

# RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

**RCSL President:**

Pierre Guibentif

pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt

**No 1  
2025**

**Newsletter Co-Editors In-Chief:**

Julia Dahlvik & Luisa Hedler

newsletter.rctl@gmail.com

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

## EDITORIAL

### Paying Attention to Our Agenda

Current times require us, authors and readers of this Newsletter, to have a close look at our agendas. Firstly, to take due notice of three deadlines important for our field; secondly, to consider our priorities, in the face of the ongoing geo-political shifts.

- The first deadline in time concerns the **V ISA Forum for Sociology**, Rabat, 6-11 July, which is also this year's **2025 RCSL Annual Meeting**: By next Saturday **22 March**, those whose abstracts have been accepted and included in the provisional programme ([website link](#), see also below p. 5), have to register for the Forum, as a condition to be included in the final programme.

- The second concerns the **International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL)**. The Institute is looking for a **new Scientific Director** who is due to take up office in September this year (2025) (see the Call, p. 6). Expressions of interest should be sent to Masayuki Murayama, Chair of the independent Nominating Committee, by **30 April**. A huge challenge for the international socio-legal community: what is at stake is to find among its members, in an unusually short time, the person who is capable to take over this function crucial to the Institute, as well as to the socio-legal scientific community. All readers of this Newsletter are invited to consider whether they could

## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	1
Introducing new RCSL Newsletter Co-Editors In-Chief.....	2
Introducing New RCSL Webmaster .....	3
Recollection of Newsletter edition.....	4
Discuss with us pressing issues in Law & Society: the RCSL webinar series.....	4
RCSL at the V ISA Forum of Sociology .....	5
Call for expressions of interest as Scientific Director of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law .....	6
Podgórecki Prize 2025: call for nominations.....	7
Call for expression of interest for the carrying out of a research in the history of social sciences and of sociology of law.....	8
Introducing ALADES.....	9
Shalini Randeria: new representative of ISA in the IISL Governing Board.....	10
In Memoriam Elías Díaz .....	11
The Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture .....	13
WG Reports: RCSL WG Knowledge and Opinion about the Law – Legal Consciousness .....	13
WG Reports: New Working Group on Digitalisation, AI and Society.....	14
Introducing Research Units: New Socio-Legal Research Group at the WZB Social Science Center Berlin.....	15
Introducing Research Projects: Global Value Chain Law .....	15
Podcast Spotlight .....	16
Book Reviews: call for contributions .....	17
Calls and Upcoming Events.....	17
RCSL Board, Working Groups, Office Address .....	23

answer this call, or if they have a colleague in mind with an appropriate profile.

- The third deadline concerns the **Podgórecki Prize 2025**, which will be awarded this year to a senior socio-legal scholar for distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements (see the Call, p. 7). Nominations are to be sent to Susana Santos, Chair of this year's Jury, by **31 May**.

It may seem inappropriate to give emphasis to this internal organizational timeline in these times of global political upheavals. Obviously, it is not. On the contrary, it is a way of focusing on how to pursue our regular activities, which is the first condition for us, as a research community, to keep playing our role in a changing environment.

The second condition is to rethink our research priorities in the face of these upheavals. Not with the direct purpose of changing these priorities: The stability of our tools (established teams and networks; research projects being carried out; data collection instruments; concepts and theories, and so on) is what enables us to add something new and different from the lessons we are currently learning from world politics, to the knowledge available for inspiring and orienting action in the current circumstances.

What has to be done is to reevaluate the reasons why we research. The study of the role of rules in the resolution of conflicts, of the perception of this role by non-specialists, of the professional handling of these rules by specialists, of the specificities of legal rules among other rules, as well as of many other socio-legal research topics, is likely to provide us with evidence of highest relevance for promoting, nurturing, and also defending debates which now gain new urgency, debates of enormous scope and complexity, but unescapable: about the conditions of the peaceful coexistence of different human societies, and of humanity and other forms of life on earth.

Apart from producing knowledge useful for such debates, however, what we also should do, as a research community, is to contribute to the extension of the world-wide fabric of social relations which constitutes the virtual arena required for said debates to have conditions to take place. This is what we do, modestly, through all the exchanges at our meetings, big and small, online and in person, our publications and not least through this Newsletter. We have had changes in the editorial team. After six years of hard work carried out by Pablo Ciocchini (see p. 4), to whom I want to thank here warmly, I am very grateful to Julia Dahlvik, Luisa Hedler, and Patricia André (see this p. 2 and f.), to have enthusiastically taken over the edition of this Newsletter and at the same time the

design of the RCSL Website, missions of particular importance at present.

Pierre Guibentif

[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

---

## INTRODUCING NEW RCSL NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS IN-CHIEF

### Julia Dahlvik



My name is Julia Dahlvik and I made my first serious contribution to the RCSL when the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISA Forum was hosted by the University of Vienna, Austria, in my home town and place of study, in 2016, as I had the honorable task of coordinating the sessions of our Research Committee RC12. I think it was the lack of a strong 'sociology of law' in the Austrian sociological community as well as my desire to connect with international colleagues that drove my motivation to be part of the RCSL community. I am a founding member and co-chair of the Law & Society section (founded in 2013) of the Austrian Sociological Association, since recently (2023) RCSL Board Member, founding member and co-chair of the Working Group 'Digitalisation, AI and Society' (2024, see more details in a separate contribution in this newsletter, p. 14), and editorial board member of the Austrian Journal of Sociology. I am currently working at the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna, and for some time now my research interest is in the field of public administration, concretely the relation between citizens and the state, and access to (administrative) justice, not only but also in the digital age.

I take on the role as co-editor of the newsletter with the aim to contribute to the exchange among sociology of law and socio-legal colleagues from all corners of the world. In times of information overflow, I see the bi-annual RCSL newsletter as a way to document at least a part of the important past,

present and future events and publications of all forms that are meaningful to our community. For this to be a joint effort, I want to invite all RC SL members to make contributions to our shared academic 'diary'.

Julia Dahlvik

[julia.dahlvik@fh-campuswien.ac.at](mailto:julia.dahlvik@fh-campuswien.ac.at)

## Luisa Hedler



My name is Luisa Hedler, and I am currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Business Humanities and Law at Copenhagen Business School. My first contact with sociology of law was during my law studies at the University of Brasília, where I was first presented with the necessities of inter-disciplinarity in order to understand and address the role that law plays – for good and ill – in society. Later, while doing my PhD in Denmark on the use of algorithms by courts of law, I found myself acutely aware that my academic interests and directions went beyond the scope of traditional, “black letter” legal scholarship, especially in the European context. In this sense, taking part in my first RC SL meeting felt very much like coming home: I was surrounded by fascinating discussions, where the diversity of approaches only strengthened the core, joint concerns. I am currently one of the co-coordinators of one of our working groups (Social and Legal Systems), which has been a great, supportive environment to discuss paper drafts, plan joint publications and discuss interesting texts in our monthly reading group. As a new editor to the newsletter, I am looking forward to getting in contact with the work of all the different working groups in the RC SL, to give our community an overview of all the interesting and exciting things happening, and to contribute to bringing us all closer. In times where there is uncertainty and turmoil, I find that it becomes especially important to visualize that

there are more people around the world who are – from their different angles – reflecting, researching and coming together to contribute to the many crucial discussions going on.

Luisa Hedler

[ltfh.bhl@cbs.dk](mailto:ltfh.bhl@cbs.dk)

## INTRODUCING NEW RC SL WEBMASTER

### Patrícia André



Credits: Bruno Vasconcelos

My name is Patrícia André, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new webmaster of the RC SL website and a member of the editorial committee of the newsletter, responsible for its redesign. This issue marks the first newsletter with our new visual identity, aligned with ISA's graphic standards. The website refurbishment is still ongoing but expected to be completed soon.

My journey with sociology of law began after completing my law degree at the University of Lisbon, when I pursued my Master's at ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon. There, I was fortunate enough to meet a small but inspiring cohort of socio-legal scholars who introduced me to the field and with whom I still work to this day. Since then, I've been pursuing an interdisciplinary approach that tries to bridge sociology of law with analytical legal theory. Also, I've been particularly interested in examining law as a cross-dimensional object through the lens of legal discourse.

As a researcher at both CEDIS (Research Center on Law and Society at NOVA School of Law) and DINÂMIA'CET (Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies at ISCTE), I've had the opportunity to participate in diverse research projects examining various aspects of legal discourse in institutional, legislative, and judicial contexts.

My connection with the RCSL community began at the 2018 International Congress in Lisbon and was deepened as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2022 Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon. I also had the pleasure of participating in the 2023 Annual Meeting in Lund, further strengthening my engagement with our community.

Beyond RCSL, I've been serving as an elected member of the Coordination Team of the Thematic Section of Sociology of Law and Justice of the Portuguese Association of Sociology since 2023, working to strengthen socio-legal research networks at the national level.

I see my current role with the RCSL as an opportunity to contribute to our shared academic community. The newsletter and website are vital communication tools for connecting researchers, sharing knowledge, and promoting the field of sociology of law globally.

I welcome any suggestions or feedback on our communication platforms, as they truly belong to the entire RCSL community.

Patrícia André

[patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt](mailto:patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt)

## RECOLLECTION OF NEWSLETTER EDITION

I had the privilege of chairing the RCSL Editorial Committee from 2018 to 2025, and it has been a truly rewarding experience. I am deeply grateful to Ulrike Schultz for entrusting me with this role and to the entire editorial committee for their dedication and contributions over the years.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Mavis Maclean for her meticulous work in reviewing the language of every single article, to Ulrike Schultz for her unwavering support in identifying contributors, and to Stefan Machura for his invaluable assistance with the newsletter's design, as well as for his numerous contributions—always accompanied by beautiful photographs. More recently, I have also been fortunate to benefit from Stefanie Lemke's tireless efforts and Pierre's thorough revision of each issue.

