

# RCSL NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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

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### EDITORIAL

#### Representing Sociology of Law

we recently had the pleasure to meet in Bangor, with as a main topic of discussion “Representing Law”. A splendid result of the proactive initiative of Stefan Machura, of the committed organizational work performed by the Local Organisation Committee he could set up, and of the hospitality of Bangor University. One way to recognize the accuracy of this topic’s choice is to take it up again for this editorial.

Indeed, this is the time to elaborate on three points which have in common to deal with what, very concretely, we should have in mind when talking about – representing – sociology of law. Sociology of Law, essentially, is a research community, i.e. a group of people sharing the purpose of developing, as a group, as a togetherness of persons betting on taking advantage of the exchanges and interactions between them, knowledge about law as a tool for society. A group which is represented, in particular, but not exclusively, by a formalized international grouping, the Research Committee on Sociology of Law of the International Sociological Association.

After two editorials addressing certain tools of that community (its Newsletter, its Working Groups), it makes sense here to come back to the community itself, and to emphasize its main and obvious characteristic: its purpose of acting collectively. This leads me to the following three points:

**(1) Podgórecki Prize:** Sociology of Law is a community that acts through the creative contribution of people who skilfully take advantage of their belonging to that community, and seek to contribute to what that community may offer to its members for the carrying out of their work. This is what we are splendidly reminded by the decision of the 2024 Podgórecki Prize Jury Committee, which awards the prize ex aequo to Julia Dahlvik, from Austria, and Edvaldo Moita, from Brasil. (Continued in page 2)

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Indeed, in addition to the *Laudationes* formulated for both laureates by the Jury Committee (in this issue, p. 13; see also the acceptance statements of the laureates, p. 14), it is worth highlighting here what their works in the realm of socio-legal research have in common. They both reveal a strong perception of their belonging to a research community. More precisely: they both are heavily engaged in the organizational efforts aiming at institutionalizing this community; they both take advantage of the work formerly published by other members of that community, in a way that may help their readers to constructively re-use it too, that is by developing the inspiring conceptual frameworks proposed by those authors; they both work on the basis of a substantive notion of the role of that research community, which is to contribute with knowledge to the understanding of the law's potential as a tool for collective action. If I may summarize it very shortly, in the case of Julia Dahlvik, highlighting, within the devices of law's implementation, in particular the indispensable complementarity between the legal and the moral dimensions of practice; in the case of Edvaldo Moita, helping us to identify the basic conditions of the functioning of these devices, by analysing the functioning of arenas of structural non-compliance.

To what extent this belonging to a research community did benefit their work is a question I have to leave to the laureates and to their readers to answer. The decision of the Jury Committee, however, recognizes that our research community did benefit from their work. The 2024 Podgórecki Prize expresses our thank for this.

**(2) RC SL Annual Meeting Lund 2023, Bangor 2024, and Rabat 2025, currently being prepared with a call for abstracts ending on 15 October:** Sociology of Law is a community which gives to itself, and announces, action priorities. These priorities are announced in particular by the headings of our annual meetings. These headings show how we perceive the current knowledge needs of society and how we plan to contribute to answer these needs: in the face of the digital transition, the topic of our 2023 Lund Annual Meeting was "*Law, Society and Digital Pasts, Presents and Futures*"; in the face of rapid and thorough changes experienced by society, and considering the needs of reappreciating the potential of law in the dealing with these changes, the topic of our 2024 Bangor Meeting, already mentioned (see in this NL pp. 2 ff.), was "*Representing Law*"; in the face of the environmental challenges, our 2025 Rabat Meeting, held as part of the V ISA Forum, will address the topic of that Forum "*Knowing Justice in the Antropocene*". This is the place to remind you the deadline for submitting abstracts for that 2025 Meeting, which ends by 15 October (there will be no postponement; more on this call, p. 13). The contribution of our research community to that event, which did benefit a lot in the last months from the work of the WG chairs and of the Rabat RC SL Programme Committee, depends now crucially on the number and variety of individual abstract proposals.

**(3) Scientific Directorship of the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law:** Sociology of Law

is a research community to which was given the unique opportunity to set up, in partnership with the Basque Government, an Institute that carries out nowadays a set of activities of utmost relevance for its development as an international community, including in particular a Master's Programme, Workshops and other meetings, as well as a Library of exceptional documentation richness (about activities of the IISL see p. 16). The strength of Sociology of Law as a research community – and the strength of IISL at the same time – heavily depends on the strength of its links to the scientific directorship of the Institute. This is why I am deeply grateful to José María Sauca Cano, who right now, after the directorship of Sabine Frerichs (see p. 16), stepped in as the new IISL Scientific Director, for having accepted to carry on that mission of crucial relevance for our community, and for his will to reinforce his connections to RC SL. It will be for me, as RC SL President, a great pleasure to collaborate with him.

This is why I also have to draw the attention of all members of our community on the call for the next IISL scientific directorship, which should be issued within the next months. These may be the appropriate words for concluding these thoughts about Sociology of Law as a community: if there is a position in which individual members of this community may play an essential role for its development, a position which represents Sociology of Law, it is the position of IISL Scientific Director.

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### RC SL ANNUAL CONFERENCE "REPRESENTING LAW" IN NORTH WALES, 3 TO 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Law needs to be represented, in the media, in legal or sociological theories, but also by people such as lawyers, judges and legal scholars. These topics were discussed at the 2024 annual conference of RC SL at Bangor University (north Wales, UK) organised by Professor Stefan Machura (Criminology and Criminal Justice), and supported by a team of colleagues, including Anna Monnereau, Dr Dan Weston, and Lois Nash (Law), Dr Rhian Hodges (Sociology and Social Policy) and Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock (Law). The conference from 3 to 6 September had the theme "Representing Law". It was attended by 170 participants.

Delegates and RC SL working groups presented papers and panels around topics of socio-legal studies. These included the portrayal of law and lawyers in film, on television and in music. The inauguration ceremony was opened by Bangor University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Edmund Burke, warmly welcoming RC SL. The President of RC SL, Pierre Guibentif, spoke next. Stefan Machura introduced the conference topic "Representing Law" and drew on the recent Horizon/Post Office scandal in the UK for an example. The first plenary, chaired by Balázs Fekete, discussed what lay people know about the law and how much they trust it. Speakers were Ulrike Schultz, with an

overview “Knowledge and Opinion About Law. The Story of an International Comparative Research Project and its Revival and Importance Today”, Jacek Kurczewski and Małgorzata Fuszara, introducing “Popular Representation of Law and Petrażycki’s Theory of Law”, as well as Marc Hertogh on “Facing a New Challenge: Knowledge and Opinion about the Rule of Law”.



Conference organisers Anne Monnereau, Stefan Machura, Lois Nash (Credits Dafydd Pattinson)

The second plenary turned to popular legal culture. It was chaired by Dyfrig Jones. Here, Michael Randall spoke about “Taylor Swift: Public Image and Authenticity in the Law”, Nancy Marder about “Representing Juries in Public Art”, Anna Chronopoulou introduced “Representations of Women Lawyers in Middle Eastern films” and Steve Greenfield’s topic was “Better Call Saul - The Apotheosis of Unethical Screen Lawyers or Beyond Legal Drama?”.



Inauguration ceremony: RC SL President Pierre Guibentif, local organiser Stefan Machura, Bangor University Vice-Chancellor Edmund Burke, delegates (Credits Dafydd Pattinson).

A featured panel discussed “Bilingualism in Court”. The discussion was held in Welsh language with English translation. The organiser was Rhian Hodges and participants were Welsh academics and court administrators. Courts in Wales conduct hearings in Welsh and in English. If necessary, translation is provided. Judges, lawyers and prosecutors, as well as other staff involved, are often Welsh speakers. The conference delegates came from the UK, other European countries, both Americas, Asian countries as

well as Australia. Some participants hailed from the African continent. Their professional background varied from law to political science, from philosophy to sociology and criminology. Among the speakers were professors with international standing but equally junior scholars and postgraduate researchers making one of their first appearances on the international stage. The conference was accompanied by an art exhibition in the Pontio Centre which continued until the end of September. It was organised by Lucy Finchett-Maddock and Anna Monnereau who also spoke at the opening ceremony of the exhibition on the first evening of the conference.



RCSL former President Ulrike Schultz and Ralf Rogowski (Credits Dafydd Pattinson).

To make the conference even more memorable and allow delegates to rest between panels, two bus tours to Penrhyn Castle, located at the outskirts of Bangor, and two bus tours to the historic courthouse and gaol museum in Beaumaris were offered. The tours were led by Dan Weston. On the last day of the conference, there was the opportunity to go on a guided walk around Bangor, with Lois Nash as guide. The conference dinner had not only culinary highlights, but also a talk by local writer, actor and comedian Tudur Owen to introduce Wales and the Welsh people. This was followed by the impressive performance of a male Welsh choir, the Cantorion Gogledd Cymru. All present got a taster of Welsh culture.



First coffee break (Credits Dafydd Pattinson)

On the third conference day, three film presentations were offered at Bangor’s Pontio Cinema. Stuart Hepburn, lecturer and script writer, discussed the last

piece shown, the episode "A Study in Murder" (2008) of the Scottish TV series "Taggart", in which he also appears himself as the victim of the crime. The discussion was led by Peter Robson.



