

RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

<https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/>

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear friends and colleagues,

There are many important events ahead of us in the coming months. We have the RCSL elections. Masayuki Murayama, the RCSL past president is inviting nominations and organising them for which I am very grateful to him. You can find the announcement and more details in this Newsletter and Masayuki will send out the necessary information in time. As the elections are connected to the ISA World Congress which this year is in Melbourne, the new President and the new board members will take office the day after the Congress which is the 2nd of July 2023.

RCSL has 14 sessions in Melbourne, 11 invited and open sessions and three joint sessions with other research committees. 14 is the maximum number we were granted.

From the 30th of August to the 1st of September our RCSL Conference takes place in Lund. I have given information about it several times, and you can find more details in this Newsletter. The deadline for the submission of papers is the 28th of February 2023. If you have questions, please, write to the local organiser in Lund: Michael Molavi michael.molavi@soclaw.lu.se. For Melbourne ISA funds students' participation with payment of registration fees and ISA membership fees. For Lund RCSL will award travel funding for some students. Sharyn Roach Anleu, RCSL vice president Barbara Bello, RCSL secretary und Michael Molavi will deal with it.

In this Newsletter you also find again the announcement for the Podgorecki Prize which this year is for a "senior" scholar for lifetime achievement in sociology of law. The awards ceremony for last year's prize which went to Melissa Crouch from Australia and this year's prize will be held in Lund.

Sabine Frerichs the current Scientific Director at the IISL writes about her first months in her term in Onati.

If you wish, to organise a workshop in Onati in 2024, remember that the applications are due at the end of February and don't forget to advertise the Onati socio-legal master program in your universities and research institutions. Inscription starts soon.

And please don't forget to register or reregister as RCSL member. We need you as members in order to be a strong association and to have the means to support our young sociologists of law.

This is my last Newsletter as RCSL President after 4 ½ years in this office. But it is still too early to look back and take stock of the interesting and eventful times. I will do it in the autumn Newsletter.

I hope to meet many of you in Lund,

All the best,

Ulrike Schultz

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THE “LIVING LAW” 100 YEARS AFTER EUGEN EHRLICH. TWO WORKSHOPS IN PARIS AND FRANKFURT

Eugen Ehrlich died in 1922, not yet 60 years old, in poverty, from diabetes, which was incurable at the time. Behind the exiled Professor of Roman Law laid a life with highs and lows: with rejection by many leading Austrian/German legal scholars but international acclaim, the satisfaction of being able to demonstrate his approach with empirical fieldwork, but discrimination for political (and likely antisemitic) reasons. Many excellent scholars stood around the cradle of the sociology of law, but, with Klaus F. Röhl, it can be said that Ehrlich’s book “Grundlagen der Soziologie des Rechts” (“Foundations of the Sociology of Law” in Moll’s English translation) forms the “foundation document” of our subject discipline (Röhl/Machura 2013, 1117).

In September 2022, two conferences were organized to celebrate Ehrlich’s work, take stock, and assess its relevance for the future. A group of Parisian colleagues (Picture 1) invited academics from the host country, from Japan, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom to the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne to discuss Ehrlich’s work and its possible adaptations and uses today. The symposium titled “L’actualité de la pensée d’Eugen Ehrlich pour les méthodes empiriques du droit” (September 22 and 23, 2022) concentrated on the last two chapters of Ehrlich’s “Grundlegung”, the methods chapters. The presenters covered perspectives from legal history and legal theory (Ralf Seinecke, Frankfurt; Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Kent), sociology of law (including Jean-Baptiste Scherrer, Paris; Alain Pottage, Paris; David Nelken, London; Werner Gephart, Bonn; Garronco Navarro-Ug , Paris; Yoshiki Kurumisawa, Tokyo;  veline Serverin, Paris; Michel Coutu, Montreal; Claude Didry, Paris; Marc Hertogh, Groningen, and the writer of these lines); as well as anthropology (Judith Beyer, Konstanz; Nafay Chaudhury, Cambridge).



Picture 1: From left to right: Nathalie Sacksick, Pierre Brunet, Clara Gavelli, Jean-Baptiste Scherrer, Linxin He (photo S. Machura)

The symposium was held bilingually, in French and English, and the odd sentence in German was thrown in for good measure. Further colleagues from yet more countries followed the discussion online and asked questions in the chat.