Working on the newsletter has allowed me to connect more deeply with the members of this extraordinary community and to gain a greater appreciation for their remarkable work. My goal has always been to strengthen the bonds within our community and to make our research more visible to other scientific audiences. The newsletter serves two vital functions: it keeps members informed about ongoing research while also acting as an archive, preserving our activities for future scholars.

After these fulfilling years, I feel it is the right time to pass the responsibility on to the wonderful Julia Dahlvik and Luisa Teresa Hedler Ferreira. I am confident that they will bring a fresh perspective and new energy to the newsletter. Thank you.

Pablo Ciocchini

[ciocchini@gmail.com](mailto:ciocchini@gmail.com)

## DISCUSS WITH US PRESSING ISSUES IN LAW & SOCIETY: THE RCSL WEBINAR SERIES

RCSL is excited to offer you a new platform to share knowledge, engage and foster global collaboration: the RCSL Webinar Series. The series kicked off in summer 2024 and is designed to connect members of RCSL's community, introducing to the people behind RCSL and RCSL's many exciting working groups. Best of all, registration for all webinars is free and open to everyone.

### Protecting the Rights of Disabled Workers (11 December 2024)

In celebration of Human Rights Week, RCSL hosted a thought-provoking webinar on the protection of disabled workers' rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The event was led by Ravi Malhotra (University of Ottawa), with João Velloso (University of Ottawa), Chair of the RCSL Working Group 'Judicialization of Social Problems', acting as discussant.

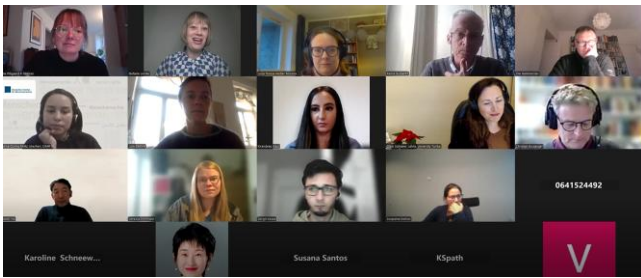


**Key Insights:**

In his presentation, Ravi shared his expertise on legal protections for disabled workers and advocated for a more inclusive and supportive environment for disabled workers. He introduced us to the concept of "crip time", a framework developed by Ellen Samuels and Alison Kafer on how the CRPD could better reflect the lived experiences of workers with disabilities. This includes the urgent need to rethink how laws could accommodate the unique relationship disabled people have with time.

**Business and Human Rights: Global Value Chains (14 January 2025)**

The first webinar of 2025 explored the complexities of global value chains and their profound implications for business and human rights. Stine Piilgaard Perner Nielsen from Aalborg University and Luisa Hedler from Copenhagen Business School, co-chairs of the RCSL Working Group 'Social and Legal Systems,' provided expert insights into this subject.

**Key Insights:**

In their presentation, Luisa and Stine explored the concept of global value chains through a temporality lens, emphasizing the significance of synchronization in understanding and regulating these interconnected networks of contracts. They discussed the legal challenges of defining and governing value chains, which often span across multiple companies and jurisdictions (about this research project, see below p. 16).

Interested to learn more about the RCSL Working Group 'Social and Legal Systems'? Luisa and Stine run a monthly reading group which you are welcome to join.

**Mediation Practices in Asia and Europe (11 March 2025)**

The second webinar of 2025 addressed current challenges in mediation. It was headed by the RCSL Working Group 'Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution', which is chaired by Hideaki Irie (Kyushu University). The event featured insights into mediation practices from Hideaki and Luigi Cominelli (University of Milan).

**Key Insights:**

Hideaki and Luigi examined the state of play of mediation in Japan and Italy, discussing the challenges judges, lawyers and the public have encountered since mediation was introduced to both countries. They highlighted differences and similarities between the two mediation systems, offering valuable lessons for scholars and professionals alike.

Stay tuned for more exciting webinars that bring together RCSL's global community and explore the pressing issues in law and society!

Stefanie Lemke

[rcsl@iisj.es](mailto:rcsl@iisj.es)

**RCSL AT THE V ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY, RABAT, 6-11 JULY 2025****Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene**

The 2025 RCSL Annual Meeting takes the form of sessions organized within the framework of the V ISA Forum of Sociology, which will take place in Rabat, 6-11 July. A complete provisional programme of these sessions, with time schedule, is now available on the [RCSL Website](#).



Rabat, Morocco (credits: Kim Levene, on Flickr, CC by 2.0)

This is the place to remember that the final programme will be published after the deadline for registration which applies to presenters: **22 March**. Only the presentations of registered participants will be included in the final programme, to be published on 9 May. Considering the quality of the programme of the RCSL sessions which could be set up thanks to the abstracts submitted last October, the RCSL V ISA Forum Programme Committee and the Programme Coordinator urge all authors of these abstracts to confirm their participation by registering in time.

The RCSL programme in Rabat is organised in two parts. A first part, from Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 July, is devoted to the Forum's topic, *Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene*. It groups, among others, sessions proposed by RCSL Working groups which found ways to link their domain of specialty to the Forum's topic. These three days will allow interested researchers to participate in an intense and diversified collective work exploring the possible contributions of socio-legal scholarship to the urgent debates about the current environmental challenges. A possible outcome of this work could be the setting up of a new RCSL Working Group addressing these challenges and their implication for law and other social norms. A second part, from Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 is devoted to other topics, proposed by other RCSL Working Groups, in line with their research and discussion agenda.



Rabat, Morocco (credits: Kim Levene, on Flickr, CC by 2.0)

As usual, an RCSL Business meeting will be organised at the occasion of this annual meeting. It will take place between these two main parts, on Wednesday 9 July in the evening.

An ISA Forum is an opportunity for contacts between the specialists of the different domains represented in its many Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups. This is the purpose of four sessions organized in partnership between RCSL and other Research Committees. This is also why RCSL encourages their members to find ways to attend, during the Forum, apart from the plenaries and common sessions, also sessions of other Research Committees. RCSL participants certainly will find ways to productively combine active participation to the work we intend to carry out in the course of our sessions, and fruitful discoveries of the work of other networks. This should contribute to strengthening the position of RCSL in ISA, which did benefit a lot from the abundant and imaginative response of the socio-legal community to the *Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene* ISA Call.

Pierre Guibentif  
[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

RCSL and Ikerbasque, the Basque Foundation for Science, are jointly publishing the following

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) located in Oñati, Spain, is issuing a call through the Research Committee for the Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association for expressions of interest for the position of Scientific Director. The term of the Scientific Director (SD) at the IISL is typically two years, extensible to two more. Outstanding scholars around the world working in the field of law and society are invited to submit an expression of interest in the position of Scientific Director of the IISL for the September 2025 - July 2027 term, being this two years term renewable one time.

The IISL is a leading institution for the sociology of law, with an international reputation ([IISL website](#)). IISL welcomes students and faculty from around the world for the International Master in Sociology of Law and has created a worldwide network of socio-legal scholars and researchers through international workshops, conferences, and summer courses each year, as well as individual visitors. The IISL hosts one of the leading libraries for sociology of law. It offers grants to support visitors and publishes highly regarded book series and journals. It contributes decisively to the reputation of the Basque Country with respect to academic research and professional training. It plays an essential role in the life of the [RCSL](#). The Scientific Director will become a fellow of the Ikerbasque Foundation for Scientific Research in the Basque Country and a distinguished professor at the University of the Basque Country during the term. The successful candidate is expected to meet the qualifications for excellence of the Ikerbasque Foundation. The criteria for appointment include outstanding scientific merit and research track-record, research experience, publications and scholarly excellence in line with Basque research capabilities (see <https://www.ikerbasque.net/en>). The Foundation's regulations apply to the salary. The Scientific Director shall be a member of the RCSL. The SD will be provided with an office at the Institute and will receive the support of all the staff. Family

accommodation will be provided in the Antia College Residence in Oñati at a moderate cost.

If you are interested in the position of Scientific Director, please email an expression of interest addressing the criteria, a research statement, and your curriculum vitae by no later than **30th of April 2025**. Send these to Professor Masayuki Murayama, Meiji University, [aa00092@meiji.ac.jp](mailto:aa00092@meiji.ac.jp), the chair of the independent Nominating Committee appointed by RCSL President Pierre Guibentif in consultation with the RCSL board. The other members of the Committee are Professor Letizia Mancini, Università degli Studi di Milano, and Professor Gema Varona, Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea. The application can include letters of support by colleagues in sociology of law, preferably RCSL members.

The Nominating Committee will review all applications, in order to determine if they meet the requirements of the Ikerbasque Foundation. It will submit a short list to the RCSL President who will forward the names of two candidates to the Ikerbasque Foundation for consideration. The final candidate will be selected by the IISL Governing Board. Gender balance will be taken into account in case proposed candidates meet ex aequo evaluation. In case the proposed candidate does not finally accept the post, the Governing Board will propose the next candidate of the list.



IISL at Oñati (credits: Pierre Guibentif)

You may find a detailed description of the role of the SD in organising and promoting the academic work of IISL and a profile of the SD on the [RCSL website](#). For further information on the procedure, please contact Masayuki Murayama, [aa00092@meiji.ac.jp](mailto:aa00092@meiji.ac.jp) or Pierre Guibentif, [pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt). If you have questions about the Basque scientific environment, please contact Gema Varona, [gemmamaria.varona@ehu.eus](mailto:gemmamaria.varona@ehu.eus). For details of the

administrative status of the SD, please contact the IISL Administrative Director Maite Elorza, [m.elorza@iisj.es](mailto:m.elorza@iisj.es).