Group photo during the final coffee break (Credits Stella Gabuljah)

An RCSL Board session and a members meeting also took place during the conference. Part of the latter was the Year 2024 Podgorecki Prize Ceremony (see separate report in this newsletter). The Prize winners were Julia Dahlvik and Edvaldo Moita (see also in this Newsletter, pp. 13 ff.).

RCSL and the local organiser would like to thank the co-sponsoring academic associations, namely,

- Associazione Italiana di Sociologia – Sezione Sociologia del Diritto;
- Centre for Socio-legal Studies, Oxford University;
- DGS-Sektion Rechtssoziologie;
- Journal of Law and Society and Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University;
- Vereinigung für Recht und Gesellschaft.

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The RCSL granted three travel grants to early career scholars to attend to the Bangor meeting. We publish here the reports by the travel grant holders:

#### 2024 RCSL CONFERENCE: A REMARKABLE EVENT

The 2024 RCSL Conference took place from September 3rd to 6th at Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom. The host of the Conference was the School of History, Law, and Social Sciences, one of the first institutions in the UK to offer criminology degrees and one of the few law faculties with a special focus on the sociological investigation of law. On behalf of Bangor University, a dedicated team led by Dr. Stefan Machura, along with David Ashworth, Dr. Rhian Hodges, Dr. Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Anna Monnereau, Lois Nash, and Isabel Linton, successfully organized an event that went beyond the scope of a typical scientific conference.

The Conference theme "Representing Law" focused on the necessity to represent, symbolize and communicate law. Namely, both laypeople and legal professionals hold implicit and explicit notions of the law that influence their actions in economic transactions, political activities, and other areas of action. These perceptions are shaped not only through formal legal education but also through training in business management, encounters with public authority bodies, and via media representations of the law. Questions about who represents the law, who decides legal conflicts, and who adapts law to evolving social conditions, were central to the Conference theme. In modern states with complex legal systems, those trained in law, particularly in high legal offices, are often seen as primary interpreters of legal issues, raising questions about legitimacy and democratic representation. Additionally, the conference addressed how individuals understand law in their everyday lives. All these and many more questions were discussed on more than 30 panels. The plenary session, chaired by Prof. Dr. Balázs Fekete, featured presentations from some of the most notable figures in the field. Ulrike Schultz discussed the history and significance of "knowledge and opinion" studies. Jacek Kurczewski and Małgorzata Fuszara presented on "Popular Representation of Law and Petrażycki's Theory of Law" and Marc Hertogh addressed the theoretical and methodological challenges of empirical research on the rule of law. In addition to the panels, several roundtable discussions were held, but the one that especially caught my attention was where a new working group was established within the Committee. This group will focus on analyzing the comparative history of the socio-legal studies. I consider this especially important because the group will focus on a topic that has been largely overlooked, despite its immense significance in understanding and fostering connections and communication channels between particular (i.e. national) socio-legal communities.



Lunch break in the historic Powys Hall of Bangor University (Credits Dafydd Pattinson).

On the last day of the Conference, I had the opportunity to present my paper titled "Bureaucratic Legal Consciousness: Perception of the Right to Access to Information of Public Importance in Public Authorities in Serbia" on the panel moderated by Ulrike Schulz. The paper analyzes legal consciousness of public

servants who decide on the right to access to information of public importance in public authority bodies in the Republic of Serbia. The presented empirical small-scale study was aimed at determining the characteristics of public servants' consciousness considering this right, which is why a qualitative research design was chosen. Through in-depth semi-structured interviews with 10 authorized persons from various public authorities, I made an attempt to answer the question: what are the public servants' subjective perceptions of the right to information? The final aim of my research was to examine whether there is a single, unique "bureaucratic narrative", or these public officials differ in how they perceive this right. Based on the data obtained from the interviews, I established four legal narratives about the right to information. I like to believe that I managed to show that it is possible to position public servants who decide on this important constitutional-level right on a scale of impartiality, on which the central point would be Weber's ideal-type bureaucrat, characterized by an unemotional, objective, and rational approach to decision-making. The obtained typology can be used for some future research in which quantitative methods would be used to check the frequency of occurrence of a certain narrative in the population of all, or a certain group of public authorities. More generally, I believe that results from my study demonstrated that knowledge of law does not guarantee its uniform application, because depending on the value orientation of its interpreter, one legal norm can take on completely different meanings.



From left to right: Anja Bezbradica, Ulrike Schultz, Laura Lora and Julieta Marotta.

I received insightful feedback on my work from colleagues who participated in the panel. They highlighted potential methodological limitations in my study and suggested directions for further research. Also, I had the privilege to share the panel with Julieta Marotta and Laura Lora, who gave a fascinating presentation on their research into the legal capacity of children in Argentina. I was particularly impressed by the research techniques they employed, especially their use of art-based data collection techniques (painting) to study the child population. The conference's richness in content made it challenging to select which presentations to attend. I

was particularly drawn to the panels on legal consciousness. Balázs Fekete's research on legal consciousness and the rule of law in Denmark, Hungary, and the Netherlands was especially engaging. Equally noteworthy were Fanni Gyurkó's study on the relationship between political culture and legal consciousness in Hungary, and Fruzsina Rozina Tóth's analysis of the rule of law legal narratives. Beyond the academic rigor, the Conference embraced the arts, enriching the overall experience. Along with local Welsh artists, I had the honor of showcasing my photograph at the exhibition held at the "Pontio" Arts and Innovation Centre. The topic of the exhibition was "Justice". Although the courts are probably the first thing that comes to mind when we think of this abstract concept, my photograph titled "Bureaucrat" reflected a more frequent form of justice, that we encounter daily. On the third day of the Conference, thematic film screenings at the "Pontio" Centre cinema offered additional cultural engagement, though the packed Conference schedule allowed me to watch only "Anatomy of a Fall".

In conclusion, the RCSL Conference was a remarkable event that not only advanced academic discourse but also fostered a deeper appreciation of the intersection between law, society, and the arts. The diversity of presentations and topics, the enthusiastic discussions, and the warm hospitality of the hosts and local community in Bangor left me with just one thing to say: Best of luck to our colleagues in Rabat; high standards have been set this year in Bangor!

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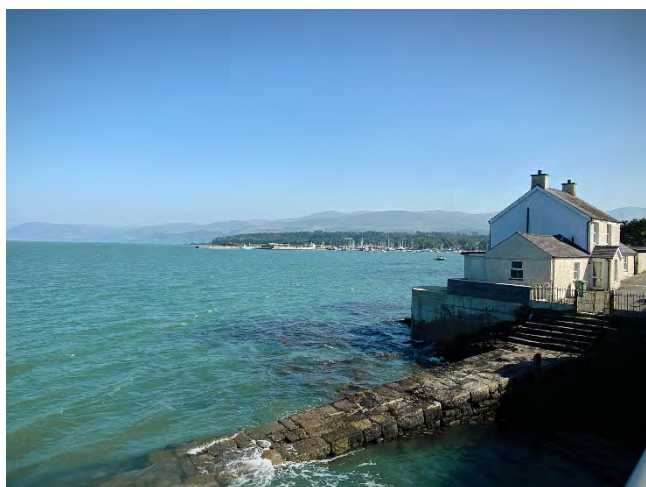
## 2024 RCSL CONFERENCE: REPRESENTING LAW – A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

The RCSL International Conference 2024 took place from 3 to 6 September at Bangor University in North Wales. The conference topic was "Representing Law". The conference kicked off with informal drinks the evening before (Monday, 2 September) at Blue Sky café, located on Bangor High Street. I was unfortunately unable to attend this event, as my train arrived the next day.

While I arrived in Bangor at about noon on Tuesday, by the time I got to the university I had sadly missed the conference inauguration as well as most of the first plenary session. After dropping my bags and having lunch in the majestic Powis Hall, I was able to attend the roundtable on history of sociolegal studies, chaired by Christian Boulanger. This roundtable was proposing that the RCSL convene a new working group on the comparative history of socio-legal studies and the sociology of law. The panellists made some very compelling points on the lack of a space for the comparative research on ideas, institutions, and actors in the history of socio-legal knowledge production. For instance, Aryna Dzmitryieva made the point about how in the old days, legal scholarship was known by the codes assigned to either legal or sociological books in libraries, thus further entrenching the strict

demarcation between disciplines. The other panellists were Ole Hammerslev, Balasz Fekete, and Ignacio Aymerich Ojea, each of whom provided different perspectives from countries in mainland Europe, reinforcing the need for the working group and deliberating upon the scope and functions of the working group. Christian provided a QR code through which attendees to the session could sign up to be involved with the working group. After these inputs from the panellists, attendees discussed the formation, objectives, and activities of the working group. All agreed that this was a much-needed initiative.

I dropped my bags at my accommodation during the coffee break and returned to be able to attend the book discussion on Transformations of European Welfare States and Social Rights, co-chaired by Ole Hammerslev and Stine Piilgaard Porner Nielsen. This was a fascinating session for someone like me who has never lived in a European country (except the UK), and always assumed that the state of welfarist sentiment in Europe was alive and well. The participants were Polina Smiragina-Ingelstrom, Marc Hertogh, and Tobias Eule. Naomi Creutzfeldt was an expert discussant, and the Q&A session comprised of interesting discussions around the idea of deservingness, with Linda Mulcahy and others contributing. The first day of the conference concluded with an art and food evening at level 0 of the Pontio, to which we were all thankfully guided by the organizers.