Unfortunately, Ehrlich is almost unknown in France as his works are not translated into French. The organisers of the event are planning to change this and are thinking of not only publishing papers from the symposium, but also about ways to translate key works of Ehrlich. For sure, publications on Ehrlich are filling many bookshelves, yet the Austrian scholar was typically misunderstood. Ehrlich himself is partly to blame as he was more the creative and polemic essayist and less a systematic thinker. In addition, the impact of World War One, when Russian troops conquered Czernovitz, his home city, several times, as well as his advancing ill health led to the legal scholar’s inability to finish his publication programme. What we know as the “Grundlegung” was only the first volume in a series of three (Rehbinder 2022, 5). The second volume should have covered Ehrlich’s legal dogmatics, and a third volume his empirical findings in the Bukovina province. Of these, only parts of the second book were published and they demonstrate clearly – countering a common misperception – that Ehrlich did not intend to allow judges to deviate from the legal code. On the contrary, where the legislator has foreseen the conflict and the interests involved in it, the judge was to be strictly bound by the law (Ehrlich 1967, 187). Perhaps, the term “free finding of law” which Ehrlich coined may give a false impression to the uninitiated reader from the start. Only where there is a genuine gap, where the code falls silent, do the sociological background knowledge and the observation skills of the judge have their place (Ehrlich 1925, 309-313). This reduces the many meters of publications on Ehrlich to a more manageable few in which the authors take into account the full range of Ehrlich’s theories.



Picture 2: Group photo of participants at the Paris symposium (Printed with kind permission of Y. Kurumisawa)

The most prominent sociological concept of Ehrlich must be the “living law”. Yet, as the discussion in Paris (and at the Frankfurt conference in the following week) also showed, its meaning remains often unclear. The best way to approach this is possibly to distinguish two manners of speech in Ehrlich’s sociology of law. When

Ehrlich is in rhetorical mode, he uses “living law” to basically sell his ideas, drawing on the contemporary popularity of the expression “living”, but when he writes analytically, he juxtaposes “societal law” and “state law” (Vogl 2003, 161-162, 170). According to Ehrlich, law is either developing outside of the state, with most of the law originating there, or by the state.

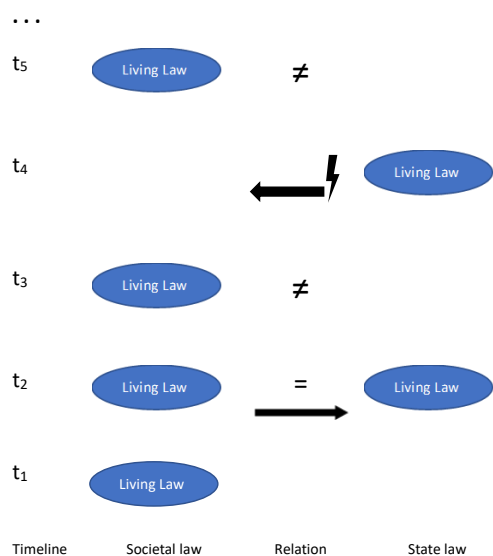


Figure 1: Living law, societal law and state law according to Ehrlich's dynamic model (Source: S. Machura)

The “living law” is simply the law that is actually practiced. And as law is originating mostly in the society as a response to ever-changing social or economic problems, the “living law” tends to be of the non-state variant. Only from time to time does the legislation manage to catch up with societal law (situation t_2 in Figure 1), but soon forces in society (the “associations”) further develop the law (t_3). According to Ehrlich, state intervention is often to the detriment of the situation, but with its force, the state can at times constrain the use of law (t_4). Yet, it lies within the logic of Ehrlich's ideas that the state will not be successful for long (t_5). Therefore, depending on the case at hand, the “living law” can or cannot consist of state law. For example, when a state tax system recognises useful business expenses as tax deductible, and thus validates business practice, the state law is like the societal law and as they are alike, state law is simultaneously “living law”. At the symposium, Nafay Chaudhury demonstrated that after the ousting of the Taliban in 2001, the newly established Afghan Central Bank had to formally accept, as law, the way in which money traders at the Kabul money market self-organised their business. To continue with the tax example, exporters of technology may start to pay bribes to officials in developing countries and to tax deduct the expenses. Driven by moral concern, politicians may then change the tax law and, with the costs no longer able to be included in the firm's bookkeeping, the practice may cease (t_4). Yet, after a while, a new “useful” practice is developed, for example, instead of employing the blunt instrument of

money handouts, things like lavish PhD scholarships to relatives of decision-makers are offered (t_5), or the company pays for a hospital in a politician's constituency. As these examples have tried to demonstrate, Ehrlich actually has a dynamic model of how law develops and takes effect, how society's practices become state law, and how state law reflects back to society. The term “living law” covers these forwards and backwards.

