

RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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

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**No 2
2022**

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear friends and colleagues,

The most important event in the past year was, of course, the global socio-legal meeting in **Lisbon from 13-16 July 2022** which was organised by LSA and co-sponsored by RCSL among other socio-legal organisations. More than 3000 colleagues had registered and most of them attended. There were also a number of virtual sessions. Pierre Guibentif and Dee Smythe have been Program Committee Co-chairs together with Michele Goodwin from LSA.

It was wonderful to see so many colleagues again after the two years of Corona lock-down. The atmosphere was great as can be read in the reports on the conference in this Newsletter. There were still difficulties for some colleagues, mainly due to Corona-related impediments. Airlines had saved on staff and in many airports, there were long waiting queues; some colleagues could not arrive in time, as flights were cancelled or postponed. Some did not get their visa in time, although they had applied for it a long time ago, quite a few caught Corona and had to stay away. Session organisers had to be flexible, and for some sessions new chairs had to be found. Some session organisers tried to include via zoom colleagues who could not come, which however was a technical challenge. And it was very hot, like everywhere in Europe this summer, up to 40 degrees. Colleagues from the global north are not really used this level of heat.

RCSL members organised many **sessions**. I submitted nine sessions on Gender and Judging, Women/Gender in the Legal Profession, The Notariat Across Borders and Gender in Customary and Indigenous Law and Proceedings, included papers by this year's Oñati Masters students. Joao Velloso has submitted several sessions for his RCSL working group on Judicialization of Social Problems, Stefan Machura submitted two sessions of his WG on Law and

Popular Culture, Martin Ramstedt two for his WG on Legal Pluralism, Sara Dezalay and Ole Hammerslev sessions on Lawyers and the State and the huge project on Lawyers in 21st Century Societies, Ralf Rogowski on Luhmann (see report by Kaur Kirandeep) just to name a few. Martin Ramstedt, the IISL Scientific Director, also organised a session showcasing IISL and RCSL activities.

Several of us founded **International Research Collaboratives (IRC)**. These groups can get travel funding for colleagues from B and C countries from the LSA with money from the American National Research Foundation (NRF). I was on the IRC Committee. 58 IRCS have been established and about 150 scholars received funding, amongst them eight of the members of the IRC on Gender in Customary and Indigenous Law and Proceedings (continued in page 2).

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The RCSL board had taken the decision to give 5 x 800 Euro as **travel funding** to students from outside Europe and 5 x 300 Euro for students resident in Europe but preferably to those who are from B and C countries (see the reports from Kaur Kirandeep and four Oñati students). Sharyn Roach Anleu has headed the funding committee with Barbara Bello and Laura Lora.

The Local Arrangement Committee headed by Pierre Guibentif and Susana Santos has done a fantastic job. It organized a broad set of sessions bridging between issues relevant in Portugal and in the lusophone world and the interests of the global socio-legal community. Many students helped with all kinds of problems, also giving technical support. Pierre organised a **RCSL dinner** in Casa do Alentejo on Thursday evening, where we had already been at the RCSL Conference in Lisbon in 2018. 120 colleagues had registered for it, a wonderful social event. As can be seen from the pictures taken, everybody enjoyed it very much.

On the following evening, there was another dinner organised by the **Onati Community** in the Palm Garden, another perfect occasion not only for socialising, but also for passing on information on projects and discussing work.

On Thursday 14 July a Global & Society Breakfast was organized by Dee Smythe, and on Saturday 16 July a **World Café** was organised by our Belgian colleague Danielle Chevalier, two initiatives geared towards linking the various regional and thematic Law & Society associations (see Danielle Chevalier's report). RCSL had prepared a **poster** for the World Café.



Ulrike Schultz and Pierre Gubentif at the RCSL dinner.