Bangor town and marina (Credits Anja Bezbradica)

There were drinks and delicious nibbles provided, as well as a violinist playing music beautifully throughout the evening. Anna Monnereau, one of the organizers, and Lucy Finchett-Maddock, her supervisor, made a short speech. However, for me the highlight of the evening was the art exhibition, which consisted of pieces contributed by local artists (some of whom were present at the evening) as well as some of the conference delegates on the topic of "Justice". The conference organizers had helpfully produced a pamphlet talking about the art on display, and I found it immensely interesting to go through the art at a leisurely pace with the booklet in my hand. The pieces were very thought-provoking indeed!

Day two kicked off at 9.30am and I chose to go for the Penrhyn Castle Tour with Dan Weston in the morning, which was a beautiful excursion! After lunch I attended the second plenary session on The Public Image of the Law, chaired by Dyfrig Jones. The papers on Taylor Swift: Public Image and Authenticity in the Law by Michael Randall, and Better Call Saul: The Apotheosis of Unethical Screen Lawyers or Beyond Legal Drama by Steve Greenfield were fascinating to listen to, especially as a Better Call Saul fan! Steve played some of the clips from the show and spoke about how Better Call Saul is an accurate representation of the routine mundanity of how the law functions in real life, making it somewhat of an intersection between fiction and true crime. Michael started his presentation by positioning himself as a fan, a recognition of positionality at the outset that I appreciated, and spoke about Swift's reckoning with authenticity and her influence on legal change. Nancy Marder's presentation on Representing Juries in Public Art was visually interesting, and Anna Chronopoulou's presentation on Representations of Women Lawyers in Middle Eastern films was also thoughtprovoking. The presentations were followed by a lively Q&A session. After the coffee break, I attended the panel on Popular Culture around the World. The second day ended with the conference dinner, a delicious three-course meal. However, before the dinner we were treated to a brief stand-up set from Welsh actor, writer, and stand-up comedian Tudur Owen, which was both entertaining and informative! He spoke at length about North Wales and its fascinating history and language. This was followed by a truly poignant set from Cantarion Gogledd Cymru, the Singers of North Wales – a choir of about 30 men, all of whom have truly impressive voices! It was a very moving and beautiful performance.



University of Bangor (Credits Anja Bezbradica)

I presented my paper on Queerness in the Indian Judicial Imaginary during the first panel on the third day. The session was chaired expertly by Souzanne Bouclin, and it was extremely useful for me to get better at presenting my research. I was the first to present and was followed by Ulrike Schultz who spoke on Women Jurists under the Swastika – The Story of the First

Female Jurists in Germany 1900-1950, and then by Valeria Kiss presenting a co-authored (with Fruzsina Gulya) paper on Women in the Legal Professions in Hungary: Initial Research Findings on Attorneys and Notaries. Ulrike did run out of time as this was quite a personal story for her, intricately intertwined with her own journey as a lawyer. Valeria's paper also had many overlaps with Ulrike's. The Q&A session was helpful for me to get feedback about my research, and there were some interesting discussions about court language, as well as about the overlaps between the latter two papers. Ulrike also made interventions during the Q&A about my as well as Valeria's papers, speaking about the undermining of younger feminists by older feminists taking up too much space in India. There was also discussion of the interviews conducted in Hungary by Valeria and how all respondents might be white and middle-class, and the problem of intersectionality. Ulrike is in the process of working on a book about queer rights and requested that I make a contribution. All in all, it was a very useful panel for my research!

With my presentation out of the way I felt considerably less burdened for the rest of the conference! After the coffee break I attended the panel on Socio-Legal Studies in Wales and the UK: The Journal of Law and Society at 50, the Centre of Law and Society at 10. Rachel Cahill-O'Callaghan chaired this session. It started with Phil Thomas speaking about the beginnings of the journal in an environment where socio-legal studies was a very nascent discipline (including showing us a black and white photo of a very young version of him along with the rest of the then Editorial Board!), followed by Dave Cowan talking about the current work of the journal and the centre as well as some of the challenges faced by both. The last speaker was Bharat Malkani (who joined us virtually due to a knee injury suffered from being too adventurous!), who had a very interesting talk about the decolonial work being done by the journal. The Q&A was lively as always, pointing to some further current challenges faced by the journal such as high subscription fees and access. After lunch I took the opportunity to attend the Beaumaris tour, again led by Dan who by now had his ducks in a row including an information sheet handed out to all participants! This was a very interesting afternoon indeed, because we first visited a recreation of the old gaol, and then a museum recreating the prison. It was very informative but also fun, as there were several instances where we all tried to guess what kind of punishment was awarded for particular offences at the time. Both places had plenty of documentation from the time, which made for interesting reading. It was bleak but also made me think about the very function of prisons. After coming back I managed to catch the rest of the film session and panel discussion on the episode Taggart from *A Study in Murder* (2008). The evening ended with a hot buffet in the beautiful Pritchard Jones Hall.

On the final day, I checked out and dropped my bags before going on a guided walk with Lois Nash, who was a wonderful guide for the city of Bangor. Upon my return I managed to catch some of the Law in Music, Theatre and in Film panel, after which I quickly

collected my bags and made my way to Bangor station to catch a train back to London. All in all, this was an extremely fun but also useful conference, and I am so grateful to the organizers for conducting it as well as for providing me with the financial assistance that enabled me to attend.

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## 2024 RC SL CONFERENCE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACADEMIC DISCUSSION ON MINORITY WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND SECULARISM

I am pleased to share that I had the opportunity to present my forthcoming book chapter at the 2024 Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RC SL) Conference, held at Bangor University under the theme Representing Law. My chapter, titled "Secular Intentions and the Citizenship Discourse: Analyzing Muslim Women's Struggle for Representation and Equality in France and India," was part of a larger discussion on Intersectional Representations of Minority Women: Between Inclusion and Exclusion. This academic forum provided an invaluable platform to critically examine the intersection of secularism, gender, and religion in two key global contexts.

The focus of my presentation was to explore the secular dilemmas and the varied approaches to religion in both France and India, with particular emphasis on the impact of these secular frameworks on Muslim women's representation and rights. In France, the principle of *Laïcité* rigidly enforces the separation of religion from public life, while India employs the model of Principled Distance, which allows religion a more visible role in the public sphere. My chapter critically examines how these divergent approaches inform both countries' legal and political discourse surrounding citizenship and equality, particularly about Muslim women.

The presentation was organized around four core themes, each illustrating how secular frameworks impact the rights and representation of Muslim women: **Laïcité vs. Principled Distance:** I began by contrasting French and Indian secularism. While France enforces strict secularism (*Laïcité*)—which limits religious expression in public spaces— India's secularism is characterized by Principled Distance, where the state maintains a flexible approach, engaging with religion in ways that vary according to the community and issue.

**Religion in Public vs. Private Spheres:** I further explored the tension between religion in the public and private spheres. In France, religion is perceived as a strictly private matter, leading to state-imposed restrictions on religious symbols, such as the hijab and burqa. In contrast, India's secular approach allows for greater accommodation of religious practices in public life, although this accommodation is often selective and rooted in colonial-era legal frameworks.

**Colonial Continuities and Their Impact on Muslim Women:** Drawing on postcolonial theory, I highlighted the colonial legacies that continue to influence

contemporary discourses on secularism and citizenship in both nations. In France, I traced the roots of the current debate on veiling back to the colonial administration's attempts to "unveil" Algerian Muslim women as part of its civilizing mission. In India, I examined the colonial codification of Muslim Personal Law, which has had long-lasting effects on the legal and social status of Muslim women.

**The Absence/Presence of Intersectionality:** A critical dimension of my analysis focused on the absence or presence of intersectionality in the legal and political treatment of Muslim women. I explored how the framework of intersectionality—coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw—can be useful in understanding the complex identities of Muslim women, who face discrimination based on both gender and religion. My analysis revealed that while intersectionality has been widely embraced in academic circles, its application in legal and political discourse has limited applicability, especially in non-Western contexts where it is used without acknowledging the specific history and context of India reflecting an imperialism of categories.

The comparative analysis of France and India demonstrated how Muslim women's struggles for representation and equality are shaped by both secular policies and colonial legacies, albeit in different ways. In France, the secular principle of *Laïcité* has led to a series of legislative acts restricting the wearing of religious symbols in public spaces. This began in 1989 with a ban on religious symbols in public schools and culminated in more recent laws, such as the 2023 Council of State ruling that restricted the wearing of the *abaya* in public schools. Through this analysis, I showed how French secularism has been used as a tool not just to uphold the separation of church and state but also to enforce assimilationist policies, particularly about Muslim women.

One of the key moments in this analysis was my discussion of the *Gérin Commission Report* (2010), which played a crucial role in framing the full-face veil as a violation of the principles of *Liberté, Égalité, and Fraternité*. The report's influence led to the 2010 ban on full-face coverings in public spaces, which was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the case of *S.A.S. v. France*. I examined this case in detail, particularly the court's rationale that the ban was necessary to uphold the French principle of "living together," a concept that prioritizes public unity over individual religious expression.