Yet, all depends on the assumption that there is something like societal “law”. And the root of the famous debate between Kelsen and Ehrlich (reprinted in: Lüderssen 2003) lies exactly here. As David Nelken explained at the Sorbonne conference, it ended with Ehrlich challenging Kelsen to a duel. Had Kelsen agreed, it could have ended badly for him, as fencing was Ehrlich's hobby. Ehrlich did not want Kelsen to actually take up the challenge, he wanted to make his point. Of course, a duel was forbidden by the penal code, but it was a feature of “living law” at the time, including in academic circles, just the kind of law the existence of which Kelsen stubbornly denied.

Does Ehrlich merit attention for reasons other than the history of sociology of law or of legal history? Separately, Marc Hertogh and I argued that this indeed is the case, partly drawing on studies of legal consciousness linking them to the assumption of Ehrlich that law has a foundation in people's emotional relation to law. The point was well taken by the audience, familiar with the similar theory of Durkheim, the key author of French sociology.

A week later, in Frankfurt, and with proceedings now in the German language, Ehrlich was remembered. The Max Planck-Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Department of Multidisciplinary Legal Theory, headed by Marietta Auer, had invited scholars not only from Germany, but from Japan, the UK, Switzerland, and Austria. Here, Ralf Seinecke acted as co-organiser, taking a more appreciative view of Ehrlich than the institute director who missed system and clarity in Ehrlich's oeuvre. From the presenters in Paris, Seinecke and the author of these lines contributed. Personally, I was especially looking forward to the presentation of Stefan Vogl (Kyoto), who apart from Manfred Rehbinder, must be the leading international Ehrlich scholar. This time, Vogl explained the divergent perspectives of Pound and Ehrlich, with both being influenced by the very different legal issues in their societies. Pound misunderstood (or misrepresented?) Ehrlich's theory in many respects, Vogl argued. Doris Schweitzer (Frankfurt at the Main) showed how Ehrlich was initially received by German sociologists. Most of the presenters and definitely most of the audience at the legal history institute were interested in relating Ehrlich to predecessors and contemporaries among legal scholars. As for the Paris conference, only a selection of contributions will be reported here. Very impressively, emeritus professor Joachim Rückert of the Institute provided a plethora of comments, especially on Ehrlich's relation to the *Historische Rechtsschule* in Germany. Nikolaus Linder (Göttingen) illuminated the position of Ehrlich as a scholar of Roman Law. Ehrlich has written little on the subject he was teaching at Czernovitz, but he read the ancient

sources from an original perspective that challenged the predominant interpretation at his time. Romanists have forgotten his contribution, but in recent years Ehrlich's interpretation of Roman Law was vindicated by new publications. A bibliometric study on Ehrlich in the literature was introduced by Christian Boulanger (Frankfurt at the Main). As Boulanger explained, the software is not yet ready to adequately cover especially the German literature, in which footnotes are the predominant form of citation. This said, the available data show different times at which Ehrlich was quoted in different countries. Unlike at the Paris symposium, a vocal minority of the Frankfurt participants expressed passionate opposition to Ehrlich and his work on the grounds of a lack of clear systematic argument. This may be a view held particularly by those preferring the legal dogmatic literature and to stand on the firm grounds of the codified law. For sociologists of law and all interested in a fuller picture of legal phenomena, the perspective must however include the "non-state law". Again, a book with the conference papers is in preparation.

All in all, both conferences reflect a renewed interest in the works of Eugen Ehrlich, its predecessors, contemporary relations, and the fluctuating and selective impact of his work. Although Ehrlich is an important figure, a lot of detail is still missing. For example, we don't know anything about his years as a lawyer, waiting to get a paid teaching position. What cases did he deal with? Did they influence the turn his academic interests took towards a sociologically grounded jurisprudence?

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RC SL CONFERENCE IN LUND

The Annual Meeting of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law will be held on 30 August – 1 September 2023 hosted by Lund University's Department of Sociology of Law.

Law, Society and Digital Pasts, Presents and Futures sets out to explore the latest concepts and practices of digital societies. It asks how digitalization reconfigures law, citizenship/denizenship, democracy, markets, identity and everyday forms of life and resistance. In doing so, the conference discusses how socio-legal methods are more relevant than ever in examining how digital technologies impact and take form after states, markets, law and citizens/denizens. With this focus, we aim to show how past, present and future societies are mediated through digital technologies and law. The broader aim is to consider the role of socio-legal scholars when engaging with digital technologies. We hope to spark renewed discussion of sociology and law at a time when an increasing number of national and global actors pose challenges to democracy and the rule of law.