On the last day we had our **RCSL members meeting** which was very well attended by many colleagues - in-

person and online -, although still sessions were running parallel. It was my last members meeting as RCSL President as this is my last year in this office. I will arrange a final board meeting towards the end of the year. The Working Group chairs reported on their work in the last year. The biggest and most active group is the Legal Profession Group. It had a meeting in Coimbra on the three days before the Lisbon Conference. Avrom Sherr has been elected as the new chair (comp. the report by Mavis Maclean). The Gender, Law and Society Group had a Pre-Conference meeting in Paris organised by Alexandrine Guyard-Nedelec and Rosemary Auchmuty (comp. their report), which was very well attended, and a new research group has started its work: Knowledge and Opinion about Law and Legal Consciousness Studies (comp. the report by Balázs Fekete from Hungary who is chairing the group.)



Ulrike Schultz at the RCSL dinner in Casa do Alentejo

At the members meeting the winner of the **Podgorecki Prize 2022** was announced: Melissa Crouch from Australia. The members of the prize committee were: Germano Schwartz, Dee Smythe and Benoit Bastard. The prize ceremony will be held at the next RCSL Conference in Lund together with the ceremony for the Podgorecki Prize winner 2023. It will again be the lifetime award. For the nomination committee are appointed: Christian Boulanger, Alysia Blackham and Jiří Přibáň. Next year we will have our regular **RCSL elections**. Germano Schwartz will deal with the procedure.

Next year we will also have to nominate the next **Scientific Director for the IISL** for 2024 - 2026 who will follow Sabine Frerichs from Wirtschaftsuniversität Vienna who has just resumed her office. She was chosen from seven applications. She is the second female SD in Onati. We have to heartily thank the outgoing SD Martin Ramstedt who has started his term in the middle of the Corona crisis and who has done a

marvellous job, despite all the unforeseen difficulties and challenges.

And finally, the **dates for our next meetings: The ISA World Congress in Melbourne 25 June – 1 July 2023.**

The **RCSL meeting in Lund August 30th – September 1st.** The Conference subject will be **Law, Society and Digital Pasts, Presents and Futures.** Of course, all RCSL Working Groups are invited to hold sessions and also other socio-legal subjects can be covered. You may remember that it initially was planned for 2020 but had to be postponed due to Corona. Ole Hammerslev who has followed Reza Banakar on his chair is in charge of the conference together with a team at Lund University.

The RCSL meeting 2024 is scheduled for Bangor/Wales. The dates will be Wednesday to Friday, 4 - 6 September 2024. Stefan Machura is organising the conference.

Thank you to all who have supported me in the past year, namely the RCSL Vice-Presidents Sharyn Roach Anleu and Pierre Guibentif, our Newsletter-editor Pablo Ciochini, and so many others of you.

Let us hope, that Corona will not impede our work in the coming months. I wish you all healthy and fruitful coming months and am looking forward to meeting many of you in Lund.

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CONFERENCE "ON THE BOOKS" AND CONFERENCE "IN ACTION" - EXPERIENCING THE GLOBAL MEETING ON LAW & SOCIETY IN LISBON AS A GRADUATE STUDENT (1)

Sitting in my acclimatised hostel room, I can't decide between 20 degrees of dry air and 38 degrees of sweltering heat, so I turn the air conditioner off and on every half hour. The last day of the Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon is over, and I have to cool down. It's been five days between incredibly hot seminar rooms in the modern, unplastered concrete university buildings in the north of the city, cafés around the campus, the underground and the jerky trams pushing you up the hills, my cold hostel room and sardine dinners in the city centre. I am at the end of my Master's degree and went to Lisbon on my own to attend my first big conference. Big is perhaps the wrong word: it was a huge conference with over 900 presentations. Thankfully, it didn't take long for me to realise that I'm not the only one overwhelmed by navigating this programme. But it took me a while to learn that the important thing is the "in-between", the lunches, the little "mini-conferences" in the cafés around campus, the conversations in the hallway and lift, and that you can't go to five two-hour panels every day. But it doesn't say that anywhere. Other people who know the academic conference game had to tell me.