In India, the challenge of balancing secularism with the protection of religious rights has led to ongoing debates over Muslim Personal Law. I examined key historical moments, such as the British colonial codification of Muslim Personal Law in the 19th century and the landmark cases of *Ahmad Khan v. Shah Bano Begum* (1985) and *Shayara Bano v. Union of India* (2017). These cases illustrate the tensions between personal law and secular constitutional rights, as Muslim women continue to fight for equality within a framework that often prioritizes religious community rights over individual rights. One of the critical points in this section was my analysis of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (1986), which was enacted in response to the *Shah Bano* judgment. This legislation

limited Muslim women's ability to claim maintenance under secular law, underscoring how personal laws can sometimes be used to restrict rather than protect women's rights. More recently, the 2019 Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, which criminalized triple talaq, represents a significant intervention in Muslim Personal Law, yet it too has been critiqued for being a top-down imposition that does not adequately address the diverse needs of Muslim women.

Throughout my presentation, I emphasized the need to decolonize the knowledge frameworks that continue to shape our understanding of Muslim women's rights and citizenship. By tracing the colonial roots of secularism in both France and India, I argued that many of the policies affecting Muslim women today are rooted in a colonial mindset that views Muslim women either as victims in need of saving or as symbols of resistance. This binary thinking, I argued, must be dismantled if we are to achieve true equality and representation for Muslim women.

Finally, I explored the potential and limitations of intersectionality as a framework for understanding the multifaceted struggles of Muslim women. While intersectionality is widely recognized in academic discourse as a useful tool for analysing overlapping identities of oppression, its application in legal and policy frameworks remains limited. This is especially true in the French context, where the universalist approach to citizenship often denies the legitimacy of intersectional identities. In India, intersectionality is often used in favour of group rights, making it difficult to address the specific challenges faced by Muslim women, particularly those from marginalized communities including those based on their caste backgrounds, such as the *Pasmanda* community.

In conclusion, my presentation called for a more nuanced and decolonized approach to understanding Muslim women's rights and representation in both secular democracies. By analysing the intersection of secularism, gender, and religion in France and India, I sought to shed light on how legal and political frameworks can both empower and marginalize Muslim women. The fight for equality and representation remains ongoing, and my research underscores the importance of challenging colonial legacies and embracing intersectionality to create more just and inclusive societies.

This presentation was an opportunity to contribute to the broader academic discussion on minority women's rights and secularism. I look forward to further developing these themes in my forthcoming book chapter and continuing to engage in dialogue with scholars, practitioners, and policymakers on these critical issues.

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There are many news regarding the RCSL Working Groups. Two of them introduce to our community their new Chairs, a new WG has been presented at the RCSL conference, another offers reports of its meeting at the IISL, and lastly, one has an open invitation to participate in a reading group.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COMPARATIVE LEGAL CULTURES

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Working Group on Comparative Legal Cultures, following the retirement of Dr Marina Kurkchian earlier this year. Dr Kurkchian's leadership was instrumental in establishing our group's reputation for diverse representation, particularly from the Global South, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, and for maintaining a strong presence at the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) conferences and the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) annual meetings.

My primary objective is to continue promoting empirically oriented, culturally sensitive, and critical work on comparative legal cultures. This foundation, laid by Dr Kurkchian, has been central to our group's success and will remain a core focus moving forward. A key priority will be to amplify scholarship from the Global South and Eurasia. These regions offer rich, often underrepresented perspectives that can significantly enhance our understanding of legal cultures and their role in addressing global challenges. Maintaining an active presence at RCSL annual conferences is essential. These conferences provide opportunities to showcase our research, engage in meaningful discussions, and connect with scholars from various disciplines. Given my affiliation with School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London (UCL) we will also aim to foster stronger dialogues with Area Studies scholars to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

With this in mind we are looking forward to our first session at the 2025 ISA conference in Rabat, Morocco, titled "The Contribution of Legal Cultures to Our Understanding of Justice, in the Context of the Anthropocene." This session will explore how legal cultures provide frameworks for understanding justice in the Anthropocene, a period marked by significant human impact on the Earth. We aim to bring together diverse perspectives to examine the role of legal systems within their social contexts, highlighting themes such as environmental justice, human rights, and indigenous legal traditions. Scholars at different levels of their professional careers are invited to submit abstracts (300-500 words).



RCSL conference - 20 Years of IISL, Oñati Institute for the Sociology of Law, 2009

### Q&A with the New Chair

**Q:** What inspired you to take on the role of Chair for the Working Group on Comparative Legal Cultures?

**A:** The opportunity to build on the strong foundation laid by Dr Kurkchian and to further promote diverse perspectives beyond the Global North scholarship inspired me to take on this role. I found the concept of legal culture particularly helpful in addressing the theoretical challenges of my DPhil research, which focused on Polish migrants' adaptation to the British socio-legal environment immediately upon the enlargement of the European Union in 2004. Although over the past ten years I have shifted in my work towards the concept of legal consciousness, as evidenced by my publications, I still believe that legal culture has significant merit in addressing global challenges, and I am excited to contribute to this field. For example, I always recommend the classic texts on legal culture by David Nelken, Marina Kurkchian, Johannes Feest, Lawrence Friedman, Sally Merry, and Roger Cotterrell to my PhD students.

**Q:** What are your immediate goals for the Working Group?

**A:** My immediate goals include continuing our tradition of excellence in research, enhancing our publication efforts, and building strategic partnerships, particularly with the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law. The photo accompanying this article has a special significance – it was taken in 2009, during my first visit to Oñati for the RCSL conference. It was an unforgettable experience.

As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunities ahead for the Working Group on Comparative Legal Cultures. By building on our tradition of excellence and embracing new initiatives, we can make significant contributions to the field of socio-legal studies. I look forward to your participation and to our collective work in advancing our understanding of legal cultures.

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## JOINT PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN JAPAN – FOR THE NEW CHAIR OF THE WG OF CIVIL JUSTICE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION AN EXEMPLARY DEBATE

In May 2024, the Japanese government announced a revised Civil Code allowing joint parental responsibility. This legal change sparked significant social debate that continues even now.

This new law on joint parental responsibility is based on Western models, but departs significantly from them. It uniquely offers a choice between sole and joint parental responsibility, creating an original legal framework.

The law has faced various criticisms. Some liberal scholars and lawyers oppose it, while others, including the author, support it. Conservative views are similarly divided, with both opposing and supporting.

The liberal opposition to joint parental responsibility primarily argues from a women's protection perspective. They contend that neither Japanese courts nor the government have adequately protected women. Under such circumstances, allowing joint parental responsibility could provide violent or stalker-like husbands with an excuse to pursue their wives. They argue that Japan's patriarchal mindset is still in place, and the society lags in addressing gender issues. From this viewpoint, allowing joint parental responsibility strengthens paternal rights and represents a backlash against addressing gender issues. Their claims were widely reported by mass media such as television and newspapers.

On the other hand, liberal supporters of joint parental responsibility see it as a demand of the modern age. They argue that during Japan's rapid economic growth (especially in the 1960s), the nuclear family model became prevalent, establishing the norm that mothers alone were responsible for child-rearing. However, they contend it's no longer sustainable for single mothers to bear sole responsibility for child-rearing after divorce. In today's families, it's common to see husbands sharing housework and childcare. Therefore, they argue it's natural for both parents to be involved in child-rearing after divorce, and it makes sense to develop a system that encourages this.

Conservative opponents of shared parental responsibility argue that it doesn't fit with how Japanese view the family. They believe it's natural for one family to assume full responsibility for raising a child. While few openly express these arguments, there's likely strong support from a silent majority.

On the other hand, conservative supporters of joint parental responsibility argue that the current practice of the courts is unfair because they are basically biased in favor of the woman. At the very least, they argue, the system must ensure equal treatment of men and women.

Japan ratified the Hague Convention on Child Abduction in 2014, and since the mid-2000s, courts have reportedly shifted towards a more positive attitude regarding visitation implementation. However, according to a 2021 survey by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, only 30.2% of single-mother families continue visitation. In court proceedings, which

are supposed to be enforceable, the percentage of visitation has actually decreased to 26.7%.

The ineffectiveness of Japan's domestic affairs field has been criticized internationally. Japanese courts tend to avoid deep intervention in family matters, preferring a softer approach. This tendency extends to civil matters in general, where courts often explore problem-solving methods without directly exercising power. John Haley termed this "authority without power."

For a long time, Japan has operated a system dealing with problems through a lightly equipped judiciary under the guise of party autonomy. When Japan modernized 150 years ago, it modeled its system on the Western judicial system. While the system appeared well-presented, the reality in some areas remained unsatisfactory. Due to the poor state of the justice system, vulnerable individuals have been victimized, leaving problems unresolved in society.

Liberal opponents of joint parental responsibility express anger and distrust towards the inaction of courts and governments. They claim there's an inadequate system to protect wives from violent husbands and argue that the courts' decision-making process is extremely poor, making it difficult to expect proper judgments.

These concerns are shared among experts, from liberal and joint parental responsibility opposition to opposing positions. Consequently, a supplementary resolution was passed for the current legislation, confirming the need to further enhance the family court, child welfare, and other administrative areas.

The Japanese legal system has always experienced tensions with the Western system, sometimes boldly adopting, sometimes rejecting, sometimes accepting only the surface, and sometimes slowly adopting over time. As seen in the joint parental responsibility issue, this tension with the Western system continues today. Some are upset that Japan's inherent goodness has been distorted, while others lament that Japan is lagging behind the West. In the long run, some view this tension as an opportunity for learning and future growth of the society.