The conference coincides with the 50th anniversary of Lund's Department of Sociology of Law. The plenary sessions will feature Professor Emeritus Håkan Hyden (Lund University) discussing this momentous occasion in a panel dedicated to the forthcoming book, *Combining the Legal and the Social in Sociology of Law: A Homage to Reza Banakar*, alongside a few chapter contributors. Additional sessions will feature a panel of regional law and technology scholars to introduce the field – Professor Sofia Ranchordás (University of Tilburg/Lund University) and Drs Stefan Larsson (Lund University) and Jannice Käll (Lund University) – as well as a lecture by Dr. Serena Natile (University of Warwick).

Apart from paper proposals, the RC SL Working Groups are also encouraged to submit sessions. To submit papers, register, and access detailed information about the RC SL Conference 2023, visit www.rcslconference2023.com. The Call for Papers closes 28 February 2023. All those submitting will be notified of decisions by 15 March 2023. Early bird registration closes 10 April 2023, and the late registration deadline is 10 June 2023.

Please note that this is a physical conference. Session organizers may accept, in special cases, papers to be presented remotely via Zoom, which they will have to arrange independently.

The organizing research committee for the Annual Meeting is comprised of RC SL President Ulrike Schultz, Vice-Presidents Pierre Guibentif and Sharyn Roach Anleu, Secretaries Barbara Bello and Laura Noemi Lara, and Lund University faculty members, Professor Ole Hammerslev and Drs Michael Molavi and Jannice Käll.

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RCSL STUDENT FUNDING FOR THE RCSL LUND CONFERENCE

The RCSL board has decided to give some funding for students to attend the RCSL Conference in Lund which takes place from the 30th of August till the 1st of September 2023.

There will be 5 x 300 Euro of support for European students and 3 x up to 800 Euro for students from other continents. Preference is given to students from B and C countries.

We have set up a committee dealing with the funding. The committee is chaired by RCSL Vice-President Sharyn Roach Anleu.

If you want to apply, please, fill in the form below and send it by e-mail to Barbara Bello barbaragbello@gmail.com and Cc to Sharyn Roach Anleu sharyn.roachanleu@flinders.edu.au till the 28th of February 2023.

You have to submit your paper proposal for Lund also till the 28th of February 2023 via the Conference website www.rcslconference2023.com

That does not create any immediate financial obligation for you, you can withdraw the paper later if you do not have the funds to go to Lund. Early bird registration for Lund is till April 10th, 2023.

Please, use the form below for your application. We will inform you till the 15th of March 2023 about the decision taken.

Ulrike Schultz

Student application for funding for 2023 RCSL conference in Lund, Sweden, from 30th of August till 1st of September 2023

1. Name of Participant Requesting Funds:
2. Nationality:
3. Status (student, master student, PhD student):
4. Affiliation:
5. Email Contact:
6. Please, state why you need travel funding:
7. Students from Europe can apply for up to 300 Euro, overseas student for up to 800 Euros. Please, state the sum you are applying for:
8. Which paper do you plan to present in Lund:
9. Please, submit the paper before sending this application. This is the conference link where you find the submission site: <https://sv-se.eu.invajo.com/event/sociologyoflawdepartmentlunduniversity/law%2Csocietyanddigitalpast%2Cpresentsandfutures> There is no financial obligation resulting from submitting a

paper, registration is later and you can still withdraw your paper later.

10. We expect you to be or become RCSL member.

Here the link to the membership form: <https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form>

The 4-year membership fee for students from category A countries is 50 Euro, for students from B and C countries 25 Euros. You can also ask for a fee waiver in cases of hardship. We presume that those asking for funding will also ask for a fee waiver. But, please, ask for it separately on the membership form.

11. Please, give here your banking details:

Please, send this application to Barbara Giovanna Bello barbaragbello@gmail.com, Cc to the chair of the funding committee Sharyn Roach Anleu sharyn.roachanleu@flinders.edu.au

WELCOME TO BANGOR, NORTH WALES, HOSTING THE RCSL CONFERENCE IN 2024.

From 3 to 6 September 2024, we at Bangor University will have the honour and pleasure to host the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) conference. On behalf of the local organising committee, I would like to invite you to consider taking part.

The conference topic is "Representing Law" and alludes to the necessity to represent, symbolise, and communicate law. It covers a range of socio-legal topics RCSL members and others are researching, such as the work of lawyers, the handling of law by public officials, law in the arts and in popular culture. Moreover, all RCSL working groups will have the opportunity to meet and organise their own panels. Indeed, every presentation related to sociology of law (in the widest sense) is warmly welcome!

Founded in 1884, Bangor is a medium-sized research university in a small city surrounded by an area of outstanding natural beauty. The School of History, Law and Social Sciences has a special focus on socio-legal topics. One of the earliest universities in the United Kingdom to offer criminology degrees, Bangor has now also made a name for police studies. Law at Bangor historically started from within the social sciences. The latter here at Bangor also include sociology and social policy. Students can study through the medium of Welsh or English.

