

## **Short bio**

Matteo Ferrari obtained a phd in comparative private law from the University of Trento in 2008, working on a dissertation on the food safety reforms occurred in Europe, USA and Japan in the wake of the mad cow crisis, which has been published by Ahsgate in 2009. He is currently post-doc research associate at the Faculty of Law of McGill University and research fellow of the LawTech Centre of the University of Trento. He has been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship for two years with a project analyzing the protection of geographical indications for foodstuffs in comparative perspective. He teaches Diritto alimentare comparato at the Facoltà di giurisprudenza of the University of Trento and Comparative food law at the Faculty of Law of McGill University.

## **Information and beyond: the role of private certification bodies**

### **Abstract**

The increasing recourse to private certification schemes in the food domain poses some interesting questions with regard to, among others, the nature and functions of certifications, the shift from a public to a private paradigm of control, the accountability of private certification bodies. The presentation aims at providing an initial analytical framework for dealing with some of the problems that the use of certifications involves. In particular, attention will be devoted to the different types of certifications used in the food sector, to the nature of the information which is generated and transmitted by the certification process, to the mechanisms through which the certifiers can be held accountable for the services they perform.