Pierre Guibentif  
[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

## PODGORECKI PRIZE 2025: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Podgórecki Prize alternates each year between awards for (1) distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements, and (2) outstanding scholarship of a socio-legal researcher at an earlier stage of his or her career. 2025 RCSL Podgórecki Prize is to be awarded to a senior socio-legal scholar for distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements. The prize for senior socio-legal scholars is a commemorative certificate.



Adam Podgórecki (photo used with kind permission from the Oscar Halecki Institute, Canada)

Nominations, to be submitted before **31 May 2025**, require the support of two or more RCSL members from different countries and institutions, and should include the candidate's CV and a brief letter of support signed by the nominators.

Members of the 2025 Jury Committee are not allowed to sign as nominators. Previous nominees may be re-nominated in this 2025 round, with updated letters of support and CVs. The Jury Committee does not have access to previous correspondence or reviews.

Publications may be in any language. For works in languages other than those familiar to the Jury Committee, the nominations should give an indication of the value of the work and provide selected translations. To consider works in less well-known languages, the Jury Committee may co-opt and consult other RCSL members. Further information may be found at <https://rctl.hypotheses.org/introduction-2>.

Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Jury Committee, Susana Santos, [susanacsantos@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:susanacsantos@iscte-iul.pt) to be received **before 31 May 2025 at midnight GMT**, with copy to Stefanie Lemke, RCSL Secretary, [rcsl@iisj.es](mailto:rcsl@iisj.es)

The prize will be awarded within the framework of the RCSL Sessions organized for the V ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat, Morocco, 6-11 July 2025.

The 2025 Jury Committee is composed of:

- Susana Santos, Lisbon, Portugal (Chair)
- Ferdinando Spina, Lecce, Italy
- João Velloso, Ottawa, Canada.

Pierre Guibentif

[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the carrying out of a research in the history of social sciences and of sociology of law

*Draft approved by the French Association Droit et Société at its assembly of 4 December 2024, and by the IISL Governing Board at its meeting of 14 February 2025*

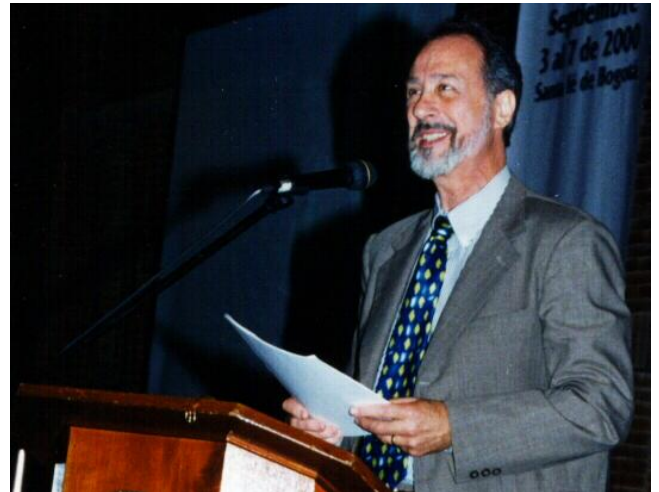
The International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) recently received the donation of the personal archives and the library of André-Jean Arnaud (1936-2015), the first scientific director of the Institute, from 1989 to 1991, who played a decisive role in its setting up and in the starting of its activities.

These archives and this library, now duly transferred to Oñati, thanks to the huge efforts of his widow Wanda Capeller, make a material of a considerable volume, including 146 ancient books, 1594 recent books, 9 boxes containing collections of journals, and 35 boxes containing documents (correspondence, documents produced in the course of the activities of the networks maintained by André-Jean Arnaud).

In the view of the *Research Committee on Sociology of Law* (RCSL), co-founder of IISL with the Basque Government, it appears to be indispensable to submit this material to a systematic analysis, and to publish the results of this analysis in an appropriate manner (which also should take advantage of the publication formats made possible by digital humanities).

As a matter of fact, apart from his engagement in the setting up of the IISL, André-Jean Arnaud played an essential role in the development of French-speaking research networks in the socio-legal field (being, among other involvements, founding member of the

French Association *Droit et Société*), and in the strengthening of the links between these networks and networks belonging to other regions of the world, among them Brazilian networks. So the analysis of the archives of Arnaud's work should allow a detailed reconstruction of the dynamics which have, from the end of the years 1960 on to the years 2010, given momentum to this development.



André-Jean Arnaud

Such analysis would offer a valuable contribution to the recent history of the social sciences and humanities, focused on an area of the scientific world where law meets sociology, social theories, history of law, political science and anthropology, which should make possible a detailed observation of the last advances, as well as of the last drawbacks of interdisciplinarity. And an area where those crossings are strongly conditioned by political debates, among them, in the course of the period here considered, those triggered by the students protests of the 1960, by the end of the Cold War, by globalisation, or else by the experience of changes in the tools of government. This analysis could produce knowledge very useful for those who are interested, today, in the development of a truly interdisciplinary socio-legal research, paying attention to societal challenges.

Moreover, the carrying out of this research should be organized in a way which would aim at responding to the needs of IISL in terms of cataloguing and making its resources accessible.

What is at stake, at this moment, is to join the institutional, intellectual, material, human, and financial resources necessary for this undertaking, which should be conceived of as a research project in the history of social sciences.

At the institutional level, IISL and the *Association Droit et Société* have a direct interest in the results of this project. Therefore, they are ready to shape their involvement in the design of the project, which could



include other institutional partners, in the terms most favourable for its implementation.

At an intellectual level, the project could be embedded in the activities of the RCSL *Working Group on Histories of the Sociology of Law*. It would be convenient to provide it with a project advisory board, which status should be defined according to the needs of the project, and who should gather personalities informed about the initiatives launched by André-Jean Arnaud, as well as specialists in the history of sociology of law.

At the material level, IISL has at its disposal facilities adequate for the carrying out of the project, as well as for hosting the researcher in charge of the project.

At the level of the human resources, a preliminary analysis of the archives to be analysed allows a very rough estimate of a workload of one or two years full time. The researcher should be fluent in French, since this is the language of an important part of the documentation. The project could give rise to publications in French and English, without excluding other languages.

At the financial level, the *Association Droit et Société* is ready for a contribution, which actually would cover only part of the project's needs. Additional funding should be found, for example within the framework of a competitive call for research projects.

The purpose of the present call for expression of interest is to invite researchers (PhD students, PostDocs, others) interested in the research perspectives here opened to send me by **31 May 2025** a motivation letter, with a short CV attached. The expressions of interest will be appreciated by a jury composed by Christian Boulanger, Wanda Capeller, Jacques Commaille, Pierre Guibentif, Rafael Muñagorri and José María Sauca Cano. The authors of the expressions of interest considered most adequate to the research work here discussed would participate in the preparation of applications for additional funding, in order for the project to be as beneficial as possible for the progress of their researcher career. In these applications they would appear as principal researcher. The access to the material to be analysed would be warranted to them during this preparatory stage.

Pierre Guibentif  
[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

## INTRODUCING ALADES

### Nace la Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Derecho y Sociedad (ALADES)

El día 3 de Octubre de 2024, en el marco del "XXIV Congreso Nacional y XIV Congreso Latinoamericano de Sociología Jurídica", se constituyó la Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Derecho y Sociedad (ALADES).

La asociación (ALADES) tiene como fin principal contribuir al desarrollo y la divulgación de estudios, investigaciones y capacitaciones socio-jurídicas, en el campo científico, académico, judicial y profesional de América Latina y el Caribe. ALADES busca generar capacitaciones y eventos para promover conocimiento científico entre los diferentes operadores del derecho, así como en el cuerpo docente para producir nuevas perspectivas jurídicas en presentes y futuras generaciones.

Invitamos a todos los actores académicos, sociales y jurídicos interesados en el abordaje inter y transdisciplinario de la relación entre Derecho y Sociedad a sumarse a esta naciente institución.

Conforme lo establecido en el Artículo 6 del Estatuto, podrán ser socios de ALADES quienes:

- ▷ Tengan 18 años de edad
- ▷ Tengan un grado universitario en Derecho, Sociología, u otras disciplinas académicas afines, o realicen tareas de investigación, docencia y/o difusión del conocimiento científico relacionado al campo de la sociología jurídica o al estudio socio-jurídico;
- ▷ Hayan presentado su solicitud de incorporación; se encuentren en los registros institucionales de la Asociación
- ▷ Realicen la aportación económica bianual establecida por la Asamblea General.

Durante el año 2025 la afiliación a la Asociación será gratuita. Si deseas asociarte con ALADES ingresa a [www.alades.org](http://www.alades.org) y completa el siguiente formulario [www.alades.org/asociate/](http://www.alades.org/asociate/)



ALADES founding act

## The Latin American and Caribbean Association of Law and Society (ALADES) is born

On October 3, 2024, within the framework of the "XXIV National Congress and XIV Latin American Congress of Legal Sociology", the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Law and Society (ALADES) was established.

The main purpose of the association (ALADES) is to contribute to the development and dissemination of socio-legal studies, research and training in the scientific, academic, judicial and professional fields of Latin America and the Caribbean. ALADES seeks to generate training and events to promote scientific knowledge among the different legal operators, as well as in the teaching staff to produce new legal perspectives in present and future generations.