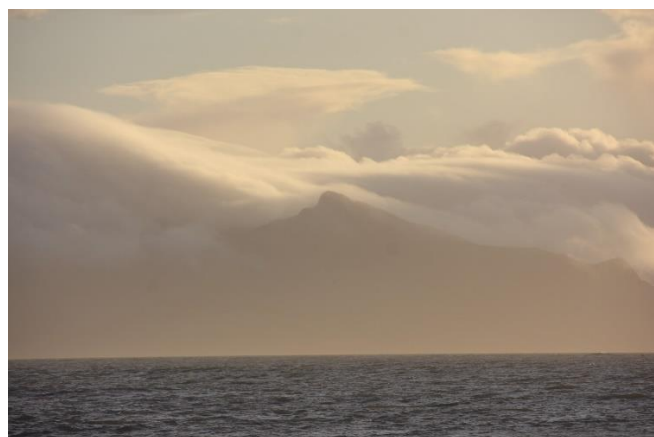
Travel to Bangor is straight-forward as it is located by a main train line from London and the A55 express road. The nearest airports are Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham; the first mentioned is a 90-minute drive from Bangor. Regular ferries connect the nearby harbour of Holyhead with Ireland.

The conference will be in the historic main building of Bangor University, offering a lot of atmosphere and

views of the mountains of Snowdonia and of the Menai Strait. Our by-programme will have guided tours and cultural events are also planned. For a short break from sessions, there are cafés, green spaces, and the temptation to enjoy stunning views from the Bangor pier within walking distance.

You will be spoiled for choice when it comes to accommodation. The organising committee has reserved very affordable rooms in Bangor's student halls and hotel rooms in the Management Centre located directly on campus. North Wales is a prime tourist location so there is a wide variety of B&Bs, hotels and camping sites on offer. Neighbouring villages and towns such as Menai Bridge, Caernarfon and Llandudno are connected by public transport.

Through the university, Bangor offers an international atmosphere. In the vicinity, most people are first-language Welsh speakers. The Celtic language is very different from English, but everyone speaks English too. During your stay, you can hear Welsh used by people in the university and the city, but it is also worth switching on a Welsh language TV or radio programme to get the sound of it. Music is a key part of Welsh culture.



Mount Snowdon seen from Anglesey. Picture: S. Machura.

You may want to consider an extended stay in the area. The counties of Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy offer a wide range of tourist attractions. Caernarfon and Conwy, for example, are historic walled cities by the sea. At the outskirts of Bangor is Penrhyn Castle, well worth a visit and exemplifying the connection between the wealth of the historic ruling class, labour exploitation and slavery. Another place to visit is Plas Newydd, mansion of the Earl of Anglesey, and its picturesque park at the Menai Strait. The small seaside town of Beaumaris on Anglesey, offering spectacular views of the Menai Strait and the mountains of Snowdonia, is popular with tourists and, more importantly perhaps for socio-legal scholars, has a historic court museum and a prison museum. Here, you can learn about crime, law and punishment in past centuries from the exhibitions. I hasten to add that Anglesey is a much safer and quieter place these days and the quality of justice did improve!



Copyright Stefan Machura

Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways train leaving Porthmadog harbour, heading for Blaenai Ffestiniog. Picture: S. Machura.

North west Wales offers the combination of seaside and alpine mountains. Up Mount Snowdon is a popular walk, rewarding the hardy with a lasting experience. The less physically fit can take the narrow-gauge train to the summit. Railway fans will be able to spend days travelling on steam-hauled trains in North Wales if they wish so. At the foot of Mount Snowdon, the town of Llanberis has an excellent slate mine museum, exemplifying work and living conditions in the industrial past. Beaches and dunes stretching for many miles invite the keen walker. A coastal path leads around Anglesey and mainland Wales. Sea birds, grazing ponies and – with luck and depending on the location – sea turtles, seals and dolphins can be spotted. Weather permitting, swimming at one of the many beaches is popular.

Combining the 2024 Bangor conference with a holiday is also a good option for families. Kids and those who are young at heart, can find attractions such as the Sea Zoo, the Chocolate Shop at Foel Farm, or the Tacla Taid Anglesey Transport Museum. The boat ride to Puffin Island from Beaumaris is also tempting.

To summarize, Bangor 2024 is bound to be a conference not to be missed, with something for everyone!

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REPORT OF THE IISL BY THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Five months into my term as Scientific Director of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) in Oñati, in the Basque Country, I would like to share this brief report with the RC SL community. As most of you will know, the main activities of the IISL are the Master's programme, the workshop programme, and the visiting scholars' programme, which open the Institute for an international community of researchers, teachers and students.