In the last few days and in the preparation, I have learned how big the difference between the "official script" and the "informal script", the "conference on the books" and the "conference in action" is. This observation started with the deadlines of the papers to be submitted. While papers were officially supposed to be sent to the chair four to six weeks before the conference, this seemed to be handled rather differently in practice. "I have to go back to the hotel and finish my paper for tomorrow" was a phrase I was surprised to hear very often in the last few days. For me, the deadline a few weeks ago was good and important, but knowing about unofficial practice already four weeks ago would have saved me some stress and guilty conscience about my badly formatted footnotes. The next point revolves around the question: What does paper mean? If my Master's thesis supervisor and research project manager hadn't told me in passing that conference papers are actually always "work in progress", that it can be helpful to start with the presentation and then write the paper, I wouldn't have known what the word paper meant in this context. The next point is about approaching people with higher degrees. If some doctoral students, whom I was lucky enough to meet on the first day, hadn't told me that I simply had to address people because "they are not here on holiday" and "that's what it's all about", I would probably have run out of every seminar room as soon as the panel was over because I didn't want to annoy anyone with my questions (and because I needed to get water). Thanks to the encouragement, I often managed to approach scholars after their talks and of course no one made me feel like I was interrupting or asking unnecessary questions.

In the last few days in Lisbon, both through the official events and through the "in-between", I have thus not only learned on explicitly substantive topics and about various approaches and localisations of Socio-Legal Studies but also about conference practices. And of course, this process involves "learning by doing" and it is also refreshing to know that not everything happens exactly as it is written in stone. Nevertheless, I argue that there should be a "manual" or workshop on "how to conference" for graduate students, because passing on this tacit and implicit knowledge cannot simply be left to the mechanisms of social capital without creating potential exclusions. (2)

Only thanks to the tips and tricks I received from my studies- and work environment in advance and my acquaintance with doctoral students on the first day of the conference, I was only thrown into shallow waters and not the deep end by attending my first Global Meeting on Law & Society. This nice experience in shallow waters made me better understand why there are big conferences at all (this is not at all self-explanatory), because even if I can draw few comparisons, I think that especially after two years of the pandemic, conferences like this show that academia does not only work alone at one's desk in one's own environment, but through conversations, through exchange, through thinking together. And I have learned that, despite or perhaps because of all the networking, it doesn't hurt to have a cold drink by the harbour after four panels on sexualised violence

and law and talk about the difference between swifts and swallows.

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Leonie Thies is a student assistant in the President's Research Group at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) in the research project "Access to Justice". She is currently writing her sociological master's thesis on the (de-) construction of credibility in sexual offence trials at the Institute of Social Sciences at Humboldt University in Berlin.

NOTES

(1) This is an abridged version of the article in German which has been published in BarBlog of the Berlin Working Group on Sociology of Law on 03.08.2022 *Rechtswirklichkeit – Das Blog des Berliner Arbeitskreises Rechtswirklichkeit* (hypotheses.org)

(2) At the virtual meeting of the American Law and Society Association in May 2021 a panel on "How to Conference" had been organised by Mark Massoud, which included many of the points raised and gives further information. A video of it is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuGbnanw6CU>

(3) In 1997 Stanley Cohen from UCLS in Los Angeles published an article "Conference Life: The Rough Guide" in *The American Sociologist*, Vol. 28, No. 3 pp. 69-84 URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27698840> which gives further insights into the pain and pleasures and dynamics of conferences, congresses, meetings, workshops etc.

ONATI MASTER STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES AT THE LISBON MEETING 2022

My experience attending such an important event as the 7th Global Conference of the LSA has been a very special one.

I arrived in Lisbon -a city that I've never been to- after three winters in a row. A few months ago, I was finishing my classes at the International Master Program of Sociology of Law in Oñati, Basque Country, to come back to my regular life: working as a criminal lawyer at the Prosecutor's Office in another hemisphere, another continent.

During my master's activities, I was lucky enough to have found not just colleagues but also a new family that shared with me incredible adventures. Hence, the possibility to attend the 7th Global Conference was an opportunity to gather one more time with lovely friends with a relevant aim: presenting our work.

What better experience than debating on the topics that we have been thinking about together for months? And even more, we had the opportunity to debate and think about these ideas among renowned scholars who were generous and kind when I approached them. I've got the chance to exchange points of view with colleagues from other parts of the globe that represented different

cultures and justice systems, and that are passionate about social legal studies as well.

