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# ABOUT OÑATI SOCIO-LEGAL SERIES

## Focus and Scope

The Oñati Socio-Legal Series (ISSN: 2079-5971) is an international peer-reviewed on-line journal which publishes work within the field of law and society. This is broadly defined to include work which makes a significant contribution to the understanding and analysis of law as a set of social institutions, processes, practices or techniques, using any methodologies and approaches from the social sciences and humanities.

The IISL and its journal OSLS take pride in their cosmopolitan and all-inclusive vocation, especially regarding production and dissemination of high-profile academic knowledge. English being today's main vehicle of expression of scientific knowledge, it is also our journal's main language. However, although a title, abstract, and key words in English are mandatory for all papers, OSLS accepts and encourages use of other languages as well - by reason of the IISL's origin and location, Spanish, French and Basque are the other three main ones.

Articles should normally be of 8-15,000 words. However, shorter and longer work can be considered if the length is appropriate and justified.

## Peer Review Process

General editors first check that the article meets the quality criteria specified in the [Author Guidelines](#). If they do, the papers are double-blind peer-reviewed by two referees.

For collective special issue submissions, the potential Guest Editors will be invited to propose selected papers or authors to submit papers to OSLS. Editors-in-chief will assess the issue proposal and will decide whether it fits the criteria for publication in OSLS.

[Editors-in-chief](#) may decide to include individual articles, related to the main topic of the issue or not, to be published in the same issue; if this is the case, the guest editors will be informed beforehand and offered to mention these articles in the introduction to the issue. In either case, the individual articles will be visually separated from the thematic articles by a different section title.

Editors of the journal can also gather in a single issue a number of articles that, despite being in themselves individual submissions, may fall within a general thematic area, thus strengthening the overall attractiveness of the resulting issue.

In regard to the review process, one referee will be nominated by the Guest Editors, and one or more by the OSLS editors-in-chief. For other papers, reviewers are nominated by the OSLS editors-in-chief, advised by the [Editorial Board](#).



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Authors are requested to anonymize their paper and to remove their name and references from the document metadata. Reviews are anonymized too. All communication between authors and reviewers is done through the IISL, to ensure anonymity of both authors and reviewers.

Due to its well-established and respected status, OSLS has succeeded at garnering interest in academics from all over the world who are willing and keen to review for us, therefore establishing a large roster of reviewers who, all together, cover all areas of Sociology of Law and contribute to keep up the quality of our journal. OSLS can now attest to an international, diverse and inclusive pool of reviewers from several countries in all continents and continues to appoint or accept new qualified reviewers. Since 2011 until mid-2019, OSLS had received reviews from 1,200 scholars.

Reviewers are asked to comment on the following aspects:

1. Is the paper well organised and structured, does the argument flow well?
2. Are sources adequately and properly cited, and are the language and expression clear, adequate and appropriate?
3. Is the paper of sufficient interest and originality to be published in the Series?
4. Do you have suggestions for revision of the paper:
  - (i) parts which could be shortened or deleted,
  - (ii) arguments or points that need clarification, expansion or development,
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  - (iii) the paper should not be published unless the revised version is approved by you (or if you are not able or willing to read a revised version, please if possible suggest someone who could); or
  - (iv) the paper should not be published.

In the system, they must choose one of these options:

Accept submission ; Revisions required ; Resubmit for review; Resubmit elsewhere ; Decline submission ; See comments

In case of serious disagreement between reviewers, the editor may make a final decision or nominate a third reviewer.

Based on the reviewers' recommendations, authors will be notified of the review process (Accept submission ; accept with minor revisions ; resubmit for review ; decline submission), including the reviewers' reports and comments.



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Authors must revise their papers accordingly in four weeks' time. A letter explaining the changes made can also be included. Authors are required to respond to critical or disfavoured reviews, by addressing the main points raised by the reviewer.

The reviewers' recommendations will always be taken in consideration; however, editors will make the final decision on the publication of the paper, and the author will be informed. All the communication will be to the email account used to submit the paper to the journal.

### **Publication Frequency**

The OSLS will publish one volume per year, with issues published bimonthly. Further special issues can be published.

Issues will be published on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

### **Open Access Policy**

This journal provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater cross-disciplinary global exchange of knowledge. Its [sharing](#) license is [CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0](#) (Attribution, Non-commercial, No derivatives). Read more in our [Copyright Notice](#).

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This journal utilizes the LOCKSS system to create a distributed archiving system among participating libraries and permits those libraries to create permanent archives of the journal for purposes of preservation and restoration. [Read more on the LOCKSS site](#).

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## Publication Charges

The IISL is a non-profit organisation, and *Oñati Socio-Legal Series* does not take any publication charge from the authors.

*Oñati Socio-Legal Series* operates on a principle of **universal APC waiver**: it offers a service of Gold Open Access for which equivalent journals charge an average APC of 2,300 Euros per article (data from May 2020).

## Ethics and Responsibility

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law is committed to upholding the integrity of the work we publish. The value of academic publishing relies on everyone involved behaving ethically. The following points are intended to give a broad overview on our policy. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to [contact the Editor](#) of *Oñati Socio-Legal Series* (hereinafter, “OSLS” or “the journal”).

## Ethical issues to consider

### Authors:

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OSLS requires that all authors, by checking the appropriate item in the Submission Process, confirm that their submitted work has not been published before and is not under consideration at any other journal. This excludes non-commercial publication, e.g. as preprint, proceeding, presentation, work notes, and similar formats. OSLS will not accept translated versions of articles published in journals, books, or any other commercial form of publication.

