

Working Group Law and Development (2019-2023)

5 Year's Report for RCSL Board Meeting

Chairs: Pedro Fortes and David Restrepo Amariles

March, 19th, 2024

Our period started very well with a very active participation at the RCSL Conference 'Linking Generations For Justice'. We held three sessions of our Working Group Law and Development – Law and Sustainable Development (June 19th 2019, 12:15-13:45), Law, Institutions, and Development (June 19th 2019, 15:30-17:00), and Law and Development (June 20th 2019, 15:30-17:00). Our Working Group had a total of 15 paper presenters from various countries and we invited Manuel Gomez (FIU) and Dee Smythe (Cape Town) to collaborate with the discussions as co-chairs and discussants in our panels too. We also supported the conference as part of the Organizing Committee, collaborating actively with our then President Ulrike Schulz. At the Conference, we also collaborated with scholars from other Working Groups, including the presentation in another session of a paper that later became a published article 'Fortes, P. R. B. (2020). Paths to digital justice: Judicial robots, algorithmic decision-making, and due process. *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 7(3), 453-469. Finally, we were also present at the Plenary Session that closed the Oñati Conference titled 'A World of Possibilities? The Professional Life of Socio-Legal Scholars', collaborating with our then Scientific Director of the Institute, Noe Cornago.

With the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, many academic events and conferences were cancelled, postponed, and moved into a remote online environment. Our participation at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology 'Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, and Intersectionality' was originally planned to be in presence in July 2020, but we needed to participate remotely online in a subsequent date (February 23rd-28th 2021). We collaborated with the leaders of RC12 for the ISA Forum, Lucas Konzen and Lucero Ibarra Rojas and our Working Group Law and Development organized a panel session titled 'Law and Development: Challenges of the 21st Century' (February 24th, 2021), which counted with 7 paper presenters and a quite lively academic discussion on decolonization, sustainable environment, markets, and labor rights. Additionally, we also collaborated with the Working Group on Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution through the presentation of a paper titled 'Access to Digital Justice as a Contemporary Challenge'.

Even with all difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, we decided to continue a project initiated in 2018 during the RCSL Conference in Lisbon. We manage to circulate a call for papers for scholars interested in delivering papers on the Algorithmic Law and Society and held a very active seminar at HEC (Paris), between 1st and 3rd of December 2021. This three-days symposium had 47 speakers, including some of the global leaders in the field, like keynote speakers David Freeman Engstrom (Stanford), Michalis Vargiannis (Ecole Polytechnique) and Cesar Hidalgo (ANITI). The HEC Seminar was very successful, and we needed to use our time and energy to edit a couple of special issues in the following years. In the end, we managed to publish two special issues on the European Journal of Risk Regulation - see Fortes, P. R. B., Baquero, P. M., & Amariles, D. R. (2022). Artificial intelligence risks and algorithmic regulation. *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, 13(3), 357-372 – and International Journal of Law in Context - Fortes, Pedro Rubim Borges, and David Restrepo Amariles. "Law-jobs in the algorithmic society." *International Journal of Law in Context* 19.1 (2023): 1-12.

Therefore, our priority in 2022 and 2023 was to deliver these special issues and we decided not to organize more events until we accomplished these publications in prime European academic journals. Another reason for this two-years pause in organizing events is that our co-chair Pedro Fortes also needed to concentrate in obtaining his permanent chair in a public University in Brazil and, after a competitive entrance examination, Pedro Fortes passed in 1st place among 31 candidates to become an Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). Pedro Fortes joined the Faculty of Law of UERJ in 2023.

In summary, our Working Group Law and Development considers that we achieved important academic goals and publishing results in our first full cycle of existence. After a short pause in the organization of events, we are ready to collaborate with our new President, Pierre Guibentif, and to circulate new calls for papers to reach scholars interested in the field of Law and Development to join the RCSL in future conferences.