We invite all academic, social and legal actors interested in the inter and transdisciplinary approach to the relationship between Law and Society to join this nascent institution.

According to Article 6 of the Statute, those who may become members of ALADES must:

- ▷ Have 18 years old
- ▷ Have a university degree in Law, Sociology, or other related academic disciplines, or carry out research, teaching and/or dissemination of scientific knowledge related to the field of legal sociology or socio-legal studies;
- ▷ Have submitted their application for incorporation; are in the institutional records of the Association
- ▷ Make the biannual financial contribution established by the General Assembly.

During the year 2025, membership in the Association will be free. If you wish to become a member of ALADES, go to [www.alades.org](http://www.alades.org) and complete the following form [www.alades.org/asociate/](http://www.alades.org/asociate/)

Matias Castro de Achaval  
[castrodeachaval@gmail.com](mailto:castrodeachaval@gmail.com)

## SHALINI RANDERIA

### New Representative of ISA in the IISL Governing Board

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law is the result of a partnership established between the Basque Government and the RCSL. The RCSL was

supported in the setting up of this partnership by the International Sociological Association (ISA), to which it belongs. The agreement creating the Institute, of 23 December 1988, was signed in the name of ISA, which, as a non-profit association for scientific purposes, had the necessary legal capacity. Since then, RCSL carries out the activities required to support the development of the Institute. ISA participates in these activities being represented in the IISL Governing Board, in which, apart from the representatives of the Basque Government, five members represent RCSL, one member ISA.

Under the presidency of Sari Hanafi, ISA was represented in the IISL Governing Board by Marta Soler Galart, from the University of Barcelona, who cooperated regularly and fruitfully with Ulrike Schultz, at that time RCSL President. Geoffrey Pleyers, ISA President elected in 2023, appointed Shalini Randeria, Rector of the Central European University now established in Vienna. Shalini Randeria is an anthropologist and sociologist, educated in India, Germany, and the United Kingdom, and has held academic positions in Germany, Switzerland, and Hungary. She has researched on different topics such as forced population displacement, or the effects of international investment agreements on governance, and she has published extensively on law, the state, and social movements.



Shalini Randeria

She is author of the podcast series Democracy in Question (see p. 16, Patrícia André's Podcast Spotlight). With this profile, Shalini Randeria is indeed excellently qualified to contribute to the governance

of the IISL. It was a pleasure to be introduced to her and to start collaborating with her at the occasion of the meeting of the recent IISL Governing Board on 13-14 February.

Pierre Guibentif  
[pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt)

## IN MEMORIAM

### Elías Díaz (1934-2025)

El 3 de febrero de 2025 murió Elías Díaz, una figura clave en la renovación de los estudios de Derecho, y no sólo de filosofía jurídica, en nuestro país. Uno de esos profesores a los que muchos de nosotros consideramos maestro. Maestro, porque contribuyó de una forma muy destacada a poner en marcha una profunda renovación de la enseñanza del Derecho, y no sólo en el ámbito de su disciplina, en el que su influencia fue capital. Maestro de tantas generaciones que se han formado con su manual *Sociología y Filosofía del Derecho*, en el que planteó un giro muy importante, incorporando tradiciones doctrinales que iban del positivismo jurídico (con una referencia importante a Kelsen), a la filosofía analítica o el marxismo y, asimismo, la perspectiva sociológica. Maestro que abrió caminos, junto a otros colegas y discípulos, para crear relaciones de nuestras Universidades con destacadas figuras del mundo filosófico jurídico, como Bobbio o Treves. Maestro, en fin, que deja una generación muy prestigiosa de profesores, aunque siempre rechazó el sistema cerrado de escuelas, que dominaba la Universidad de la época.

Al escribir estas líneas para la RC SL Newsletter, por invitación del Presidente del Research Committee on Sociology of Law (ISA), el profesor Pierre Guibentif, a quien agradezco su deferencia, debo resaltar en particular la contribución de Elías Díaz a los estudios de sociología jurídica y también, aunque esto se conoce menos, a la creación del IISL.

De lo primero, es casi superfluo hablar si se piensa que Elías escogió como título para su manual académico *Sociología y Filosofía del Derecho* (1971) que tuvo origen en su memoria de cátedra, poniendo así en primer plano una disciplina que no existía en la Universidad española de la época, ni en las Facultades de Políticas y Sociología, ni, menos aún, en las de Derecho. Merece la pena destacar que, dos años después, Elías Díaz elaboró un informe ("La enseñanza de la sociología jurídica en España"), para que fuera discutido en la sesión del RC SL en el VIII

congreso mundial de la ISA celebrado en Toronto, en 1974, en el que ofrecía un buen mapa de la cuestión. Esa atención por la sociología jurídica se debía, creo, a la influencia de dos de sus maestros, Enrique Tierno Galván primero, y luego Renato Treves. Elías atribuía a la sociología del Derecho la función fundamental de estudiar el Derecho como hecho social, el problema de las interconexiones entre el Derecho y la Sociedad y, con ello, lo que él denominaba "legitimidad eficaz", aun haciendo resaltar la diferencia entre legitimidad y legitimación. Algunos de los discípulos de Elías se convirtieron en prestigiosos profesores e investigadores de sociología (Carabaña, Toharia, Rodríguez Aramberry y Zaragoza, entre otros).

Pero es necesario destacar también la relación de Elías con el Instituto Internacional de Sociología Jurídica de Oñati. Se ha destacado siempre con justicia el peso que tuvieron en la decisión de su creación por el Gobierno vasco, junto con el RC SL, tres personalidades: Renato Treves, André-Jean Arnaud y Francisco Caballero Harriet. Como espectador en segunda fila en ese proceso, debo recordar que Elías Díaz desempeñó un importante papel junto a ellos. Fue así por su estrecha relación con Treves y con su discípulo Vincenzo Ferrari, y también por su propio prestigio como impulsor de la sociología del Derecho en los estudios académicos en España.

Además, Elías Díaz fue uno de los intelectuales más significados en la resistencia contra la dictadura franquista, lo que le supuso un coste académico y profesional considerable y sufrió represalias, como su confinamiento durante el estado de excepción de 1969. Fue cofundador de *Cuadernos para el Diálogo* y de *Sistema*. Su libro *Estado de Derecho y sociedad democrática*, publicado en pleno franquismo, en 1966, es particularmente emblemático de esa toma de posición ejemplar y tuvo una influencia muy considerable.

(Para las referencias de unos de sus principales libros, ver abajo).



Elías Díaz

Elías Díaz, a key figure in the renewal of law studies in Spain, and not only on legal philosophy, died last February the 3rd, 2025. Elías was one of those teachers that many of us consider a master. A master, because he contributed prominently to set in motion a profound renewal of the teaching of Law, and not just within the field of his discipline, in which he had seminal influence. Master of so many generations of students who trained with his manual *Sociología y Filosofía del Derecho*, in which he proposed a momentous turn by incorporating doctrinal traditions that ranged from legal positivism (with an important reference to Kelsen), to analytical philosophy or Marxism, as well as sociological perspective. A master whom, together with other colleagues and disciples, opened pathways that enabled relationships between our Universities and prominent figures of the legal philosophical world, such as Bobbio or Treves. A master, lastly, who leaves behind a very prestigious generation of professors, even if he always rejected the closed system of schools of thought, which dominated the University at the time.

In writing these lines for the RC SL Newsletter, at the kind request of the President of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (ISA), Professor Pierre Guibentif, whom I thank for his deference, I must highlight in particular Elías Díaz's contribution to legal sociology studies, and likewise, although it is less known, to the creation of the IISL.

Reference to the former seems almost superfluous, given that Elías chose *Sociology and Philosophy of Law* (1971) as the title for his academic manual, which stemmed from his lesson as a professor degree, thus bringing to the fore a discipline that did not exist in the Spanish University of the time, nor in the faculties of Politics and Sociology, much less in Law faculties. It is worth noting that two years later Elías Díaz prepared a report ("The teaching of legal sociology in Spain") for discussion at the RC SL session, within the VIII ISA World Congress held in Toronto in 1974, in which he offered a good map of the issue.

This attention to legal sociology was, I believe, largely due to the influence of two of his teachers, Enrique Tierno Galván in the first place, and later on Renato Treves. Elías Díaz attributed to the sociology of Law the fundamental function of studying Law as a social fact, highlighting the problem of interconnections between Law and Society and, therefore, what he called "effective legitimacy", while underlining the difference between legitimacy and legitimation. Some of Elías' disciples became prestigious professors and researchers in sociology (Carabaña, Toharia, Rodríguez Aramberri and Zaragoza, among others).

It is equally necessary emphasise Elías' relationship with Oñati's International Institute of Legal Sociology. The Basque Government's decision to create it, alongside the RC SL, has largely and rightfully been attributed to the prominent role of three personalities: Renato Treves, André-Jean Arnaud and Francisco Caballero Harriet. Nonetheless, I -as a second-row spectator in that process- must recall that, alongside them, Elías Díaz played an important role. Both as a result of his close relationship with Treves and his disciple, Vincenzo Ferrari, and by virtue of his own prestige as a promoter of the sociology of Law in Spain's academic studies.

In addition, Elías Díaz was one of the most significant intellectuals in the resistance against Franco's dictatorship, which entailed a considerable academic and professional cost, for he suffered reprisals, such as his confinement during the state of emergency in 1969. He was co-founder of *Cuadernos para el Diálogo* and *Sistema*. His book *Estado de Derecho y sociedad democrática*, published at the height of the Franco regime in 1966, is particularly emblematic of this exemplary position and had a very considerable influence.

