

M. Ramstedt (Chair), Report RCSL WG “Legal Pluralism”, Fall 2020 to Spring 2024

1. Number of Members and Represented Countries

Germany 5, Hungary 1, India 3, UK 2, Spain 3, Chile 1, USA 1, Kenya 1, Colombia 1, Brazil 1; *altogether 19*

2. Past Activities

- November 2020 official launching of the WG “LP”; see Ramstedt, M., ‘The New RCSL Working Group “Legal Pluralism”: Why Do We Need a RCSL Working Group on Legal Pluralism?’ *RCSL Newsletter* 2020/2, pp. 16-19.
- Constitutive WG “LP” meeting on 22 September 2021, organised and chaired by Martin Ramstedt in the framework of the 2021 Virtual RCSL Conference “In times of pandemics and populism: increasing inequalities?” – Resulting from the constitutive meeting were ideas to invite debate on updating ‘legal pluralism’ as a research programme both at the ensuing 2022 Annual Law and Society Association Meeting in Lisbon and the 2023 RCSL Conference at Lund University.
- Organisation and Chairing of the RCSL-sponsored Panel “Decolonisation of Plural Legal Orders” by Martin Ramstedt and Katrin Seidel on 13 July 2022, in the framework of the Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon.
- Organisation and Chairing of the RCSL-sponsored Panel “Legal Pluralism as an Analytical Category Today” by Martin Ramstedt on 14 July 2022, in the framework of the Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon.
- From October 2022 onwards, preparation of a panel on “Norms and Normativity from Pluralist Perspectives” at the 2023 RCSL Conference at Lund University . Unfortunately, the planned panel fell through due to lack of funding for two anticipated paper presenters.
- Since autumn 2022, Martin Ramstedt and Katrin Seidel have been preparing and co-editing the OSLS Special Issue on *Decolonising Plural Legal Orders, Decentring Epistemological Paradigms*, the production of which will be finalised in 2024. The special issue has in part been inspired by the discussions in the panels organised by the WG at the 2022 Annual Law and Society Association Meeting in Lisbon.

3. Future Activities

As already indicated to the RCSL President Pierre Guibentif in an earlier communication, the current Chair of the WG does not intend to continue his service due to a change of publication and research orientation. Moreover, it has become clear throughout the past five years that the Commission of Legal Pluralism (<https://commission-on-legal-pluralism.com/>) is the unrivalled leading organisation in this field. It is therefore recommended that researchers active in legal pluralism take advantage of their excellent network and funding opportunities. As the current Chair is stepping down, he leaves it to the discretion of the RCSL President whether to continue this WG’s activities or not.

4. Chair-Coordination

Recommendation: In case the WG regroups itself under a new initiative, the group should decide how it wants to organise the chair-coordination.