The International Master's Programme in Sociology of Law brought a dozen of students from nine different countries to Oñati last year, who are attending twelve

courses of two weeks in the period from September to March. After that, they will work on their thesis research projects and, hopefully, defend their theses in early September. This academic year teaching went back to normal, and the students can get the full Oñati experience again, of closely studying, working and living together with changing incoming teachers. Some courses in the programme also attract PhD students who come as visiting researchers.

One of my tasks and privilege in the last few months has been to select courses and teachers for the Master's programme in the following academic year 2023-24. I did this with the aim of keeping the balanced structure of the programme, which is accredited with the University of the Basque Country, while setting a few different accents and enlarging the pool of teachers. You will find the new programme and other updated information on our website (www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-master/presentation). You are welcome to share this with your students or junior colleagues potentially interested in single courses in this field.

For the workshop programme 2023, which you will likewise find on our website (www.iisj.net/en/workshops/workshop-calendar/2023), the season is going to start in April. Should one of the workshops be of interest, please do enquire about the possibilities to attend. For the following year 2024, the call for workshop proposals is still open until end of February 2023. If you have a research collaboration and publication project in mind, for which a workshop in Oñati could be the right catalyst, please consider applying. Besides the special location and atmosphere of the IISL, we provide organisational support, affordable accommodation, and publication venues.

As a visiting researcher, you can make use of the facilities of the IISL, especially the library, almost throughout the year (except for the holiday periods of the IISL), enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in a writing retreat, and meet fellow researchers from around the world. You can also use your stay to think with us about the past, present, and future of the Institute.

At present as also in previous times, there are considerations as to how to both preserve and further develop the potential of the IISL: as an international hub for the sociology of law and socio-legal research, as an academic institution harbouring excellent on-site teaching and research, and as an interlocutor with local actors and institutions contributing its share to Basque society and political culture. Thinking about these different dimensions is intriguing, and all your ideas, contributions and commitments are greatly valued.

As a non-profit foundation outside of university structures (but linked through the Master's programme) the IISL is also administratively speaking an interesting microcosm. This shapes my everyday experience as Scientific Director as much as the international encounters, which makes this workplace really unique. About my own approach to the sociology of law, you may read, if you wish, on the IISL website (www.iisj.net/en/about-iisl/scientific-director).

Sabine Frerichs
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CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) located in Oñati, Spain is issuing a call through the Research Committee for the Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association for nominations for the position of Scientific Director. The term of the Scientific Director (SD) at the IISL is typically two years, unless exceptional circumstances justify an extension. The current SD's term ends in August 2024 and a new Director commences in September. Outstanding scholars around the world working in the field of law and society are invited to submit an expression of interest in the position of Scientific Director of the IISL for the 2024-2026 term.

The IISL is a leading institution for the sociology of law, with an international reputation: <http://www.iisj.net/>. IISL welcomes students and faculty from around the world for the master's program and has created a worldwide network of socio-legal scholars and researchers through international workshops, conferences, and summer courses each year, as well as individual visitors. The IISL hosts one of the leading libraries for sociology of law. It offers grants to support visitors and publishes highly regarded book series and journals. It contributes decisively to the reputation of the Basque Country with respect to academic research and professional training. It plays an essential role in the life of the RCSL <https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/>. The IISL celebrated its 30th anniversary with a RCSL Conference in Oñati in June 2019 <http://www.iisj.net/es/node/2126>.

The Scientific Director will become a fellow of the Ikerbasque Foundation for Scientific Research in the Basque Country and a distinguished professor at the University of the Basque Country during the term.

The successful candidate is expected to meet the qualifications for excellence of the Ikerbasque Foundation. They will have a doctorate (Ph.D. or equivalent) received at least 8 years before application. The criteria for appointment include outstanding scientific merit and research track-record, research experience, publications and scholarly excellence in line with Basque research capabilities, in this case the IISJ (see <https://www.ikerbasque.net/en>). The Foundation's regulations apply to the salary and the Scientific Director shall be a member of the RCSL.

The SD will be provided with an office at the Institute and will receive the support of all the staff. Family accommodation will be provided in the Antia College Residence in Oñati at a moderate cost.

If you are interested in the position of Scientific Director, please email an expression of interest addressing the criteria, a research statement, and your curriculum vitae by no later than 31st of March 2023. Send these to Professor Alfons Bora <alfons.bora@uni-bielefeld.de>, the chair of the independent Nominating Committee appointed by RCSL President Ulrike Schultz in consultation with the RCSL board. The other members of the Committee are Professor Joxerramon Bengoetxea and Professor

Sharyn Roach Anleu. The application can include letters of support by colleagues in sociology of law, preferably RC SL members.