If elements of a work have been previously published, including publication in *Oñati Socio-Legal Series*, the author is required to acknowledge the earlier work, giving details of each publication, and to indicate how the work submitted to OSLS differs and builds upon the research and conclusions contained in the previous work. Therefore, the authors' submission should not cite their own work literally, and in addition to this, it should also be significantly different from these previously published works.



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- **Research Ethics:** Authors should ensure that research presented in their manuscripts has been conducted in accordance with ethical guidelines widely accepted in socio-legal scholarship, provided by either their home institutions or scientific organizations of reference. OSLS and the IISL endorse SLSA's Principles of Ethical Research Practice and recommend following these principles ([https://www.slsa.ac.uk/images/slsdownloads/ethicalstatement/slsa%20ethics%20statement%20\\_final\\_%5b1%5d.pdf](https://www.slsa.ac.uk/images/slsdownloads/ethicalstatement/slsa%20ethics%20statement%20_final_%5b1%5d.pdf)). In case of conflict or in order to establish the ethical nature of the research reflected in any particular work, OSLS may request the author(s) to ensure and express that they have followed these or other relevant ethic codes to conduct their research, and include a general disclaimer on behalf of the IISL.
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- **Presentation of research:** Research methods should be described clearly and unambiguously so that findings can be confirmed by others.

- **Disclosure and conflicts of interest:** Any real or apparent conflicting or competing interest must be clearly stated in the paper, including sources of funding or other support for the research.

- **Significant errors in published works:** If an author subsequently discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's obligation to [contact the Journal](#) to identify and correct the error or inaccuracy, and cooperate with the Journal to retract or correct the paper.

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#### Reviewers must:

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- Conduct themselves fairly and impartially.

- Write their reviews in a courteous manner, avoiding the use of inappropriate or potentially offensive language, both in the review and in the confidential comments to the editor(s) that they may make.

- Oñati Socio-Legal Series encourages use of gender-neutral language, which has been proposed to reduce both discrimination and gender stereotyping. When in doubt, reviewers are invited to refer to the editor.

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- Maintain and promote consistent ethical policies for their journal issue.
- Oversee and act to enforce those policies as needed in a fair and consistent manner.
- Exercise the highest standards of personal integrity in their work as editor of the journal, recognising and planning for instances where they could have a competing interest or the appearance of a competing interest.

## Sharing Policy

We distinguish between three types of document depending on its production stage: **preprint**, **accepted manuscript**, and **Version of Record (published journal article)**

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- an **accepted manuscript** is the piece of work after incorporating the revisions suggested by the reviewers, and other amendments, additions or changes made by the author;

and

- the **Version of Record / Published journal article** is the final, enriched version of the article, laid out with OSLS's heading and visual traits, and after having undergone the editorial production process which adds value to it (typesetting, formatting, typography correction, reference formatting, DOI assignation, pagination, publishing, dissemination, and archiving). This is the article that is published as part of its volume and issue, on OSLS's publishing website (<http://opo.iisj.net/index.php/osls/index>).

OSLS works on the basic principle that authors always keep copyright on their work, and OSLS always has the right of first publication of articles that are accepted.

In order to reconcile both interests, we have set some simple guidelines on how authors can share their work.

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We request that authors indicate that it is an accepted article by OSLS whose publication is forthcoming, and to include a link to the OSLS website. We recommend the following formula:

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As a matter of principle, the number of articles available as OSLS First Online shall not exceed the number of accepted articles to be included in the three forthcoming issues. The OSLS First Online versions will be removed from the First Online website upon publication of their VOR, and then replaced by a new set of accepted manuscripts that will thus become OSLS First Online, for a similar period of time.

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[Oñati Socio-Legal Series](#) (hereinafter, “OSLS”) publishes articles which make a significant contribution to the understanding and analysis of law as a set of social institutions, processes, practices or techniques, using any methodologies and approaches from the social sciences and humanities.

OSLS publishes, among others, monographic issues of articles resulting from or related to [workshops](#), meetings or other activities that have been held at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (Oñati), as well as articles by visitors, resulting from students' dissertations, and other papers submitted by scholars from all around the world.

Publication can be in any language, though the main languages are English, Spanish and French. Articles should normally be of 8,000-15,000 words. However, shorter and longer work can be considered if the length is appropriate and justified.

Articles should use the [Author-Date system of citation](#), using the style of the International Review of Sociology. Articles should include a full Reference list. Where an item is available electronically (not in a closed database) please supply the URL link. We do not prescribe particular spelling conventions, but ask you to choose one you consider appropriate and follow it consistently.



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If the article is not written in English, please provide a translation into English of the title, abstract and keywords.

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Please note that you are responsible for proofreading your article, before submission as well as after acceptance and final submission. Reviewers may suggest stylistic changes or point out mistakes, but we do not proofread articles for form or for content. Please therefore check it carefully for spelling, grammar (see [OSLS's Grammar and Spelling guidelines](#)), and clarity of expression, as well as for correction and consistence of cites and references. If we consider that there is an unacceptable level of mistakes, we will return the article to you.

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2. A biographical note of the author is provided, including affiliation, postal and email contact details, and an ORCID number.
3. The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the [Author Guidelines](#), which is found in About the Journal.
4. The abstract is a comprehensive summary of the aims of the research, the methodology or methodologies used and the main findings or contributions to the field.
5. If submitting to a peer-reviewed section of the journal, the instructions in [Ensuring a Blind Review](#) have been followed, including removal of all field codes.
6. Once approved, the paper will be included in ESCI, [Scopus](#), [onatifirstonline.wordpress.com](#), [Dialnet](#), [DOAJ](#), [e-Revistas \(CSIC\)](#) and [CrossRef](#).

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