In recent years, skepticism about Western civilization has spread both inside and outside the West. At the same time, Westernization (material civilization, informatization, and capitalism) has spread widely and deeply throughout the world. The question arises: can the conflicts and tensions in each society be transformed into opportunities for learning? It seems there's room for sociologists of law to contribute to one part of this process.

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## A NEW RCSL WORKING GROUP: "HISTORIES OF SOCIOLOGY OF LAW"

We're delighted to report that a new working group was formed at the RCSL conference in Bangor, Wales, with the goal of exploring the rich and varied histories of the sociology of law.

The motivation for the working group was the fact that the field is not only interdisciplinary, but also multi-paradigmatic, multi-lingual and multi-national. Thus, the field does not have one history, but many histories. At the same time, there is very little systematic self-historisation of the various intellectual communities. In particular, we need more comparative historical research on actors, institutions and intellectual traditions in the field.

The working group wants to be a place not only for the intellectual history of the sociology of law, but also for its historical sociology, i.e. the application of theories and methods of the sociology of history to its own disciplinary history. Equally important, the working group wants to connect these histories with the histories of doctrinal scholarship (from which the sociology of law distinguishes itself) and with the social sciences (from which it takes its theories and methods). The methodological and theoretical ambition of the working group is (at least) threefold: first, because its members come from all over the world, they can provide much-needed narratives and data on the historical contexts of socio-legal knowledge production in their home countries. Second, bringing these accounts together will facilitate comparative work in the field. Third, the group intends to systematically reflect on and introduce new theoretical and methodological perspectives in the writing of socio-legal histories.

The process of establishing the working group, first proposed by Christian Boulanger (Frankfurt) at the last RC SL conference in Lund, was initiated by a roundtable discussion with Ignacio Aymerich (Castellón), Aryna Dzmityrieva (Hagen), Balázs Fekete (Budapest), Pierre Guibentif (Lisbon) and Ole Hammerslev (Lund), followed by a lively discussion. The roundtable participants and the audience agreed that the creation of such a new working group made sense and that there was enough momentum to keep it going. It was pointed out that the long and varied history of the field is important not only for historical interest, but also because it is important for sustaining its future (Ignacio Aymerich). To this end, the working group can serve as a database, a framework and an archive (Tobias Eule).



Presentation of the new WG (Credits Anja Bezbradica)

The following day, the working group was presented to the RC SL Board, which voted in favour of its creation. Christian Boulanger will act as interim chair and contact person. RC SL members interested in participating in the working group can subscribe to the group's internal mailing list. More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/rcsl-wg-histories>. A first virtual meeting is planned for October or November 2024.

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## REPORT OF THE 2024 LEGAL PROFESSIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The bi-annual Legal Professional Working Group Meeting was held at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) in Oñati, Spain on June 24 and 25th. The workshop was a great success, offering an intellectually enriching weekend; fifty attendees gave forty-three engaging presentations on a diverse range of topics concerning legal professionals from across the globe.

The Meeting began with a Plenary Session discussing the new book "The Making of Lawyers' Careers: Inequality and Opportunity in the American Legal



Attendees to the Legal Professional Working Group Meeting

Profession" (U Chicago Press 2023). The session was chaired by Avrom Sherr with presentations from authors Robert Nelson and Megan Dawe and questions from discussants Stefanie Lemke, Hilary Sommerlad, Ulrike Schultz, and Laura Beth Nielsen.

The working group meeting was divided into five sessions of parallel streams, for a total of ten different subgroup presentations. The first day's sessions were Legal Professional Values and Identities, Women and Gender in the Legal Profession, Family Policy and Law, and Legal Education and Lawyers.



Participants touring the IISJ.



Panel "Women and Gender in the Legal Profession."

After the morning session, attendees received a tour of the IISJ and the San Miguel Church in Oñati, led by the Oñati office of tourism.

The next day began with the working group administration meeting for the sub-group chairs. The sessions after included Ethics and Deontology, Access to Justice and Legal Aid, Lawyers and State Transformation, and a combined session for Judiciary and Histories of the Legal Professions.

Thank you to the IISJ staff for organizing a wonderful conference, and thank you to all those who attended and presented!

Kendall Gail  
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### PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE WORKING GROUP ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION GROUP MEETING AND THE WORKSHOP ON NOTARIES

It was an absolute delight to participate in the Legal Profession Group Meeting at the IISL in Onati on 25-26 June 2024, organised by Avrom Sherr and Ulrike Schultz, and the workshop on the Notariat Across Borders organised by Ulrike Schultz which followed. Highly interesting papers were presented, and we had intensive discussions. I had the opportunity to engage

with legal academics in different research field, experts, and visionaries, to explore innovative strategies and ideas to drive forward progress in our respective fields.



Panel discussion at the LPGM

I presented on the equality duties and its regulation in the UK specifically on the theme of lawyers and state transformation. I express my profound gratitude to everyone I met and who gave me helpful comments on my research to date in this area of law. I felt this helped me to develop my knowledge in my research field of legal professionals and understand the wider research communities view on Notaries across different jurisdictions. I hope to share my experience and knowledge with the overall research communities of the University of Warwick. I am also sharing this with professional contacts in specific industries such as (but not limited to) the legal industry in the UK. I have shared details on LinkedIn to grow presence among professional networks of the RC SL initiatives with wider audiences. Together, we are shaping the future of our industries and forging lasting connections.



Evening excursion with the Notaries workshop to the waterfalls in Onati

I personally would like to thank everyone involved and organising the Legal Professional Group and Notaries. Ulrike Schultz and Avrom Sherr helped throughout in sending helpful communications and guidance

ensuring everyone was involved. I also extend a special thanks to Terry Halliday and Derk Venema on forming the panel on the theme of lawyers and state transformation to which I contributed.

Looking to the future of my own involvement with RCSL, specifically, I am collaborating with the 'Social legal theory and systems' working group in RCSL and I have presented our finding in the RCSL conference in Bangor. With this in mind I will continue to contribute and volunteer as part of the RCSL agenda participating as both a researcher and a member of this strong academic community.

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### NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP – ONLINE READING GROUP

Every first Tuesday of the month, the Systems Theory and Law Reading Group convene online to discuss selected readings. This fall, we focus on Luhmann's book, *Ecological Communication*. In our first session, on 1<sup>st</sup> October we have discussed the first chapters (1 to 9) of Luhmann's book. The next two sessions will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December this year). The WG co-chairs, Luisa Hedler and Stine Piilgaard Porner Nielsen, invite everyone who is interested to join. Please write Stine for information on meeting link and time: [stineppn@law.aau.dk](mailto:stineppn@law.aau.dk).

The WG has submitted a session proposal for the ISA in Rabat, Morocco, July 6-11, 2025. You find the proposal here:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2025/webprogram/preliminary/Session22063.html>

Please consider submitting an abstract to the session and reach out to the co-chairs if you should have any question: Stine or Luisa (lthf.bhl@cbs.dk).

Stine Piilgaard Porner Nielsen  
[stineppn@law.aau.dk](mailto:stineppn@law.aau.dk)

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### RCSL ANNUAL MEETING 2025 – PARTICIPATION IN THE V ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY, RABAT, MOROCCO, 6-11 JULY 2025 *KNOWING JUSTICE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE*

#### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS CLOSING ON 15 OCTOBER

RCSL is very grateful for an impressive team of RCSL members to have accepted to form the Programme Committee for the 2025 RCSL Rabat Meeting: Alysia Blackham, Germano Schwartz, Laura Lora, Masayuki Murayama, Melissa Crouch, Pablo Leandro Ciochini, Stefanie Lemke and Ulrike Schultz!



Members of the RCSL programme committee

On the basis of the imaginative and thought provoking session proposals received by RCSL in the course of the call for sessions issued by ISA in May 2024, this Programme Committee did select and order the following 19 sessions (the number of sessions allocated to RCSL according to the V ISA Forum Guidelines). Apart from these hosted sessions, RCSL is involved in the organization of three additional sessions. See the programme outline below.

Interested researchers, members of RCSL or not, are warmly invited to submit abstracts until 15 October 2024. The success of our 2025 Meeting, the strength of the position of RCSL as a Research Committee of the International Sociological Association, and the capacity of RCSL to participate in the world effort in the face of the environmental mutations, depends now on the individual abstract submissions, on your submission!