Among his works, *Estado de Derecho y sociedad democrática* (1966), *Sociología y Filosofía del Derecho* (1971), *La filosofía social del krausismo español* (1973), *Notas para una historia del pensamiento español* (1974), *Legalidad-legitimidad del socialismo democrático* (1978), *De la maldad estatal y la soberanía popular* (1984), *Los viejos maestros: la reconstrucción de la razón* (1994), *Un itinerario intelectual, de filosofía jurídica y política* (2003), *De la Institución a la Constitución. Política y cultura en la España del siglo XX* (2009), *El derecho y el poder. Realismo crítico y filosofía del derecho* (2013).

Javier de Lucas

[javierdelucas1@gmail.com](mailto:javierdelucas1@gmail.com)

---

## THE REZA BANAKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture is the premier annual event at the Sociology of Law Department at Lund University. Established in honour of our late and distinguished colleague, Reza Banakar, this lecture serves as both a tribute to his intellectual legacy and a platform for recognising the contributions of leading scholars in the field of sociology of law. A perspicacious scholar, Reza played a crucial role in shaping the discipline over his lifetime. His insights and scholarship continue to resonate within the Lund

department and beyond, influencing new generations of sociologists of law. His presence is still felt in the curriculum, the discussions that animate our classrooms, and the ongoing conversations that take place among faculty and students alike.

The Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture was inaugurated in 2021 to commemorate his lasting impact and highlight pioneering work that advances the field in innovative and meaningful ways. Each year, a scholar whose research has significantly shaped the discipline is invited to deliver the lecture. The tradition ensures that Reza's commitment to rigorous scholarship is carried forward, fostering dialogue and intellectual exchange on the pressing socio-legal issues of our time.



Reza Banakar

Over the past years, the Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture has attracted some of the most esteemed scholars in the field. In 2021, Eve Darian-Smith delivered the inaugural lecture, offering thought-provoking insights into global socio-legal transformations. The following year, in 2022, Susan Silbey took the stage, engaging the audience with her cutting-edge and penetrating reflections on navigating the legal in scientific settings. In 2023, Mark Fathi Massoud delivered a masterful lecture on positionality in the discipline, offering a brilliant reorientation of the complexities of identity in scholarship. Most recently, in 2024, Yves Dezalay and Bryant G. Garth jointly delivered a summative lecture that explored the transnationality of legal expertise and the ways in which power is reproduced in the legal profession.

The Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture is held annually, typically in December, and follows a hybrid format that allows for broad participation. Attendees join both in person at Lund University and remotely from around the world, making it an accessible and truly global academic event. As we continue this tradition, the Reza Banakar Memorial Lecture remains a cornerstone event in the academic calendar of Lund's Sociology of Law Department, serving as a moment of reflection, a space for intellectual inspiration, and a

celebration of scholarship that aligns with the spirit of curiosity and engagement that Reza embodied throughout his life.

Michael Molavi

[michael.molavi@soclaw.lu.se](mailto:michael.molavi@soclaw.lu.se)

## WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

### RCSL WG Knowledge and Opinion about the Law – Legal Consciousness

The *Knowledge and Opinion about the Law – Legal Consciousness Working Group* (hereafter, the WG) is arguably a 'most' working group within the RCSL, at least from one aspect: it has the longest name. Until 2023, it was also the youngest, but with the addition of two new working groups to the RCSL family in 2024, the WG is now among the more settled ones.

The WG began as a project group in mid-2022 and was officially recognized as an RCSL working group in January 2023 by the RCSL board. Its establishment was driven by the need for a working group dedicated to classic sociology of law topics, such as the study of popular attitudes towards the law and the issues of legal consciousness. Interest in these issues seemed to grow worldwide in the early 2020s, so the WG aimed at creating a stable framework for scholars who shared the same research interest broadly speaking. We owe special thanks to Ulrike Schultz and Pierre Guibentif for their help and support during the establishment process.

So far, the WG proved to be rather effective in providing a lively forum for sharing research experiences and it has successfully attracted new members in the last years. Currently, it has more than 20 members. Most of the members are already the members of the RCSL, but there are some 'external friends' on the mailing list, too. Our members come from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdoms.

The WG's primary activity is organizing the WG members' participation in the RCSL conferences. In this sense, the WG looks to be rather successful. At the 2023 RCSL Annual Conference in Lund the WG hosted three panels featuring 12 presentations. For the 2024 RCSL Conference in Bangor the WG organized three panels again, and contributed to a plenary session on knowledge and opinion about the law. The titles of the

WG panels may give some hints on the research interest of the WG members: 'Legal Consciousness: Everyday Legality and Rule of Law', 'Legal Consciousness: the Use of Micro Lenses', and 'Legal Consciousness: Institutional and Macro Perspectives'. Our next major events will take place at the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Congress in Rabat this July (see p. 5). Due to the unprecedented number of abstract submissions for our panel call, 'Legal Alienation in Ordinary Legal Consciousness', we will be hosting two panels with more than 10 panellists.

Looking ahead, there are two areas for further development. First, there is a possibility that the WG will co-organize a joint annual meeting together with the WG *Comparative Legal Culture* in Budapest this September 2025. Hopefully, the call for papers will be announced soon. Second, some members of WG have begun to prepare a research handbook on legal consciousness studies. If successful in a longer run, this project could further strengthen collaboration among WG members.

Balázs Fekete

[fekete.balazs@ajk.elte.hu](mailto:fekete.balazs@ajk.elte.hu)

## New Working Group on Digitalisation, AI and Society

Given contemporary society's deeply entrenched dependence on digital, automated and increasingly AI-supported tools and practices, it is not hard to argue for the need for socio-legal critical scrutiny of this dependence. There are indeed a number of both classically oriented as well as more novel strands of sociology of law that can – or even must – contribute to the mapping and understanding of implications of new technologies for governance, for justice, for welfare, for law, and more. From the geo-political tensions to the microcosm of families and social interaction; from the welfare and health institutions to how states operate.

We therefore take the opportunity to announce a new Working Group within the RCSL, on "Digitalisation, AI and Society". We have deliberately chosen a wide frame, yet focus on the interaction between technology and society, in order to invite anyone in the socio-legal community to take part in and contribute to discussions and development, especially in the fields of socio-legal implications of digitalisation and AI, critical approaches to new technology in society, and theory and method development.

After a first (hybrid) meeting of interested persons at the RCSL Conference in Bangor in September 2024,

which we used for introducing the WG's aims as well as for hearing what kinds of activities colleagues would like to see in the WG, we had an online meeting in December 2024 to discuss in more detail the next activities.

The first point was the online election (separate from the meeting) of the WG chair and co-chair, Julia Dahlvik (University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien, Austria) and Stefan Larsson (Lund University, Sweden). Another key point was the WG's participation in the ISA Forum 2025 in Rabat, Morocco, where we will be present with a joint session with the WG 'Law and Development' on "Knowing Digital Justice in the Anthropocene: Developments in Digitalization and AI in Public Sector and Governance" as well as with a Methodological Workshop.

Another activity we are currently planning is a lunch webinar series which will be held 3 times a year, with the first event taking place before the summer of 2025. We will start the series by introducing two authors of the section on Law and New Technologies in the Encyclopedia of Sociology of Law, which is currently being edited by Håkan Hydén, Ulrike Schultz and Peter Scharff Smith.

The WG is also present on LinkedIn with the group 'RCSL Working Group on Digitalisation, AI and Society' where we will post upcoming events, new publications etc. To join, you can either search for the group on the platform or write us an email to invite you to the group. In addition, three colleagues – Luisa Hedler, Laetitia Tanqueray and Cong-rui Qiao – have initiated an online reading group open for anyone who is interested. The group's activities (date, time, contents) will also be posted on LinkedIn. Concerning future additional activities of the WG we would like to explore ways of supporting PhD students and junior researchers, maybe through a writing group or a methodology workshop.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us,

Julia Dahlvik & Stefan Larsson

[julia.dahlvik@fh-campuswien.ac.at](mailto:julia.dahlvik@fh-campuswien.ac.at)

[stefan.larsson@lth.lu.se](mailto:stefan.larsson@lth.lu.se)

## INTRODUCING RESEARCH UNITS

### New Socio-Legal Research Group at the WZB Social Science Center Berlin

The research group “Law and Governance in the Context of Social Inequalities” was established in April 2024. It is headed by Michael Wrase and consists of three postdoctoral researchers and seven research fellows, most of whom are pursuing PhD projects. Our researchers come from highly interdisciplinary backgrounds, including sociology, political science, educational science, communication science, and law.

Currently, we focus on two major research strands. One key area of our research is on access to justice, i.e. whether all individuals can equally mobilise and enforce their individual rights. In the multi-year project “Access to Justice in Berlin”, funded by the Department for Justice and Consumer Protection of the Berlin government, we have combined extensive field observations at advice bureaus and legal application offices with quantitative analyses of data on civil proceedings in Berlin courts. With additional funding by the Volkswagen Foundation and other organisations, we plan to deepen this research over the coming years, with a particular focus on digitalisation, judicial data analyses, and access to justice in cases of gender-based violence.



New research group at the WZB

Another important strand of our research is on education law and educational governance, which has emerged from several collaborative projects with educational scientists at the WZB. One such project, for example, examines how private schools are regulated, and whether the regulations in place

effectively ensure equal access to these partially state-funded schools. In a previous project, we analysed the implementation of the Right to Inclusive Education, enshrined in the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). To assess the implementation of the CRPD requirements within the school systems of the German states (*Bundesländer*), we analysed data from official sources, such as the Federal Statistical Office, as well as panel studies, drawing and elaborating on the concept of *human rights indicators*. In a new policy-oriented project we will advise the upcoming Federal Government on their education and youth welfare law policies.

