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# About Oñati Socio-Legal Series

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## Focus and Scope

The *Oñati Socio-Legal Series* (ISSN: 2079-5971) (hereinafter: “the journal” or “OSLS”) 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.



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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.

### **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.

### **Ownership disclosure**

Oñati Socio-Legal Series is owned and published by the Oñati IISL Foundation, a non-profit organization which was established jointly in 1988 by the International Sociological Association's [Research Committee on the Sociology of Law](#) (RCSL) and the [Government of the Basque Country, which nowadays provides most of the funding](#).

To learn more, please read our Statutes: <http://www.iisj.net/en/about-iisl/statutes-foundation-international-institute-sociology-law-o%C3%B1ati>

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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 Diamond Open Access for which equivalent journals charge an average APC of 2,300 Euros per article (data from May 2020).



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- [Norwegian Social Science Data Services \(NSD\)](#) register of journals
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## 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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If elements of a work have been previously published, including publication in Oñati Socio-Legal Series, the authors are 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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- **Data presentation, access, and retention:** The data must be true and research results must be presented clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation. Such data must be the authors' own or they must where necessary have permission to use data reproduced in their paper. Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data.

- **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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- Authorship of the paper must be accurately represented, so that all individuals that participated in the actual authorship of the work, and only those persons, are properly credited as authors, and that all who participated have given consent for publication and representation as authors.

Submissions from authors who have been published by the journal within the previous natural year will not be considered, unless the returning author is a co-author of a paper for which they are not the first author.

#### Reviewers must:

- Maintain the confidentiality of the review process.
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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.
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## Author Guidelines

[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.

Articles must include an up-to 150-word abstract and 4-5 keywords. The abstract should summarize the paper's contents, the aims of the research, the methodology used, and the main findings, and highlight the distinctive contribution to its field.

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 make sure your paper as submitted [ensures a blind peer review](#), and remove your name from the paper and the properties for the file. Include your affiliation and contact information (both professional postal address and email) in the submission form. Likewise, all field codes must be removed prior to submission, including cross-reference codes (Zotero, EndNote, etc.)

Headings and subheadings must be marked with numbers, separated by full stops (i.e. 1.; 1.2.; 1.2.1.), with no more than three numbers.

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Once the paper has been laid out, it will be returned to you for a last revision, before it is definitively published. As far as possible, articles will be made available as First Online before they are published in the journal. Prior to being published in the journal, each article will be assigned a DOI number.

## Content Guidelines

OSLS enforces a number of minimum requirements to ensure a pre-review standard. For all submissions, authors must make sure that their text is written in correct academic English, and have it checked by a native English speaker with a good command of academic language use. A paper may be rejected purely on the basis of poor language.

The following guidelines apply:

- Topicality, both for empirical context and for theoretical implications of the issue.
- The funding institutions of the research that constitutes the content basis of the book must be named, and the methodology having informed the research must be stated.
- Articles must:
  - Attend to a common set of questions, ideally from different angles.
  - Cross-reference: be a tightly-knit work, and a well-argued presentation of a certain topic.
- Senior authors as well as younger scholars will ideally be represented in authorship.

## Submission Preparation Checklist

Authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items:



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1. The submission has not been previously published<sup>1</sup>, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor). An exception to this would be that of articles that are a translation of an article previously published in Oñati Socio-Legal Series. If elements of this submission have been previously published, a supplementary document is included giving details of each publication, and indicating how this submission differs and builds upon the research and conclusions contained in the previous work.
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](#), [Dialnet](#), [DOAJ](#), [e-Revistas \(CSIC\)](#) and [CrossRef](#).

## 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.

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[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.

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1. Is the paper well organised and structured, does the argument flow well?
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In both cases, the corrected article will replace the previous version of the article.

An **erratum** (pl. errata) is a formal error in an article as a result of the production process from an original submission to a Version of Record. These do not usually impact the value or reader's understanding of the academic substance, therefore, they will be amended like minor errors.

A **retraction** is the withdrawal of an article and its removal from the online website of the journal, as well as the statement informing of this removal and the warning that the article should be considered invalid as a source of knowledge. OSLS will retract articles for reasons related to scientific misconduct including plagiarism, serious errors, and duplicate/concurrent publishing (self-plagiarism).

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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>).

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

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