#### **2025 RCSL Rabat Annual Meeting – Programme Outline**

##### *Sessions hosted by RCSL*

- Session 1: Rights in the Anthropocene
- Session 2: Constitutionalism, Politics and Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene
- Session 3: Environmental Justice As a Gender Issue
- Session 4: Can the Justice Systems Meet the Challenges of the Anthropocene Era? Retracing the Complex Connections between Society, Environment, and Law
- Session 5: The Contribution of Legal Cultures to Our Understanding of Justice, in the Context of the Anthropocene
- Session 6: Justice Communication in the Anthropocene – a Systems Theory Approach
- Session 7: Sociology of Law in the Context of the Anthropocene Debate (Poster Session)
- Sessions 8-9: Decolonialism and Sociology of Law 1-2
- Session 10: Knowing Digital Justice in the Anthropocene: Developments in Digitalization and AI in Public Sector and Governance
- Session 11: Legal Alienation in Ordinary Legal Consciousness: Everyday Experiences

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- Session 12: Judicialization of Social Problems and Governance of Security in the Anthropocene
- Session 13: Disability Politics, Well Being and the Law: Perils and Possibilities
- Session 14: Access to Justice
- Session 15: Innovative Methods of Dispute Resolution
- Session 16: Derecho y Política a La Hora Del Antropoceno
- Session 17: Rurality in Sociolegal Scholarship
- Session 18: Compassionate Care for 'Monsters'? Justice, Psychiatry, and Anthropocene
- Session 19: Rule of Law Vs Rule By Law in the Anthropocene: Questioning the Political Use of Law in the Judicial and Developmental Fields

### *Sessions organized in connection with RC SL*

- Issues and Changes in Legal Work in the Age of the Anthropocene and AI
- Ethnographing Access to Rights in the Anthropocene
- Sociologie De La Pauvreté Chez Serge Paugam : Une Étude Sur La Possibilité De Généralisation

More about all sessions and how to submit your abstract, here: <https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/2025-rcsl-meeting-in-rabat-programme>. Remember: the deadline for submission of abstracts is **15 October 2024**.

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### **DECISION OF THE 2024 RC SL JURY COMMITTEE FOR THE PODGÓRECKI PRIZE**

In past years the prize has been shared between two nominees, as follows: 2007: Richard Abel (USA) and Vincenzo Ferrari (Italy); 2012: Fatima Kastner and Stefan Larsson; 2013: Volkmar Gessner and Terence Halliday. We urge the RC SL to follow this precedent this year and to award the prize to both Edvaldo Moita and Julia Dahlvik. This is our unanimous decision.

**Edvaldo Moita:** His CV is most impressive. His nominators describe his research on the phenomenon of informality as groundbreaking. We endorse their comments that, based on a comprehensive empirical study of street vending together with a solid mastery of the legal theory and sociology, his book provides 'a thorough understanding of how informality (and noncompliance with legal norms in general) affects behaviours and the legal system in contexts of fragile rule of law'. We considered that the book's employment of a case method applying the tools of urban anthropology represents an excellent balance between individual and context dependent experience and high-level theory building. His theoretical construction is very solid and draws on knowledge from his recent degrees, which allows him to make interdisciplinary approaches that include law, philosophy, history, anthropology and other disciplines in the field of social sciences. While the findings are drawn from specific

Latin-American experience, they are also relevant for other regions of the world and can therefore contribute to the diffusion of socio-legal studies at the international level.

**Julia Rebecca Dahlvik:** She has an extremely impressive CV which demonstrates her internationalism, indicated by visiting professor positions, a solid record of publications including six sole or first authored, and strong leadership in the socio-legal community. Her nominators highlight her mix of empirical work, use of a range of methods, and theory, and breadth of the themes, she deals with, describing her as having made 'remarkable contributions to the socio-legal understanding of migration and asylum, and to the sociology of the administration of public institutions'. We applauded *Inside Asylum Bureaucracy's* methodological background and mix of various qualitative methods (participant observation, interviews, document analysis) and the diversity of theoretical frameworks on which it drew. The resulting institutional ethnography, which deals with a highly relevant socio-legal issue, represents high level academic research, making a major contribution to socio-legal studies and underlining the centrality of social practice.

Jury committee: Hilary Sommerlad (chair), Balázs Fekete, Laura N. Lora.

Publicly announced on 5 September at the opening of the RC SL Members Meeting held at the Bangor RC SL Annual Conference

Hilary Sommerlad  
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### **ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT BY EDVALDO MOITA**

As the saying goes, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants that we can see further. This sentiment resonates deeply with me as I accept the 2024 RC SL Podgórecki Prize. I am profoundly honored by this recognition, which reflects not only my efforts but also the contributions and support of the giants who have guided me throughout my academic journey.

My nominators, Professors Alfons Bora and Marcelo Neves, have been those shoulders, carrying me for at least seven years. Their belief in my work indeed has been an immense source of encouragement, but it is their experience and wisdom that created the shortcuts, making my path easier. Words cannot fully express how much they have contributed to my career and research, and for that I can only offer my deepest thanks.

Looking at the list of past prize winners, it becomes evident how much I have benefited from the scholarly community that has built the field. For instance, the insights of Blankenburg, the first Podgórecki laureate, and Friedman, the 2017 recipient, on the distinction between rules of conduct and offers of regulation have greatly influenced my observation of how structural noncompliance pragmatically transforms rules of conduct into offers of regulation. The connections continue: Kiyoshi Hasegawa (2006) is a colleague I have been following since we met at the LSA in Toronto

in 2018; Sousa Santos (2009), David Nelken (2011), Volkmar Gessner (2013), and André-Jean Arnaud (2015) are recurring references I work with in my writing and teaching. If we were to include the broader active community of the RC SL, the list would be even longer. Suffice it to say, my work is a product of the collective intellectual effort of these giants.

Reflecting on my journey, I am also reminded of the communities who have played an integral role in shaping my academic path. Special thanks go to the Postgraduate Program in Law from the University of Brasília (PPGD/UnB), the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS), and the Brazilian Association of Researchers in Sociology of Law (ABraSD), which welcomed me in 2016 when I first presented my research and which now I have the honor to serve as its President. It is on the shoulders of the people in these communities that I stand today, and their wisdom and support have been crucial to the development of my work.

And of course, this journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of my wife, Fernanda Castelo Branco Araujo. She has been with me since the very beginning, and every prize I've received is, in truth, also hers. As a fellow researcher, Fernanda has been much more than a partner; she has been a constant peer, collaborator, and intellectual companion. This is the kind of privilege shared by few and for which I am deeply grateful.

This prize is as much a testament to the influence of these people and institutions as it is to my own efforts. Thank you once again for this prestigious honor. I look forward to continuing this journey and expanding the boundaries of our field.

Edvaldo Moita  
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#### ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT BY JULIA DAHLVIK

It is a great honor to be awarded the Podgórecki Prize 2024 for socio-legal research. I would like to express my gratitude to my nominators Barbara Bello (University of Tuscia) and Luigi Cominelli (University of Milan) for their valuable support; the exchange and collaboration with them has been very inspiring for me. I would also like to extend my thanks to this year's Prize Committee: Hilary Sommerlad (University of Leeds), Laura Noemi Lora (University of Buenos Aires), and Fekete Balázs (Eötvös Loránd University) for their work and for their wonderful laudation, as well as the current RC SL president, Pierre Guibentif, for his support. The awarding of the prize came as a surprise to me during the business meeting of this year's RC SL conference in Bangor (which was fantastic by the way).

Regarding my research on the asylum administration, I would like to mention that I actually found my home in sociology 'accidentally', initially taking sociology as elective classes to my original field in translation studies. In consequence, this led me to write my Masters Theses (in translation studies and sociology) on interpreting in the asylum procedure, and eventually to write my sociological PhD on the administration of

asylum applications in Austria. I regard myself as an enthused qualitative researcher who loves being in the field, aiming to understand peoples' practices and lifeworlds, and experimenting with methods and their combinations. I find it important to contribute to empirical and theoretical knowledge in the socio-legal field, while adopting multiple perspectives and thematic angles, trying to come close to reality's complexity.

I would also like to mention that I attach great importance to the RC SL and all the work done by so many scholars from all parts of the world to institutionalize the exchange among scholars while allowing a broad identity, including sociologists of law, socio-legal scholars or law and society scholars, and to thereby strengthen the common representation of our work.

I believe that I felt drawn to the RC SL early in my career not only because of its huge potential for international exchange but also because law and society was not and still is not strongly established in Austria. This led me to be a co-founder of the Law and Society branch of the Austrian Sociological Association in 2016 and in the same year I had the honour and pleasure to act as RC12 local coordinator for the 3rd ISA Forum which was organized at my alma mater, the University of Vienna. I see becoming a member of the RC SL Board in 2023, an honoring moment, and founding a new Working Group (Digitalisation, AI and Society) together with Barbara Bello and Stefan Larsson (University of Lund) in 2024 as a solid foundation for continuing to contribute to the future development of the RC SL. Thanks to all the involved people for your trust, and thank you for awarding me this year's Podgórecki Prize which is a very valuable recognition of my work in this field.

Julia Dahlvik  
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Continuing our series of presentations of research units in which our members work that we started in our last issue, Tamara Butter and Iris van Domselaar introduce us to their The Amsterdam Centre on the Legal Professions and Access to Justice (ACLPA) at Amsterdam Law School.

#### ACLPA AMSTERDAM: A CENTRE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERTISE

The Amsterdam Centre on the Legal Professions and Access to Justice (ACLPA) is a centre of interdisciplinary expertise on the legal professions, legal ethics and access to justice, situated at the Amsterdam Law School. It was founded by Prof. Iris van Domselaar in 2014 and is now home to more than 20 faculty members working on normative, doctrinal and empirical research. The ACLPA offers research, education, advice, training, lectures and workshops. It is unique in that it combines normative legal and ethical theory, and doctrinal and empirical research with a responsiveness to the experience and insights from

legal practice. The centre maintains a close relationship with legal practice, be it the judiciary, the Dutch Bar or the Municipality of Amsterdam.



The impressive ACLPA building.