The Nominating Committee will review all applications, in order to determine if they meet the requirements of the Ikerbasque Foundation. It will submit a short list to the RC SL President who will forward the names of two candidates to the Ikerbasque Foundation for consideration. The final candidate will be selected by the IISL Board. You may find a detailed description of the role of the SD in organising and promoting the academic work of IISL and a profile of the SD, on the RC SL website at http://rcsl.iscte.pt/rcsl_iisl_SD_profile.htm. For further information on the procedure, please contact Alfons Bora or Ulrike Schultz (ulrike.schultz@fernuni-hagen.de). If you have questions about the Basque scientific environment, please contact Joxerramon Bengoetxea (joxerramon.bengoetxea@ehu.eus). (For details of the administrative status of the SD, please, contact the IISJ Administrative Director Maite Elorza (m.elorza@iisj.es).

BOOKS

Maclean, Mavis, Treloar, Rachel and Dijksterhuis, Bregje (eds.) *What Is a Family Justice System For?* 288 p., ISBN 9781509950973 (Oxford: Hart, 2022)

Following their first online IISL Workshop in September 2021 members of the family justice subgroup of the WG on Legal Professions and colleagues have now published one year later "What is a Family Justice System For?" edited by Maclean, Treloar and Dijksterhuis in the Onati International Series .

There has been increasing interest in finding forms of alternative dispute resolution for family matters, particularly family mediation, in a climate of widespread concern about the growing demands being made on family courts. Justice departments in many jurisdictions have been seeking ways to reduce demand and hence delays in dealing with cases, as well as the rising costs of family justice systems. But in the midst of these debates, some of us became interested in what a family court was being expected to offer. Given that family disputes arise from problems, and given the development of welfare expertise used in evidence to courts, is there an element of problem solving rather than solely adjudication in the family justice system? Or is the interest in mediation predominantly a search for a cheaper form of professional intervention? Are we seeing changes being made to the boundaries of state intervention, whereby family issues are seen as a private matter unless the state has a direct reason for intervention in protecting a child or an adult from risk of harm?

This book explores these issues across a number of jurisdictions and asks whether the family justice system has a function beyond decision-making in dispute resolution. It is divided into 4 parts:

- Part 1 asks what constitutes a family justice system in different jurisdictions, and how a welfare element is included in the legal framework.

- Part 2 looks at those engaged with a family justice system as professionals and users.

- Part 3 evaluates new ways of working within a family justice system.

- Part 4 explores recent major changes of direction for the family justice systems of Australia, Argentina, and Germany.

The book can be ordered online at www.bloomsbury.com – use the code GLR T5TUK for UK orders and GLR T5TUS for US orders to get a 20% reduction.

Mavis Maclean
mavis.maclean@spi.ox.ac.uk

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE PODGORECKI PRIZE 2023

The Podgòrecki Prize alternates each year between awards for outstanding achievements in socio-legal research, for (1) distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements, and (2) outstanding scholarship of a socio-legal researcher at an earlier stage of his or her career. In 2023, the Prize goes to a senior legal scholar for outstanding lifetime achievements.

Further information can be found on the RC SL website <https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/rules>

The prize will be a commemorative certificate. Nominations for the RC SL-ISA Adam Podgòrecki Prize require the support of two or more RC SL members. All nominations will be reviewed by an Award Subcommittee, consisting of three socio-legal scholars nominated by the RC SL Board. The members of the 2023 Podgòrecki Prize Committee are: Christian Boulanger, Germany (chair), Jiri Priban, U.K. and Alysia Blackham, Australia.

The nominations should be sent to Christian Boulanger till the 31st of March 2023: boulanger@ihlt.mpg.de The prize will be awarded at the RC SL Conference in Lund/Sweden which takes place from 30th of August till 1st of September 2023.

RC SL ELECTIONS 2023

In 2023 RC SL calls the **election for members of the RC SL board and the RC SL President**.

The elections always take place in the year of the ISA World Congress which will be in Melbourne from 25 June to 1 July 2023. The newly elected candidates will take office on the last day of the congress, July 1 2023. The next election will be in another 4 years. The last elections were in 2018. Due to the Corona lock-downs the ISA World Congress in Melbourne was postponed by a year, and the current term of office was therefore exceptionally extended by a year.

At the last RCSL board meeting on the 9th of January 2023, the RCSL board

nominated the electoral committee. The chair will be Masayuki Murayama (Japan), former RCSL President, with additional members Mavis Maclean, U.K., Letizia Mancini, Italy, and Germano Schwartz, Brazil. The procedure will be by electronic vote. Masayuki Murayama will set up the system. He will send the link in due course.