Our general research agenda can be summarised as follows: We study law as a crucial means of governance by the state, a warrantor of the rule of law, and as a social phenomenon. We promote novel empirical, theoretical, and normative research on *law in action*. We provide research-based policy advice and engage in research-practice transfer. Importantly, we also foster interdisciplinary careers for young researchers in the field.

We are highly committed to expanding our socio-legal research to the European and international level and broadening our collaborative networks.

Should you be interested in our work, do not hesitate to get in touch:

Michael Wrase

[michael.wrase@wzb.eu](mailto:michael.wrase@wzb.eu)

## INTRODUCING RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Global Value Chain Law: Constituting Connectivity, Contracts and Corporations

Global Value Chains (GVCs) are everywhere – according to the OECD, 70% of international trade involves GVCs as products, raw materials and services cross borders, often numerous times, and are dispersed across the world, producing enormous environmental externalities, and rife with labour and other human rights issues in states which are at times unable or unwilling to address them. At the crux of this regulatory difficulty is the dispersion of the value-adding activities as a chain of contracts – which allow for an incredible level of synchronization across the globe while fragmenting legal obligations across different companies and jurisdictions. Until recently,

the main legal framework addressing this issue was mostly comprised of soft-law initiatives, such as the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, but both on the domestic and international sphere, laws have emerged making due diligence reporting on the value chain mandatory, making global value chains legally visible in novel ways and attempting to compel companies to internalize and cascade compliance towards their business partners.

The aim of the GLOBALVALUE project is to develop a systematic socio-legal approach to GVC law, from a historical, empirical and conceptual perspective. Starting from a historical approach, identifying colonial law as a precursor legal framework of extra-territorial application of the regulation of economic activities, the project aims to contextualize GVC law historically and investigate possible path dependencies in its development. When it comes to contemporary practice of GVC law, comprehensive case studies spanning the globe and different industries aim to examine how the soft-law and growing hard-law regulations of GVCs are communicated about and express themselves on the ground. And conceptually, the unique configurations of GVC law regarding the combination between public and private, international and domestic, hard and soft laws leads to implications that impact core legal concepts.



GLOBALVALUE research team

In order to tackle this task, the GLOBALVALUE researchers, including two active RCSL members, have varied disciplinary, geographical and theoretical backgrounds. We are excited to take part in the socio-legal community, share our discussions, and further widen the richness of multiple perspectives. Our work has already been introduced to the RCSL community in a Webinar in January (see p. 5), under the auspices of the WG on Social and

Legal Systems, and we look forward to continuing to discuss and share the developments of our project.

For more information on the project, profiles and contact of all team members, visit our institutional [webpage](#).

Luisa Hedler  
lthf.bhl@cbs.dk

## PODCAST SPOTLIGHT

In this new 'Podcast Spotlight' section, we highlight audio resources that engage with socio-legal scholarship, methodological approaches, and substantive issues relevant to our community. Each newsletter will feature selected podcasts that showcase innovative research, stimulating conversations, and the work of scholars within or relevant to our field, offering members an additional way to engage with current debates and developments in sociology of law.

### "Democracy in Question" with Shalini Randeria

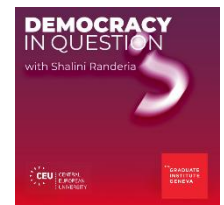
In this inaugural Podcast Spotlight, we feature "Democracy in Question," a thought-provoking series hosted by social anthropologist Shalini Randeria, President and Rector of Central European University (about Shalini Randeria, see also p. 10).

Now in its tenth season, this podcast explores the complex challenges facing liberal democracies worldwide through engaging dialogues with a carefully curated selection of guests, both leading scholars and public figures. Each episode provides a nuanced examination of democratic institutions and practices, considering both internal tensions and external pressures.

The podcast represents a valuable resource for socio-legal scholars interested in the intersection of law, politics, and society. It illuminates how democratic practices are contested, negotiated, and reimagined across different settings—themes central to socio-legal research concerning institutional legitimacy and legal consciousness.

The latest season launched on February 19, 2024.

Available at [Democracy in Question](#)





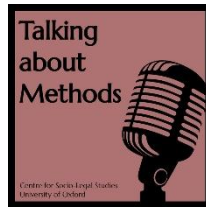
## "Talking about Methods" with Linda Mulcahy

For socio-legal scholars navigating the harsh terrain of empirical research, the podcast "Talking about Methods" offers an invaluable resource. Produced by the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford, this series features Professor Linda Mulcahy in conversation with leading scholars about how various research methods have informed their socio-legal work.

What makes this podcast unique is its depth and specificity—methodological issues are not treated merely as instrumental preliminaries but explored as conceptually fundamental to socio-legal research. Since its launch in May 2021, the series has developed an impressive catalog covering qualitative and quantitative approaches through carefully organized categories.

Each episode explores the challenges, dilemmas, and unexpected turns of empirical research, providing rare insights into research-in-action that are often absent from published works. Listeners gain access to the idiosyncrasies of fieldwork and practical solutions to questions frequently left unaddressed in academic publications.

Available at [Talking about Methods](#)

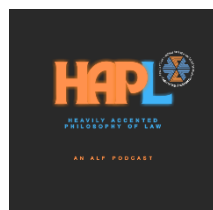


## "Heavily Accented Philosophy of Law"

For those interested in the theoretical underpinnings that inform socio-legal studies, the "Heavily Accented Philosophy of Law" podcast (HAPL) offers a refreshing window into legal theory. This emerging series stems from the EU Twinning Project ALF ("Advancing Cooperation on the Foundations of Law"), coordinated by the Center for Legal Fundamentals at the University of Belgrade.

Hosts Julieta Rabanos and Bojan Spaić combine an approachable, engaging style with intellectual rigor, making perennial questions of legal theory more palatable without sacrificing depth. Each episode illuminates the international networks currently active in legal theory and philosophy of law, providing context for the intellectual traditions informing contemporary debates.

HAPL addresses fundamental questions about law's nature and operation that underpin many socio-legal



investigations. For RC SL members interested in strengthening the theoretical dimensions of their work, this podcast offers valuable perspectives from a "sister field" that often approaches similar issues from different angles.

Available at [ALF Podcast](#)

Patrícia André

[patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt](mailto:patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt)

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Call for Contributions: New Book Review Section

Starting from the next newsletter, we are excited to announce a new section featuring brief reviews of books within the area of socio-legal studies. This is a great opportunity to highlight new scholarship, share insights with the RC SL community and spark interesting discussions.

Reviews should take up to 600 words, summarizing key arguments and including critical engagement and reflections.

Book suggestions and reviews should be sent to [newsletter.rcsl@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.rcsl@gmail.com).

Luisa Hedler

[lthf.bhl@cbs.dk](mailto:lthf.bhl@cbs.dk)

## CALLS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

In this section, we share events and calls for papers, conferences, and other opportunities that might be of interest to the RC SL community.

### APPROACHING DEADLINES

#### Legal Anthropology Projects / EViR

**Announcement Type:** Call for Applications

**Institution/Location:** Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Legal Unity and Pluralism," University of Münster, Germany

**Format:** In-person

**Date:** Academic years 2025/26 and 2026/27 (6-12 months)

**Description:** The Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Legal Unity and Pluralism" examines phenomena of unresolved simultaneity of legal unity and pluralism from historical-comparative and international-

comparative perspectives. Scholars whose research projects have a disciplinary focus on legal anthropology and correspond to the research agenda of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg (to at least one of its annual themes and/or research perspectives) are invited to apply.

**Deadline:** 24 March 2025

**More Info:** [info.evir@uni-muenster.de](mailto:info.evir@uni-muenster.de) / [website link](#)

### CLS Interdisciplinary Workshop / Rethinking Gender, Sexuality, and the Law

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Title:** Rethinking Gender, Sexuality, and the Law: A Conversation between Feminist Scholars in Postcolonial South Asia and the UK

**Institution/Location:** Centre of Law and Society and Journal of Law and Society, Cardiff University, UK

**Format:** In-person

**Date:** 16–17 June 2025

**Description:** This two-day workshop facilitates conversation on researching gender, sexuality and the law between scholars in postcolonial South Asia and the UK. The workshop also includes a masterclass in feminist research ethics with Prof Rosemary Hunter and Prof Ratna Kapur. Selected papers may be included in a Special Research Issue of the Journal of Law and Society.

**Deadline:** 28 March 2025

**More Info:** [ms194@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ms194@soas.ac.uk) / [website link](#)

### Truth and Authority in Criminal Justice

**Announcement Type:** Call for Papers

**Institution/Location:** Maastricht Institute for Criminal Sciences, Netherlands

**Format:** In-person conference

**Date:** 23–24 October 2025

**Description:** This multidisciplinary conference explores concerns about living in a "post-truth" society characterized by distrust in public truth claims and authority. Topics include conspiracy theories and crime, technology as authority in legal fact-finding, criminalisation challenges in a post-truth society, and truth and authority in the international legal order. Keynote-speakers include Brian Leiter (University of Chicago), Sabine Gless (University of Basel) and Sander van der Linden (Cambridge).

**Deadline:** 28 March 2025

**More Info:** [website link](#)

### Ecological Transition and Social Justice

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Publication:** Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene (Springer Nature Publications)

**Format:** Encyclopedia Entry

**Description:** This call seeks to analyze current ecological challenges requiring transition and the social justice issues raised. Contributions should be based on documentary and empirical investigations on environmental and social justice in ecological transition contexts. Topics include impact of environmental governance on human-nature relationships and social relations in Global North and South. Final papers due by June 30, 2025.