In addition to its research agenda, the ACLPA seeks to contribute to societal debates and the valorisation of knowledge. It features a Blog Series, organises seminars on timely topics and its members have contributed to public debates on, for example, the professional responsibility of corporate lawyers, the impartiality and independence of the judiciary, the role of legal professionals – including government lawyers – in safeguarding the rule of law, digitalisation in the justice system, the value and pitfalls of ‘community courts’ and a ‘people-centered’ administration of justice.

The ACLPA plays a pioneering role in educating law students at the Amsterdam Law School to become a ‘responsible legal professional.’ The Amsterdam Law School is the first law school in the Netherlands that offers a compulsory first-year theoretical legal ethics course for around 800 law students. The ACLPA also offers an elective bachelor track ‘The Legal Profession’, a mastercourse ‘Legal Ethics for Lawyers’, and a range of legal ethics modules as part of the experiential learning programme of the Amsterdam Law School. In its educational activities it combines normative and empirical knowledge and approaches. In 2024 the centre was proud to host the 10th International Legal Ethics Conference with around 300 delegates from both academia and practice from all over the world.

For more information on the centre, please visit: Amsterdam Centre on the Legal Professions and Access to Justice - University of Amsterdam (uva.nl).

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The RCSL has strong ties with the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) in Oñati. In this issue, Pierre Guibentif thanks to Sabine Frerichs for her work as IISL Scientific Director throughout the last two years; Julia Dahlvik tells us about the workshop she organised at the IISL and Elina Rancane shares her experience as a Master student (see also in this NL, p. 11 f., the reports about the 2024 Meeting of the WG Legal Professions held at the IISL).

### OUR THANKS TO SABINE FRERICHS, IISL SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR 2022-2024

Sabine Frerichs took over the duty of IISL Scientific Director from September 2022 to July 2024. Many of us had the pleasure to meet her, when coming to Oñati for lecturing in the IISL International Master’s in the Sociology of Law, for participating in a IISL Workshop, or for staying at the Institute as a visiting scholar. We all could witness the committed fulfilment of her IISL Scientific Director’s mission over these last two years. And we could appreciate how she efficiently helped the Institute to come back to a functioning appropriate to its mission, after the breaks caused by the Covid pandemic and its consequences. Her work strengthened the Institute’s reputation, internationally and in the Basque Country. The reports she carefully prepared for the IISL Governing Board offer excellent tools to all those who participate in the Institute’s development, and in the very first place to our colleague José M. Sauca, who stepped in as new IISL Scientific Director now in September (see the Editorial of this Newsletter, p. 1). In addition to this material, I also would like to mention here the inspiring words of her “Farewell Note”, published in the IISL Newsletter of July 2024 ( <https://mailchi.mp/a9397bc0e225/iisl-newsletter-july-2024?e=61b8023875> ). For all this I wanted to express to Sabine Frerichs the gratitude of RCSL.

Pierre Guibentif  
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### REPORT ON IISL WORKSHOP ON THE FUTURE OF OMBUDS RESEARCH

On 18 and 19 July 2024, together with my colleague Axel Pohn-Weidinger and after two years of preparatory work, I had the pleasure of hosting a workshop on The Future of Ombuds Research at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) in Oñati, in the beautiful Basque country. The aim of the workshop, which followed up on a previous workshop and two edited volumes dedicated



to international ombuds research, was threefold. There is general agreement that ombuds institutions are important grievance mechanisms, and in the public sector often understood as a key pillar for the consolidation of democracy. The existing literature provides us with a relatively good understanding of legal frameworks, and sometimes users' perspectives and organizational design. But there are certain limitations and blind spots which we thought needed to be dealt with in ombuds research. In planning the workshop, we had identified three key areas that require more attention.



Julia Dahlvik and Axel Pohn-Weidinger

First, current global events and developments, such as the digital transformation, the COVID-pandemic or the climate crisis: To date, we do not know much about how these transformations affect ombuds institutions and their work as well as the structure of complaints. This leads to the second point, namely, empirical research on ombuds institutions and their users. We believe that ombuds institutions should more often be subject to socio-legal empirical and analytical inquiry rather than descriptive or theoretical commentary alone. Ombuds institutions cannot merely be understood as codified legal entities but as institutions embedded in specific social contexts that are formed by societal forces surrounding them and which contribute to a certain extent to the shaping of modern societies. Empirical and comparative investigations will help us understand factors and social processes relevant to the coming into existence, the functioning and the evolution of ombuds within the societies they operate in. And third, we find that there is potential to develop more critical perspectives in the field of ombuds research. Although ombuds institutions exist throughout the world, most literature focuses on the Global North and operates with traditional Western categories of democratic states. Instead of promoting western centrism, ombuds studies could benefit from more critical perspectives, including post-colonial and feminist research.

The workshop in Oñati was opened by Sabine Frerichs, Scientific Director of the IISL, and a poignant introductory presentation by Manuel Lezertua, Ararteko/Ombudsman of the Basque Country, on current topics of the Basque public ombud. In two days, we were able to include 18 insightful presentations from colleagues with diverse disciplinary backgrounds, mainly from Europe but also from Australia and the US. The sessions covered the following topics: The

Ombuds and Policy: The Case of Educational Field; The Ombuds and the Marginalized; Emerging Fields of Ombuds Activity; The Ombuds and Politics; The Role of the Ombuds: "Classical" Attributions and New Tasks; Effective Ombuds and Comparative Perspectives.



Workshop attendees at the IISL

The fact that the participants had been invited to write a paper that was then circulated in preparation for the workshop, and having designated discussants for each session, allowed for in-depth discussions. The very lively and rich debates during the two days made the workshop a real success which was also confirmed by the consistent positive feedback we received from our participating colleagues. It needs to be mentioned that the on-site organization by the IISL – before and during the workshop – was perfect and everyone also enjoyed the social gatherings. We can very much recommend applying for a workshop at the IISL and hope to come back soon – be it for a workshop or a research stay. The Oñati University's impressive Renaissance building and the town's beautiful charm, including its surrounding landscape, make for the cherry on the cake.

The workshop will be followed up by an edited volume, which will be the third publication in a series on ombuds research anthologies ("Research Handbook on the Ombudsman" edited by Marc Hertogh and Richard Kirkham, 2018; and "The Ombudsman in the Modern State" edited by Anita Stuhmcke and Matthew Groves, 2022), and will ensure that the outcome of this workshop is accessible for the communities of both scientists and practitioners in the ombuds field and beyond.

Julia Dahlvik  
julia.dahlvik@fh-campuswien.ac.at

## STUDYING IN OÑATI: A COMPLETE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The masters at IISL has been an experience I believe to be one of the best choices I have made in my life so far. Coming to a village in the Basque country to study sociology of law did not seem straightforward, nonetheless was a choice I made.

As a result I fell in love with the environment, the educational structure and the experience I had. Not only was Oñati as a location perfect for focusing on studies, with nature embracing the town, but the two-week module system allowed us as students to dive into subjects fully. The research we did for those subjects allowed us not just to learn theory, but to apply what we learned in generating new ideas. Having the opportunity to relate each subject to our own research interests allowed us to gain an even deeper understanding of the things we learned.

Not to mention the opportunity to live with peers and to meet professors and academics from all around the world throughout the study months. What I most appreciated was the ability to talk to scholars with years of experience - not just in a formal environment, but also during breakfast or whilst cooking dinner.

The masters at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law has so much more to offer in addition to the unique curriculum it presents.

Elina Rancane  
elinarancane01@gmail.com

## STEFANIE LEMKE'S APPOINTMENT TO UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT

Stefanie Lemke, RCSL Secretary, has been appointed as criminal justice expert by the Council of Europe to support the Ukrainian government in these difficult times. Stefanie will act as adviser to the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice. In her role, she will focus on how to improve the integrity of judges and prosecutors in the country and, as part of this, review the Ukrainian Criminal Procedure Code in light of international human rights standards.



Stefanie Lemke

The Council of Europe is an international organisation, with its headquarters in Strasbourg, which was created

in 1949 and now spans 46 European countries like Azerbaijan, Germany, Estonia, Spain and Turkey. Set up to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, the Council of Europe is home to both the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights.

Stefanie Lemke  
contact@stefanie-lemke.com

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIOLOGY OF LAW: AN RCSL PROJECT IN PROGRESS

In summer 2024 Elgar Publishing approached Hakan Hyden from Lund University in Sweden to edit an encyclopedia Sociology of law. Many of you who read this will be involved.

Meanwhile we are a team of three editors, Hakan Hyden from Lund, Peter Scharff Smith from Oslo university and Ulrike Schultz from FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany. We have worked for the past 12 months on the structure and the recruiting of authors. We have discussed the structure with many colleagues, also in two online kick-off meetings in May, and in a special session at the RCSL conference in Bangor in detail and got many helpful proposals.

It is an RCSL project. Most of the session coordinators and many authors are RCSL members (we hope that the others will join RCSL too) and the structure is also oriented to subjects of our RCSL working groups.

The encyclopedia is planned to include 350.000 words. We have a hierarchical project structure: The authors write entries for sections, which are coordinated by section coordinators. Those will also write an introduction to their section, binding the entries together and dealing with or mentioning missing subjects. We have defined 33 sections and each section has between four to ten entries. As this is an encyclopedia, the entries are supposed to give an overview over a subject and not just an account of personal research and subjective views.

In putting together the structure it was important for us to include authors from all around the globe, to avoid being Western- or Eurocentric, and we try to include global and regional subjects. Even if authors work at universities from what is called the global West, they often are from other parts of the world.