Only **RCSL members have a vote and can be elected**, so, socio-legal scholars should not forget to renew their RCSL membership or to become RCSL members, <https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form> Manttoni from IISL is dealing with the membership process.

The President and 7 board members are to be elected. The board at its first meeting elects from among its members two vice-presidents, a secretary acting also as treasurer, and an RCSL representative and an alternate representative to the Research Council of the ISA. Details of the regulations can be found in part 5 and 6 of the RCSL statutes.

The President of the RCSL shall not be immediately re-elected. The other elected members of the Board shall not be elected more than twice consecutively.

Candidates for the office of President and as board members can be nominated or can self-nominate.

The RCSL board is not only composed of elected members. The Working Group chairs are also ex-officio board members.

RCSL and its board are working closely together with the IISL in Onati and have a marked impact on the international comparative sociology of law.

The electoral committee will prepare a form inviting nominations which will be sent to all regular RCSL members at the beginning of February 2023. For questions about the procedure, please contact the chair of the electoral committee: masayuki.murayama@gmail.com. The e-mails of the other members of the electoral committee are: mavis.maclean@spi.ox.ac.uk; letizia.mancini@unimi.it; germano.schwartz@laureate.com.br.

RCSL MEMBERSHIP AND FEES RENEWAL

The form to become a RCSL member or renew membership, can be found at:

<https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form>

Mantoni Kortabarría Madina
m.kortabarría@iisj.es

CALL FOR BOOK DONATIONS

The wonderful Library of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law is suffering. For the last ten years, the institute's budget has been almost "frozen" and the library could hardly keep pace with new developments. It is still perhaps the world's most comprehensive library in our field. A most recent analysis of the

acquisitions showed that, especially for the years 2015-2018, an insufficient number of books came to fill up the shelves there. This was especially true for four of the seven areas of the library, e.g. Legal Norms, Social Control, Conflict Resolution and Legal and Judicial Occupations. For other significant subjects, such as law & behavioral sciences and law and digital technologies, as well as for anthropology of law, gaps are particularly visible. Non-English publications, also, are far less available than in the early days of the Institute.

The RCSL invites its members to contribute by offering a free copy of their own recent publications as a donation to the IISL library. This gesture would be helpful for solving our problems and would of course be highly appreciated. You can easily check on-line whether your publications are already present there (<http://www.iisj.net/en/library/about-library>).

RCSL GOVERNING BOARD August 2018 - July 2023

President:	Ulrike Schultz
Immediate Past President:	Masayuki Murayama
Vice-Presidents:	Pierre Guibentif Sharyn Roach Anleu
Secretary:	Lucero Ibarra Rojas Barbara Bello Laura Lora
Elected Board Members except Vice-Presidents and Secretary:	Swethaa Ballakrishnen Luigi Cominelli Lucero Ibarra Rojas Laura Lora
Co-opted Non-Voting Board Members:	Stefan Larsson Melissa Crouch

Working Group Chairs are also Board members.

FOUNDING MEMBERS: Adam Podgórecki and William M. Evan (in memoriam †)

RCSL Website: Pierre Guibentif

RCSL Newsletter editorial committee: Pablo Ciochini (Chair), Stefan Machura, Mavis Maclean, Swethaa Ballakrishnen, Lucero Ibarra Rojas, Laura Lora, Shozo Ota.

RCSL WORKING GROUPS & CHAIRS:

Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution: Luigi Cominelli
Comparative Legal Culture: Marina Kurkchiyan
Comparative Studies of Legal Professions: Avrom Sherr

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Gender, Law and Society: Letizia Mancini and Barbara Giovanna Bello

Human Rights: Dani Rudnicki

International Research Group on Law & Urban Space: T.B.A.

Judicialization of Social Problems: Joao Velloso

Law and Development: Pedro Fortes and David Restrepo-Amariles

Law and Migrations: Rashmi Jain and Kryriaki Topidi

Law and Politics: Angélica Cuéllar Vázquez

Law and Popular Culture: Stefan Machura

Legal Pluralism: Martin Ramstedt

Social and Legal Systems: Lucas Konzen and Germano Schwartz

Sociology of Constitutions: Jiří Přibáň.

Knowledge and Opinion about Law – Legal Consciousness Balázs Fekete

Former Presidents:

Renato Treves (1962-1974)

Jan Glastra Van Loon (1974-1980)

Jean Van Houtte (1980-1990)

Vincenzo Ferrari (1990-1994)

Mavis Maclean (1994-1997)

Rogelio Perez Perdomo (1997-2000)

Johannes Feest (2000-2003)

Lawrence Friedman (2003-2006)

Anne Boigeol (2006-2010)

Vittorio Olgiati (2010-2014)

Masayuki Murayama (2014-2018)

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