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Ferdinando Mazzearella – Academic Profile

Ferdinando Mazzearella studied Law at the Universities of Palermo and Aberdeen. In 1996, he graduated summa cum laude with a thesis entitled »*Iura in re* in the Middle Ages: Insights for an Inquiry into the Concept of Property throughout History«, for which he was awarded the »Edoardo Ruffini« Prize by the Accademia dei Lincei for the best Italian thesis in Legal History. In 2001, he obtained his PhD in Legal History from the University of Milan »La Statale«. In the same year, he attended the Advanced Course in European Union Law »R. Schuman« at LUISS University in Rome.

During this period, he was awarded several research grants by various institutions, including the Italian Ministry of Universities for research at the Archivo de la Corona de Aragón in Barcelona (1998), the Italian Centre for Studies on the Early Middle Ages (1999), and the University of Palermo for a project on »Trademarks and Consumer Protection from Bartolus de Saxoferrato to the Present Day« (2002). Since then, his research has focused on the history of European commercial and civil law, the history of European legal culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and law under totalitarian regimes.

In 2010, he obtained the qualification for an Associate Professorship in Legal History at the University of Naples SOB, and in 2017 the Italian National Scientific Habilitation for Full Professorship in Legal History. He has been a fellow at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt am Main (2009, 2012, 2018) and at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg »Legal Unity and Pluralism« in Münster (2023–2024).

He has been a guest lecturer at several universities, including Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, and the University of Münster. His teaching experience also extends to doctoral and postgraduate programmes, including the Master's programme in Law at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, the PhD Programme in Human Rights at the University of Palermo, the PhD Programme in Law at Goethe University Frankfurt, the PhD Programme in Civil and Roman Law at Sapienza University of Rome, and CE-DANT (Centre for Studies and Research on Ancient Law) at the Ghislieri College in Pavia.

From 2017 to 2019, he was one of the principal investigators of the research project »Civil Law in the Post-Bourgeois Era: 100 Years of Private Social Law in Germany, France and Italy«, funded by the German-Italian Centre for Eu-ropean Dialogue Villa Vigoni. Since 2019, he has been Full Professor of Legal History at the University of Palermo, and since 2025 an Associated Re-searcher at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg »Legal Unity and Pluralism« in Münster.