We have a strict time schedule to ensure we hand over the encyclopedia to the publisher by the end of 2025. A final list of topics and authors should be finalized in the very next weeks, and first versions of the entries ready in the first months of 2025. We have been having intensive discussions with Elgar, aiming at finding a good solution to the matter of open access.

The editorial product will be very important for our field. It strengthens sociology of law as an academic subject and provides a valuable overview of scientific topics within the field. It is truly interdisciplinary. We want to include the different perspectives of the disciplines, different methodologies and different political framings. There are core subjects and also timely questions. We have tried to take all this into account. We want to document the state of sociology of law as it is today,

also looking back over the history of the subject, and in many entries also perspectives of the future are given. This means that ESoL is important for all of us in Sociology of law, the older ones as well as the younger generation, including our students. Also, the authors of the entries include big names in our field and authors from the young generation including former Oñati students.

The project is demanding. There is a lot of work involved. But at the same time it is wonderful to have all the exchanges with our colleagues from all around the world.

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Hakan Hyden  
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Peter Scharff Smith  
p.s.smith@jus.uio.no

### **BOOK LAUNCH - "SOCIO-LEGAL TRAJECTORIES ACROSS EUROPE: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES" 4 DECEMBER 2024**

The anthology will be published in March 2025 by Hart/Bloomsbury Publishing (Oñati International Series in Law and Society). The Lund Sociology of Law Department hosts the book launch event.

This book brings together academics from across Europe to reflect on what they are doing as socio-legal scholars. We asked them to think about: how they became the academics they are today, what motivated the questions they were asking, and the methods and theories they were using. In the chapters they explore these themes against the background of the legal and academic context in which they worked. Thus, chapters in this book connect the individual scholar with the intellectual, institutional, and political context which has influenced it, and to which it reacted. They ask, for example, which theoretical traditions were crucial in their academic socialization or which role gender aspects or research evaluation played in their career. This novel approach combines scholarly self-reflection with a historical perspective on the history of socio-legal studies between law and the social sciences. In the introduction, the editors provide a heuristic framework to compare and make sense of these different, double trajectories, and show how, going forward, professional life-stories of socio-legal scholars can be theoretically analysed in order to better understand the many different ways in which the field develops internationally.

Editors: Christian Boulanger, Naomi Creutzfeldt and Jen Hendry.

#### Table of contents

1. Christian Boulanger, Naomi Creutzfeldt, Jen Hendry: Zooming in, zooming out: socio-legal trajectories between country studies and scholarly self-reflection

2. Marta Bucholc, The Comeback of Law: Theoretical Foundations and Research Traditions of Socio-Legal Studies in Poland after 1989
3. Balázs Fekete, Socio-Legal Studies in Contemporary Hungarian Legal Scholarship: Successes and Challenges
4. Samir Forić, Sociology of Law in the Western Balkans: Instrumentality, Liminality and Beyond
5. Ole Hammerslev, Outline of a Danish Socio-Legal Trajectory interconnected with Sociology of Law in Norway and Sweden
6. Liora Israël, At the Crossroads of Sociology and Law: An essay in Socio-Analysis
7. Eva Kocher, Interdisciplinary Labour Law Studies: From Critical Legal Studies to the Sociology of Law and Back Again
8. Revital Madar, On the Matter of the Law and Socio-Legal Identification
9. Francisca Pou-Gimenez, A Eurolatin Career in Comparative Public Law: From Analytic Legal Theory to Sociology of Law
10. Sally Wheeler, Socio-Legal Studies in the United Kingdom—A Personal Reflection

About the event

Date: 4 December 2024 13:15 to 15:00

Location: Room M331, 3rd floor, Allhelgona Kyrkogata 18 (House M), Lund and online.

Ole Hammerslev  
ole.hammerslev@soclaw.lu.se

### **DECOLONIAL SOCIOLOGY OF LAW SEMINAR SERIES**

The Sociology of Law Department at Lund University continues the Decolonial Sociology of Law Seminar Series in the autumn of 2024. See the poster announcing the speakers and dates at the end of this newsletter (see in this NL p. 22).

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### **INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH A SOCIOLOGICAL AND JURIDICAL APPROACH**

The Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas y Sociales, the Seminario de Sociology of Law together with the Department of Social Sciences of the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires organized the *III International and Interdisciplinary Federal Congress on Human Rights for Children and Adolescents. Theories and Practices for the Approach of Conflicts*, on June 27th and 28th, 2024. In this way, continuity was given to a project initiated in the year 2020, created in response to the need to build bridges with other parts of the world and to offer each of the participants, professors, researchers and officials from various backgrounds and professions, an environment that facilitated dialogue on different ways of addressing the conflicts that affect children and adolescents. The development of an international scientific work on Law and Society was combined, confirming that the

Sociology of Law was and is constitutive in these activities that highlight the gap between facts and rights, the distance between theory and practice in our societies. These spaces are also enriched by reflections on law as an anthropological, historical, and political social phenomenon. The main conferences and papers of the Congress, which brought together more than 500 participants, will be published soon. Among them more than 120 speakers. The publications of the previous congresses are available at

- Lora, Laura (comp.) (2023) *Derechos Humanos. Niñez y adolescencia: tomo I*, CABA: Departamento de Publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Buenos Aires. Available at: <http://www.derecho.uba.ar/publicaciones/libros/ind-derechos-humanos-ninez-y-adolescencia.php3>
- Lora, Laura (comp.) (2023) *Derechos Humanos. Niñez y adolescencia tomo II*. CABA: Departamento de Publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Buenos Aires. Available at: <http://www.derecho.uba.ar/publicaciones/libros/ind-derechos-humanos-ninez-y-adolescencia.php3>
- Laura Noemi Lora (ed.) (2022) *Conflictos socio jurídicos e infancia desde la perspectiva de los derechos humanos*, Vol XIV, Programa de Difusión de Resultados de Proyectos. Available at: <http://www.derecho.uba.ar/investigacion/pdf/2022-conflictos-socio-juridicos.pdf>

### BE PART OF OUR THRIVING COMMUNITY – RCSL’S NEW PROFILE ON LINKEDIN



Follow us!

RCSL enjoys a new presence on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/research-committee-on-sociology-of-law-rcsl/>) to share RCSL event announcements as well as Working Group and member updates like publications and promotions. All contributions will be re-posted on RCSL’s X account (<https://x.com/sociologiedroit/status/1828815584227627116>).

If you like to publish a post, get in touch with Stefanie Lemke ([rcsl@iisj.es](mailto:rcsl@iisj.es)).

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE BARBARA HUBER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law in Freiburg i. Br. / Germany (MPI-CSL) is inviting applications for the Barbara Huber Scholarship Program. The Research Scholarship program is open to outstanding academics from foreign research institutions for particularly innovative research projects that contribute significantly to scientific progress in the areas of Criminology, Public Law, or Criminal Law. For further information see here. The scholarships are awarded for a research stay at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law for a period of two to a maximum of six months. The scholarship amounts to EUR 1,365.00 per month for doctoral candidates, EUR 2,500.00 for postdocs, and EUR 3,000.00 for professors and experienced researchers. In addition to the monthly scholarship, a grant can also be awarded for expenses in connection with participation in an academic event or further research activities in Germany or other (European) countries.

Barbara Huber (1935–2018) was an outstanding legal scholar. She was a Senior Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, now MPI-CSL, where she carried out numerous large-scale comparative law projects.

Deadline for applications: 30 November, 2024.

Annika Hampel  
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### 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>

Manttoni Kortabarría Madina  
[m.kortabarría@iisj.es](mailto:m.kortabarría@iisj.es)

### THE IISL LIBRARY CALLS 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>).

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**RCSL - Research Committee on Sociology of Law** is a Research Committee (RC12) of the **International Sociological Association**  
<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en>



## Decolonial Sociology of Law Seminar Series

The Sociology of Law Department at Lund University continues the Decolonial Sociology of Law Seminar Series in the autumn of 2024. Arising out of critical self-reflexivity concerning the disciplinary origins, theories, and orientations associated with the sociology of law, as well as the role of Sweden as a colonial power, notably in the Arctic region involving Sami peoples, the seminar series seeks to contribute towards decolonisation in various forms. Bringing together perspectives from scholars at varying career stages, we offer a platform for critical discussion and debate on a range of issues germane to decolonising sociology of law, including the role of researchers, positionality, and knowledge production, re-evaluating and reimagining foundational scholarship in the discipline, and exploring ongoing decolonial practices and processes.

October 30

13:15 – 15:00

On campus and online

Michael McEachrane

Human Rights Scholar and Rapporteur of the UN  
Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Decolonial Sweden

November 6

13:15 – 15:00

On campus and online

Hilary Sommerlad

Professor of Law and Social Justice  
University of Leeds

The Making of a Pariah Class

Activist lawyers' experiences of post-imperial chauvinism

November 13

13:15 – 15:00

On campus and online

Dorothee Cambou

Assistant Professor of Sustainability Science  
University of Helsinki

Challenging Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the Green Transition

November 20

13:15 – 15:00

On campus and online

Somdeep Sen

Associate Professor of International Development Studies  
Roskilde University

Decolonial Tours of Palestine

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Visit [www.soclaw.lu.se/en](http://www.soclaw.lu.se/en) for more information  
and to join the seminars online via Zoom.