**Deadline:** 30 March 2025

**More Info:** [transition.justice@gmail.com](mailto:transition.justice@gmail.com) / [website link](#)

### Law and Anthropology in Asia

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Publication:** Asian Journal of Law and Society

**Format:** Journal Special Issue

**Date:** Publication in mid to late 2026

**Description:** This special issue welcomes research on topics including globalization's impact on Asian legal cultures, legal pluralism and integration in Asia, conflict of laws in migration and urbanization, alternative justice systems, digitalization and access to justice, and plural anthropologies of law in Asian contexts. Priority given to studies employing anthropological or ethnographic methods. Full manuscript deadline: 15 February 2026.

**Deadline:** 30 March 2025

**More Info:** [chirosh@tmu.ac.jp](mailto:chirosh@tmu.ac.jp) / [website link](#)

### Fairness as a Principle of European Law / Fourth Max Planck Law Conference for Early Career European Scholars

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Institution:** European Law Group, Max Planck Law, Munich, Germany

**Format:** In-person conference

**Date:** 4–5 September 2025

**Description:** The conference aims to bring together researchers interested in European law and policy for exchange on fairness as a guiding principle of European law. Open to assistant professors, postdocs, PhD candidates, advanced students with academic aspirations, and early career professionals.

**Deadline:** 1 April 2025

**More Info:** [europe@law.mpg.de](mailto:europe@law.mpg.de) / [website link](#)

### re:constitution Fellowships 2025/2026

**Announcement Type:** Call for Applications

**Institution:** joint programme of Forum Transregionale Studien and Democracy Reporting International

**Description:** Since 2019, re:constitution annually awards Fellowships to early- and mid-career scholars

and practitioners to work on individual projects related to the rule of law and democracy in Europe.

**Deadline:** 3 April 2025

**More Info:** [website link](#)

#### 4th Annual Nomos Conference

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Title:** Law and the Critique of Political Economy: 60th Anniversary of Reading Capital

**Institution/Location:** Centre for International Research on Law, Culture and Power, Brno, Czech Republic

**Format:** In-person conference

**Date:** 6-7 June 2025

**Description:** The 4th Nomos Conference explores the intersection of law and political economy on the 60th anniversary of Reading Capital.

**Deadline:** 13 April 2025

**More Info:** [website link](#)

#### AI Sovereignty and International Law - Asian Regional Challenges and Global Implications

**Announcement Type:** Call for Abstracts

**Publication:** Asian Journal of Law and Society

**Format:** Journal Special Issue

**Date:** Publication in 2026

**Description:** This special issue explores how international law can address complexities of AI sovereignty, balancing national interests with global cooperation and sustainable practices. Topics include international legal frameworks for AI sovereignty, data sovereignty and cross-border regulations, AI and human rights, AI sovereignty and sustainability, national security, trade and competition, and regional/global AI governance. Full manuscript deadline: 15 October 2025.

**Deadline:** 15 April 2025

**More Info:** [huiyeon.eim@u.nus.edu](mailto:huiyeon.eim@u.nus.edu) / [website link](#)

#### 'Law in Context' Early Career Workshop

**Announcement Type:** Call for Applications

**Institution/Location:** International Journal of Law in Context and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, UK

**Format:** In-person workshop

**Date:** 26-27 June 2025

**Description:** This workshop brings together scholars at a relatively early stage in their careers to support them in developing research projects and preparing publications for scholarly journals in socio-legal studies.

**Deadline:** 25 April 2025

**More Info:** [website link](#)

#### De Legibus Law Review – Special Issue on Law, State and Democracy

**Announcement Type:** Call for Papers

**Publication:** De Legibus Law Review, Faculty of Law of Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon

**Format:** Journal Special Issue

**Description:** This special issue welcomes a variety of methodological approaches and analytical perspectives on the relationships between Law, State, and Democracy. The issue explores theoretical and practical challenges facing these relationships in a context of multiple crises, accelerated social reconfiguration, and progressive complexity.

**Deadline:** 4 May 2025

**More Info:** [de.legibus@ulusofona.pt](mailto:de.legibus@ulusofona.pt) / [website link](#)

#### Barbara Huber Scholarship Program

**Announcement Type:** Call for Applications

**Institution/Location:** Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Freiburg, Germany

**Format:** In-person research stay

**Date:** 2-6 months (flexible within calendar year)

**Description:** The program supports outstanding academics at all levels from foreign research institutions for innovative research projects in Criminology, Public Law, or Criminal Law. Scholarships include monthly funding (€1,365 for doctoral candidates, €2,500 for postdocs, €3,000 for professors) plus additional grants for academic events or research activities in Germany or Europe. Named after Barbara Huber (1935-2018), a senior researcher who conducted numerous comparative law projects.

**Deadline:** 31 May 2025

**More Info:** [j.rinceanu@csl.mpg.de](mailto:j.rinceanu@csl.mpg.de) / [website link](#)

#### Revista Brasileira de Sociologia do Direito – Special Issue

**Announcement Type:** Call for Papers

**Title:** Direito, mídia e poder: desafios e perspectivas (Law, Media, and Power: Challenges and Perspectives)

**Publication:** Revista Brasileira de Sociologia do Direito (Brazilian Journal of Sociology of Law)

**Format:** Journal Special Issue

**Description:** Topics include fake news and post-truth origins and regulation, representations of law in media, role of emotions in state decision-making, artificial intelligence challenges, representations of law in films and fiction, popular culture and law, lawfare, propaganda and authoritarianism, social media cancellations, and ideological representations by alternative right-wing media.

**Deadline:** 30 June 2025

**More Info:** [website link](#)

### AJEE Special Issue – Artificial Intelligence and Law

**Announcement Type:** Call for Papers

**Title:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its Application in the Legal Field

**Publication:** Access to Justice in Eastern Europe Journal (AJEE)

**Format:** Journal Special Issue

**Date:** Publication expected December 1, 2025

**Description:** This special issue explores AI in judicial processes and dispute resolution, AI in the legislative process, AI ethics and regulatory challenges in law, AI in legal offices and law firms, and AI technology and future trends. The issue welcomes research articles, review articles, case studies, and notes from the field.

**Deadline:** July 1, 2025

**More Info:** [editor@ajee-journal.com](mailto:editor@ajee-journal.com) / [website link](#)

### International Access to Justice Forum 2025

**Announcement Type:** Call for presentations

**Institution/Location:** NYU School of Law, New York, USA

**Format:** Hybrid

**Date:** 26 September 2025

**Description:** This forum brings together scholars, researchers, practitioners, reformers, court and dispute resolution experts to discuss research, theory, and policy developments in civil justice. Topics include discrimination in design and operation of civil justice systems, gaps in access to justice, impacts of new technologies, legal professional regulatory reform, legal needs studies, climate change and civil justice, and more.

**Deadline:** to receive a notification when submissions are open use this [link](#)

**More Info:** [mhd7621@nyu.edu](mailto:mhd7621@nyu.edu) / [website link](#)

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

#### International Institute for the Sociology of Law / Virtual Workshops 2025–2026

**Announcement Type:** Call for Workshop Proposals

**Format:** Virtual

**Date:** throughout 2025–2026 (except August)

**Description:** The International Institute for the Sociology of Law welcomes applications to organize virtual workshops on topics that will make significant contributions to socio-legal studies or sociology of law. Applications should include completed application form, organizers' details, provisional participant list, and provisional program.

**Deadline:** Rolling (apply as early as possible in the calendar year before proposed workshop date)

**More Info:** [website link](#)

### iCourts Visiting Research Program

**Announcement Type:** Call for Visiting Researchers

**Institution/Location:** iCourts – the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence for International Courts and Governance, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Format:** In-person

**Date:** Various (up to 1 year)

**Description:** iCourts welcomes researchers (from PhD students to tenured Professors) to visit and share their knowledge. All visitors who can contribute to iCourts research are welcome to participate in research seminars and other activities. Visitors are expected to give a presentation at a weekly Lunch seminar during their stay.

**Deadline:** April 1st and October 1st each year (all applications evaluated after these dates)

**More Info:** [VisitiCourts@jur.ku.dk](mailto:VisitiCourts@jur.ku.dk) / [website link](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sociology of Law Department, Lund University / Research Seminars in Sociology of Law

**Announcement Type:** Seminar series

**Format:** Hybrid

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

**Date:** 19 March 2025, 13:15 PM – 15:00 PM

**Title:** Research Seminar in Sociology of Law with Yafa Shanneik – **Governing Health, Family and Religion: The Biopolitics of Genetic Counselling and Religious Family Formations**

**Description:** This presentation introduces a new research project at Lund University, funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant, which examines how state-led genetic healthcare policies intersect with cultural traditions and individual choices in family formations. The project focuses on close-knit religious minorities practising consanguineous and endogamous marriages to preserve communal bonds and lineages. It also examines how transnational spaces allow these communities to bypass national legal and healthcare restrictions. By comparing genetic counselling frameworks across different European and Middle Eastern countries, the project offers a new conceptual approach to researching the interplay of state policies, community governance and individual choice.

**Date:** 26 March 2025, 13:15 PM – 15:00 PM

**Title: Research Seminar in Sociology of Law with Mekonnen Ayano - Lawyering on the Eve of War: The Role of Law and Lawyers in Ethiopia's Civil War**

**Description:** This Article investigates the critical role played by prominent Ethiopian lawyers in transforming a politically charged conflict between national and regional factions into a legal contest over delayed elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. While grounded in liberal legalist principles, this reframing heightened political tensions and contributed to the escalation of the Tigray War—one of the most devastating civil conflicts of the 21st century. By situating this case within the broader discussions on the rule of law, the Article underscores the risks of overreliance on judicial processes in contexts characterized by deep historical and sociological divisions.