This experience was only possible thanks to the support of the RCLS which allow me to travel from the global south, in a context of economic crisis and devaluation.

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After completing the theoretical stage of the International Master's in Sociology of Law at the Institute of Oñati, I had the opportunity to attend the 2022 Global Meeting on Law and Society, co-sponsored by RCSL, that took place in Lisbon last July. The emotion with which I lived this experience is something that will be difficult to explain and forget.

After months of wondering how the professional activity of a scholar may look like, my fellow students and I finally had the opportunity to see it in practice. We were all very nervous, and rightly so: the discussions we were used to holding among a small group of people suddenly moved to a larger scale. The possible topics to learn about multiplied and the opportunities to learn from the other multiplied. Although each of us had different interests, the huge variety of panels offered by this conference made it easy for all of us to find presentations relevant for our research. Of course, being able to present the work that we had been working on for months made this meeting an unforgettable experience. Related to this, I would like to highlight the emotion of being able to share the knowledge acquired and the feeling of seeing how the community confirms that you are on the right track. Finally, all these days of intense emotions were even more valuable for giving me the chance to meet authors of my field of interest who I admire as well as the opportunity to meet new ones.

In conclusion, this little adventure has been the first time I attended and participated in an international conference, and it is therefore something I will never forget and for which I am deeply grateful. Definitely, the 2022 Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon has been an experience that undoubtedly will enrich and enhance my future path as a scholar.

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Last December— just some weeks away from holiday break, with a really vague idea for a Master's thesis proposal, and already struggling to get through the coursework— we received the offer to participate at the LSA's 7th Global Meeting, with the chance of getting travel and accommodation funding through the RCSL. This was a major opportunity, as a Master's student, to attend my first-ever international academic conference. Surely, while we were frantically finishing our conference abstracts and bouncing potential titles off each other in the Residencia's study room, we would have never imagined how huge this meeting would be. It is no secret that attending (let alone presenting at) one of the best conferences in your discipline is a crucial part of any Early Career Scholar's success, at

least, that is what is usually said in the biggest forum for academics nowadays (yes, I mean Twitter).

Nonetheless, I certainly did not expect this to be such an amazing and profitable experience; not only could I present my research alongside two professors from Oñati, but said research was incredibly improved by the long Q&A session that unfurled at the drop of a hat due to the other two panelists not being able to present. Moreover, I was able to meet with many experts and scholars whose work I admire, chat with them, and even discuss joint projects and collaborations.

I also had the chance to dip my toe in the waters of leading a session, when, unexpectedly, the chair of one of my colleagues' panel unfortunately came under the weather and asked for someone to fill in for her; most likely, the wine we were enjoying at a beautiful Lisboeta rooftop when we received the last-minute email had something to do with my sudden decision to agree; but, in all, I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the panel without having to present a paper, it was still nerve-wracking, but really engaging!

This conference became, as well, the perfect excuse to reunite with many Oñati friends who, after finishing the coursework or their research stays, were already in their respective countries and cities, hours or even days away from Portugal—to be true, “we’ll always have Lisbon” became the mantra of solace that we constantly uttered to each other to get through the *saudade* of being away. And thanks to all the people who helped make it possible, Lisbon we had.

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This July I was invited to attend to the Lisbon Conference on Sociology of Law organized by the LSA and it was so far, the most exciting academic experience of my life.

It all started in december 2021 while we were in Oñati studying for the Master courses in the Residencia and we were told that we had the opportunity to attend to this international conference. The RCSL gently invited us to participate in the event. We had no idea how great this chance was at the time. In the next months we finished the courses and I went back home. I worked on my dissertation from Buenos Aires while working in an Ombudsman office and defining my future. I wrote about the agreement signed between Argentina and the IMF in 2018 and the role of International Law in legitimizing and reproducing domination relationships. Finally in July I had the opportunity to present my research in the LSA Conference in front of great academics and friends who show a lot of support. I also had the opportunity to meet in person great professors that I only knew in books, and even have a coffee or a beer with them. However, the most amazing thing about Lisbon was to meet again with friends from Oñati. I had the opportunity to meet with Martin, Ulrike, and great professors such as Katherine and Moishe. And the most important, I meet my friends from the Residencia: Deo, Itzi, Male, Debbie, Javi, Laura Ella, and Mireya. The also made super interesting presentations referred to different issues from which I learned a lot.

