

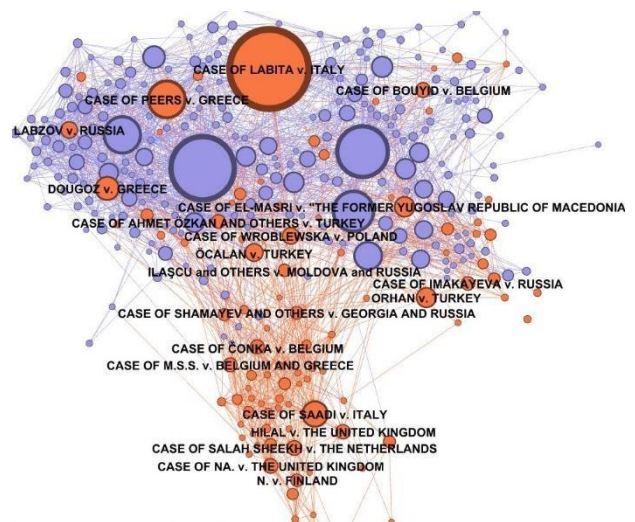
MOBILE Annual Highlights 2023

Creating a framework

During its first year, MOBILE invested significant time establishing a common analytical framework. Focus has been on **regime entanglement and legal infrastructures** as theories with potential to overcome existing divides in the study of mobility law. In September we held our **inaugural international workshop**, exploring how transdisciplinary understandings of infrastructure can yield new insights for law. Major outputs include a) a common conceptual framework paper; b) four articles applying the infrastructures framework across different areas of mobility law; and c) a special issue advancing a generally applicable approach to legal infrastructures, accepted for publication in the German Law Journal. The workshop moreover **consolidated the MOBILE team and core international collaborators**, while fostering new connections with other international scholars working in this area. Empirical testing of the analytical framework also began in 2023. New **field work and data collection** were commenced in **South America** and **West Africa**, and data collection and analysis in **Europe** was expanded, following up on pre-existing projects.

Pioneering new methods

In 2023, 33 papers were published in our **MOBILE preprint and working paper series**, spanning a range of thematic areas: free movement, maritime law, border control, travel documents, highly-skilled migration, asylum, and discrimination. Across outputs, a core ambition has been to **pioneer new methods and large-scale data analysis in law**. This has led to several key outputs, including contributions to two special issues on transdisciplinary methods in refugee law and on digital evidence, a new handbook on comparative judicial behaviour, as well as a number of articles employing network analysis and community detection algorithms to map large bodies of European case law. In collaboration with data scientists in Copenhagen and Aalborg, we have further **advanced applications of machine learning, natural language processing and Explainable AI (XAI)** by leveraging a unique dataset of Nordic asylum decisions. Results have been published in field science journals and conference proceedings, e.g. IEEE Access, Digital Society, JURISIN, NLLP, Computational Linguistics, and ICAIL. Together with 'AI for the People Center' MOBILE moreover published a **policy report on 'Mainstreaming Data Science across Domain Applications'**, setting out best practice and recommendations for this type of interdisciplinary research.



Case network showing regime entanglement between human rights and migration law

Building the environment

A key ambition for 2023 has been to establish the internal structures for a **supportive and diverse working environment that fosters research excellence**. The MOBILE team spans 13 nationalities, 5 continents, and 6 disciplines. Reflecting this, a **set of core principles for our work environment and collaboration** were drafted by the PhD and postdoc group. Among other things, the principles set out guidelines for data sharing, and commit senior staff to actively support early career researchers, also beyond current projects. Everyday collaboration is supported through different formats. **Weekly MOBILE Labs** ensure collective and detailed feedback on work-in-progress. **Skills Labs** enable internal methods training and cross-cutting discussions of empirical research strategies. **Center Slams** explore collaborative links with other relevant research centers. Finally, **Open Labs** and our **Visiting Programme** serve to position MOBILE as a global hub for mobility law research. The programme is already highly sought, and in 2023 we welcomed 7 international visiting scholars.