of the Slovene project partner team.

9. UNODC E4J; *The Culture of Lawfulness: International Training Workshop on utilizing the E4J University Modules in Central European Higher Education Institutions in Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia*; 10. 2020 – 3. 2021. Coordinator: University of Pécs. Principal investigator and coordinator of Slovene project partner team.

Education

2016 – 2026 *Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

- PhD study programme (criminal law);
- Doctoral thesis: Social Adequacy of Conduct in Criminal Law;
- The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law Fellowship 1. 2025 – 3. 2025 – research topic "Social Adequacy in Criminal Law";
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Award for best participant at "Current developments on financial crime, corruption and money laundering: European and international perspectives" Summer School 2022.

2013 – 2015 *Faculty of Law, University of Maribor, Slovenia*

- MA study programme;
- Master's thesis: The Role of Principles in Larenz and Dworkin's Legal Thought;
- GRAWE Excellence Award 2016 for the best students in the generation.

2014 *Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany*

- ERASMUS exchange programme.

2009 – 2013 *Faculty of Law, University of Maribor, Slovenia*

- BA study programme;
- BA thesis: Basic Norm – A Constitutional Predisposition?

Select bibliography

Monographs and Commentaries

1. M. Šepec (ed) et al. Praktični komentar Kazenskega zakonika, Posebni del [Practical Commentary of the Criminal Code, Special Part], Ljubljana: Lexpera, GV založba, 2026.

2. M. Šepec (ed) et al. Zakon o kazenskem postopku (ZKP) : s komentarjem [Criminal Procedure Act: Commentary], Ljubljana: Lexpera, GV založba, 2023.

3. D. Korošec; K. Filipčič; H. Devetak (eds) *et al*. *Veliki znanstveni komentar posebnega dela Kazenskega zakonika (KZ-1)* [Great Scientific Commentary of the Special Part of the Criminal Code]. Ljubljana: Uradni list Republike Slovenije; Pravna fakulteta Univerze v Ljubljani, 2023.

4. M. Šepec (ed) et al. *Kazenski zakonik (KZ-1): s komentarjem: splošni del* [Criminal Code: Commentary: General Part]. Ljubljana: Lexpera, GV založba, 2021.

Book chapters

5. Stajnko, J., Fetai, A. Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography – criminalising practices including and exceeding exploitation and abuse of children, in: Benyusz, M., Raisz, A., International children's rights, Miskolc; Budapest: CEA Publishing, 2024 pp. 181-208.

6. Stajnko, J., M. Šepec, P. Weingerl. Further Areas, in: K. Ambos, P. Rackow, The Cambridge companion to European criminal law, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. 206-227.

7. Šepec, M.; Dugar, T.; Stajnko, J. European investigation order – a comparative analysis of practical and legal dilemmas, in: Ambos, K.; Heinze, A.; Rackow, P.; Šepec, M. The European investigation order : legal analysis and practical dilemmas of international cooperation. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 2023, pp. 123-137.

Articles

8. Stajnko, J.; Siter, D.; Tomažič, L. M. Discrimination, freedom of expression and two concepts of liberty: assessing European legislation criminalizing hate speech. Hungarian journal of legal studies, No. 2 (2024), pp. 288-309.

9. E. Andreis; M. Šepec; J. Stajnko. La tutela della riservatezza dell'identità del whistleblower nel processo penale in Italia e Slovenia [Protection of Whistleblower's Identity in Criminal Trial of Italy and Slovenia], Archivio Penale, No. 1 (2021), pp. 1-37.

10. M. Šepec; J. Stajnko; K. Avsec; T. Dugar; Ž. Šuta; S. Žilič Fišer. The European whistleblowing directive: a legislative barrier between journalists and their sources?, Media, Culture & Society, Vol. 42, No. 7-8 (2020), pp. 1528-1544.

Select invited lectures and conference participation

1. S. Lannier, I. Rossoni, M. Szulecka, G. Bastounas, A. Constantinou, E. Brucknerová, M. Kimpimäki, M. C. Johansson, M. van Meeteren, J. Stajnko, Do we need to transpose Directive 2024/1712? European categories of exploitation under the human trafficking offense and the principle of legality. Conference presentation, EUROCRIM 2026, Warsaw, Poland, 9-12 September 2026, University of Warsaw.

2. J. Stajnko, Criminal law aspects of cognitive warfare. Workshop presentation, First HFM-SAS 406 CogWar Workshop, Stockholm, Sweden, 8-10 October 2025, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI).

3. J. Stajnko, Ljubljana-The Hague Convention in the context of cross-border gathering of evidence. Conference presentation, 25th International Scientific Conference "Challenges of International Criminal Law and Criminal Law", 13–16. June 2025, Palić, Serbia, The Association for International Criminal Law (AICL).

4. J. Stajnko, Cross-border Freezing and Confiscation of Assets in Criminal Proceedings – Introduction of FORCE Standards for the Application of Regulation 2018/1805. European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) training event, 19-13 May 2025, Ministry of Justice, Judicial Training Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

5. J. Stajnko, M. Wawrzyńczak, The Poland-Belarus Border Crisis and Trafficking in Human Beings - A Criminal Law Perspective. Conference presentation, Inovative Research Approaches in Combating Human Trafficking, Pécs, Hungary, 14-16 May 2025, University of Pécs, Faculty of Law.

6. J. Stajnko, Protecting Whistleblowers Against Retaliation - the European Approach. Conference presentation, International Anti-Corruption Conference, 14-15 April 2025, Gqeberha, South Africa, Nelson Mandela University, Faculty of Law.

7. J. Stajnko, A. Fetai, Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Conference presentation, International Conference "Children's Rights Days III", 5-6 December 2024, Budapest,

Hungary, Central European Academy Association for Children's Rights, University of Miskolc, Faculty of Law.

8. J. Stajnko, Recent developments in the EU legal framework regarding cross-border evidence gathering in criminal matters - from the European investigation order to electronic evidence. European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) training event presentation, 27-31 May 2024, Ministry of Justice, Judicial Training Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

9. J. Stajnko, E. Sacchetto, Application of Regulation 2018/1805: A comparative overview of relevant national legal frameworks. Chair of the Discussion panel. International Conference "Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders in the EU: Quo Vadis?", 21 March 2024, The European House of Authors, MEDAA, Brussels, Belgium, University of Torino, Department of Law, et al.

10. J. Stajnko, Regulating hate speech by means of criminal law. Invited lecture, ANETREC summer school "EU policy towards Western Balkans with emphasis on regional cooperation, based on reconciliation – results and challenges", 4-11 September 2022, Bitola, North Macedonia, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Law.

Languages

- Slovenian (Native speaker);
- German (Fluent, certificate DSD - Stufe C1);
- English (Fluent);
- Russian (Elementary knowledge, certificate ZESS Göttingen - Stufe A1);
- Croatian (Elementary knowledge).