In sum, this Conference was a great chance to mix academic activity with friendships and strengthen the Oñati Community. I really hope I can attend the next year events.

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PANEL ON LUHMANN'S LEGACY AT THE LISBON MEETING

The Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association sponsored three Warwick PhD students to attend the Global Meeting on Law and Society 2022 in Lisbon, which had the theme Rage Reckoning and Remedy. The financial support allowed the students to present papers in the panel “Luhmann’s Legacy” organised by Professor Ralf Rogowski. This report presents information on the activities and the papers presented at the panel. The session discussed the potential of Niklas Luhmann’s theory of social systems to analyse current sociolegal trends in the world society. Professor Ralf Rogowski from the University of Warwick chaired the session. The panel included five presentations which centred on two central areas of Luhmann’s work: organisation theory and the concept of reflexive law. The presentations analysed Luhmann’s key concepts of functional differentiation and the distinction between interaction, organisation and societal function systems. They also explored the relevance of these concepts for empirical and historical studies of legal developments. The session focused on how Luhmann’s social systems theory could be applied to a number of policy areas such as labour and employment rights, the regulation of anticorruption and judicialisation of international disputes.

It is worth mentioning that there were two more panels at the meeting. The papers presented in those panels complemented the discussions in our Luhmann’s Legacy.



Luhmann's Legacy Panel

The preparation of the panel prior to the start of the conference involved a small working group of University of Warwick contacts (Kiran, Emeka and

Rafael) in continued discussions on the agenda of the panel presentations. We all felt the conference helped us to develop our knowledge of social systems theory and in particular understand the wider research community's view on Niklas Luhmann's work. In contributing to the Luhmann legacy panel we have helped to share our experiences with wider communities both in person and online after the panel presentations. We also hope to share our experiences and knowledge with the research communities of the University of Warwick and with professional contacts in specific industries such as (but not limited to) the legal industry in the UK. The following post has been shared on LinkedIn:

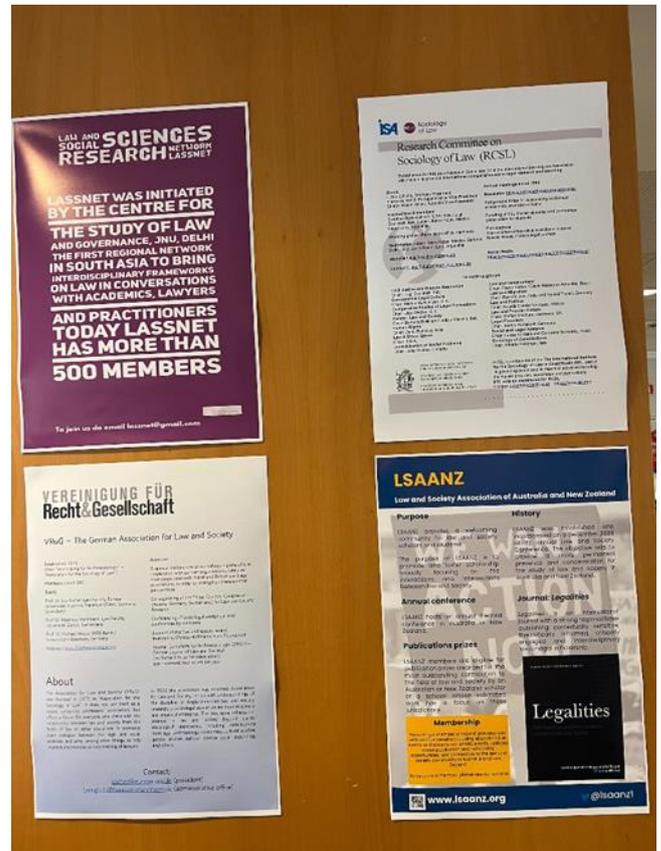
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kirandeepkaurhayer_germansociologist-lsa-lisbon2022-activity-6953848505438236672-P6iM?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web

The sponsored PhD students would like to thank everyone involved in both the conference and social organisation of the global meeting, in particular RCSL for sponsoring us and Ulrike Schultz, the president of the RCSL, and her colleagues who were helpful in circulating communication and guidance ensuring everyone was involved. We also extend our thanks to Professor Ralf Rogowski, University of Warwick, for organising the Luhmann's Legacy panel and the dinner afterwards, commenting during and after the panel, as well as guidance in preparation for the presentation at the panel.