**More Info:** [theo.hagman-rogowski@soclaw.lu.se](mailto:theo.hagman-rogowski@soclaw.lu.se)

**6th Lecture of the 'Constitutional Imaginaries' Lecture Series**

**Announcement Type:** Lecture

**Institution:** Sofia University, SUMMIT EUVasC project.

**Format:** Virtual

**Date:** 17 March 2025 (5 pm EET, 4 pm CET)

**Title:** Constitutional Imaginaries

**Speaker:** Jiri Priban with moderation from Martin Belov

**More Info:** [zoom link](#)

**RT13 – Réseau Thématique "Sociologie du droit et de la Justice" de l'Association Française de Sociologie / Séminaire Général du RT13**

**Announcement Type:** Seminar series

**Format:** Virtual

**Date:** 20 March 2025

**Title:** Par-delà l'aveu – Remords et justice pénale

**Description:** This session features Virginie Gautron (Université de Nantes) presenting her book "Par-delà l'aveu: remords et justice pénale," with discussion by Sébastien Roux (Université Toulouse II – CNRS – EHES).

**Date:** 20 May 2025

**Title:** Les modes de présence du droit

**Description:** This session features Vincent-Arnaud Chappe (CNRS – CEMS – EHES) and Thomas Angeletti (CNRS – IRISSE) presenting their book "Les modes de présence du droit," with discussion by Thomas Forte (researcher associated with CED).

**Date:** 13 June 2025

**Title:** Enseigner la sociologie du droit

**Description:** Laurence Dumoulin (PACTE, CNRS/UGA/Sciences Po Grenoble) and Véronique Champeil-Desplats (Université Paris Nanterre – CTAD) present, and Marine Delaunay, Thomas Forte, and Nathan Rivet discuss. This session discusses

teaching practices of sociology of law in France around three axes: (1) creating sociology of law textbooks, (2) current state of sociology of law teaching in France based on syllabus comparison, and (3) reflection on pedagogical methods.

**More Info:** [website with access links](#)

**Inaugural Sanford Levinson Lecture in Constitutional Studies / Global Summit on Constitutionalism**

**Announcement Type:** Lecture

**Institution/Location:** University of Texas, Austin.

**Format:** In-person with streaming

**Date:** 21 March 2025

**Title:** Losing Faith in Constitutions?

**Speaker:** Kim Lane Scheppele with remarks from Sanford Levinson

**More Info:** [register to the live stream / about the Global Summit](#)

**Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies / MPIfG Lectures**

**Announcement Type:** Lecture series

**Format:** In-person

**Location:** MPI, Cologne, Germany

**Date:** 7 May 2025

**Title:** The Future as a Democratic Resource

**Speaker:** Jonathan White (European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science)

**Description:** Jonathan White explores how visions of the future are an important resource for democratic politics, as a way to put the present in critical perspective, to aid collective agent formation, and to consolidate commitment in adversity. The lecture examines how imagined futures contribute to democratic institutions' legitimacy.

**Date:** 3 June 2025

**Title:** The Politics of Unpaid Labor: How the Study of Unpaid Labor Can Help Address Inequality in Precarious Work

**Speaker:** Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven)

**Description:** Pulignano introduces a theory of politics of unpaid labor, advancing understanding of inequality within precarious work. She establishes links between unpaid labor's political dimensions and its role in fueling emerging forms of precarious work characterized by persistent inequalities in contexts of labor market reforms, societal shifts, and technological changes.

**Date:** 17 June 2025

**Title:** European Society – Its Meaning and Its Promise

**Speaker:** Armin von Bogdandy (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg)

**Description:** exploring how the concept of European society can counter Europeans' incomprehension of their union by integrating heterogeneous European experiences into one familiar notion. The concept shows conflicts as normal and potentially productive, occurring in one society rather than between discrete Member States.

**More Info:** [info@mpifg.de](mailto:info@mpifg.de) / [website link](#)

### Edinburgh Centre for Legal Theory, Edinburgh Law School / Legal Theory Festival

**Announcement Type:** Conference

**Institution/Location:** Edinburgh Law School, UK

**Format:** In-person

**Date:** 2-4 June 2025

**Description:** The Legal Theory Festival is the flagship event of the ECLT. It includes the Jurisprudence Annual Lecture and comprises thematic workshops, book symposiums, and roundtables organised by staff and students. Workshops include methodology in legal theory, jurisprudence by experiment, conforming interpretation and human rights, critical legal theory, and Grotius on the 400th anniversary. Keynote lecture by David Dyzenhaus (University of Toronto) on June 3rd.

**More Info:** [website link](#)

### Justice Administration Research Association / 2025 JAR-Association Conference

**Announcement Type:** Conference

**Location:** University of Limoges, France

**Format:** In-person

**Date:** 11-13 June 2025

**Theme:** Judicial Systems in Transition: Reforms, Innovations and Justice

**Description:** This is the second conference of the JAR-Association, focusing on topics related to judicial administration and policymakers, reforms and judiciaries, user-centred justice, access to justice, victims and justice seekers, judicial digitization, judicial administration and court users, artificial Intelligence, judicial administration and court management, judicial politics, judicial systems and civil society, media and justice.

**More Info:** [organiser@jar-association.eu](mailto:organiser@jar-association.eu) / [website link](#)

Patrícia André

[patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt](mailto:patricia.andre@novalaw.unl.pt)

## Reminder: Register for the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat!

This year, the RCSL is getting ready to join the larger context of the International Sociological Association for the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum in Rabat, Morocco, between 6-11 of July, to discuss the complex and thought-provoking theme of *Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene*. Registrations are open until the **22<sup>nd</sup> of March**.

Sign up for the Conference [here](#).

---

**RCSL BOARD**  
**August 2023 – July 2027**

**President:** Pierre Guibentif  
**Immediate Past President:** Ulrike Schultz  
**Vice-Presidents:** Teresa Piconto-Novales  
 Dee Smythe  
**Secretary:** Stefanie Lemke  
**Elected Board Members except Vice-Presidents and Secretary:** Laura Noemi Lora  
 Pablo Ciochini  
 Katrin Seidel  
 Julia Dahlvik  
**Co-opted Non-Voting Board Members:** Joxerramon Bengoetxea  
 Ole Hammerslev  
 Susana Santos  
**Additional Observer Member–IISL Scientific Director:** (tba)

**Working Group Chairs are also Board members.**

**FOUNDING MEMBERS:** Adam Podgórecki and William M. Evan (in memoriam †)

**RCSL Website:** Patrícia André

**RCSL Newsletter Editorial Committee:**

Julia Dahlvik and Luisa Hedler (Co-Chairs), Pierre Guibentif, Stefanie Lemke, Mavis Maclean, Patrícia André, Stefan Machura, Victoria Barnes

**RCSL WORKING GROUPS & CHAIRS:**

**Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution:** Irie Hideaki  
**Comparative Legal Culture:** Agnieszka Kubal  
**Comparative Studies of Legal Professions:** Avrom Sherr  
**Digitalisation, AI and Society:** Julia Dahlvik and Stefan Larsson  
**Gender, Law and Society:** Letizia Mancini and Barbara Giovanna Bello  
**Histories of Sociology of Law:** Christian Boulanger  
**Human Rights:** Dani Rudnicki  
**Judicialization of Social Problems:** João Velloso  
**Knowledge and Opinion about Law – Legal Consciousness** Balázs Fekete  
**Law and Development:** Pedro Fortes and David Restrepo-Amariles  
**Law and Migrations:** Rashmi Jain and Kryriaki Topidi  
**Law and Politics:** Angélica Cuéllar Vázquez  
**Law and Popular Culture:** Stefan Machura  
**Legal Pluralism:** (tba)

**Social and Legal Systems:** Stine Piilgaard Perner Nielsen and Luisa Teresa Hedler Ferreira

**Sociology of Constitutions:** Jiří Příbáň

**Former Presidents:**

Renato Treves (1962-1974)  
 Jan Glastra Van Loon (1974-1980)  
 Jean Van Houtte (1980-1990)  
 Vincenzo Ferrari (1990-1994)  
 Mavis Maclean (1994-1997)  
 Rogelio Perez Perdomo (1997-2000)  
 Johannes Feest (2000-2003)  
 Lawrence Friedman (2003-2006)  
 Anne Boigeol (2006-2010)  
 Vittorio Olgiati (2010-2014)  
 Masayuki Murayama (2014-2018)

**RCSL office:**

Manttoni Kortabarría Madina  
 IISJ  
 Avenida de la Universidad 8  
 Apartado 28  
 20560 Oñati (Gipuzkoa) – Spain  
 Phone: +34 943 783 064  
 Email: [m.kortabarría@iisj.es](mailto:m.kortabarría@iisj.es) / [rsl.secretary@iisj.es](mailto:rsl.secretary@iisj.es)



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

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RCSL MEMBERS

Share your news with the RCSL community!



Open calls
Announcements of upcoming events
Reports on relevant events
Research project updates
Working Group activities
Media (podcasts, films, interviews)
Book reviews
Other scholarly activities relevant to our socio-legal community

Submissions for the next issue should be sent to [newsletter.rcsl@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.rcsl@gmail.com) on a rolling basis. The RCSL Newsletter is published twice a year.

When submitting, please include a brief headline and your contact information. Images are welcome (please include photo credits).

Help us keep our community informed and connected!  
The Editorial Committee