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GLOBAL CAFÉ AT THE LISBON MEETING

The **Global Law and Society Association Conference 2022**, that took place 13-16 July in Lisbon, offered the marvellous opportunity for a **Global Café**, geared towards linking the various regional and thematic Law & Society associations affiliated with the LSA. The idea for the Café originated in the autumn of 2021, when LSA Trustee for Global Affairs Dee Smythe and Chair of the Dutch-Flemish Law & Society Association Danielle Chevalier connected with the shared desire to organize such an event. They teamed up and first initiated a series of panel conversations, in December 2021, to gauge interest and determine possible topics for discussion. From these conversations four overarching themes were identified with regard to which associations shared queries, concerns and or ambitions. The Global Café was subsequently organized in four roundtables centred on these themes, namely 'positionality', 'collaborations', 'journals', and 'next generation'. Over forty people, representing various associations and journals from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America, convened at the Global Café and held vibrant discussions on the numerous shared issues.

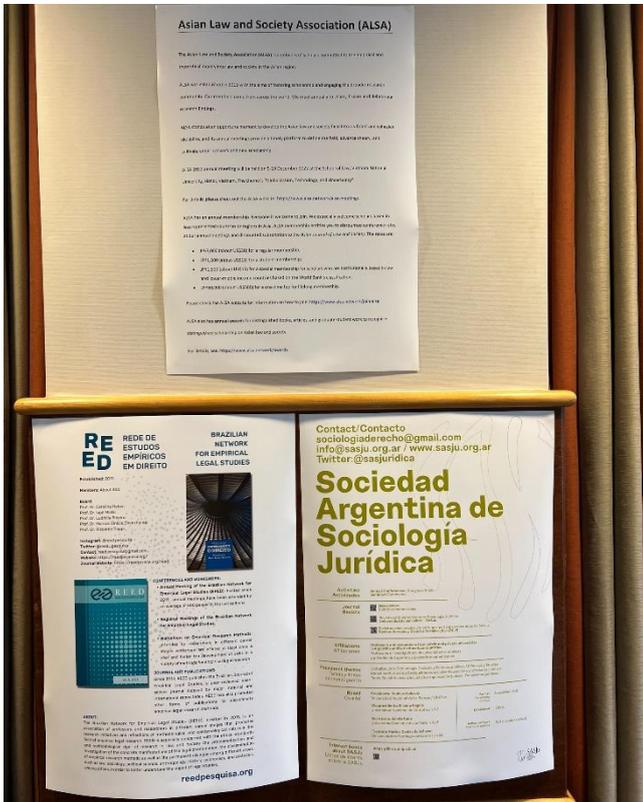


Posters from different socio-legal associations exhibited at the Global Café



Additionally, the LSA supported the printing and showcasing of A0 sized posters of in total sixteen associations which had been able to respond to the invitation to submit one. These posters not only looked

great all together, but also clearly broadcasted the existence of the rich variety of regional and thematic associations. In follow-up to these endeavours at the Conference venue, a digital map is moreover in the making, to host the factsheets of all associations connected through the Global LSA network. Last but not least, a mailing list has been established of connected associations to continue the easy and direct exchange of communications.



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PODGORECKI PRIZE WINNER 2022

The RCSL has awarded the Podgórecki Prize 2022 for outstanding scholarship of an early career socio-legal scholar to Professor Melissa Crouch.

Melissa Crouch is Professor of the School of Global and Public Law, University of New South Wales, Australia. Melissa is the author of *The Constitution of Myanmar* (2019) and *Law and Religion in Indonesia: Conflict and the Courts in West Java* (2014). She has published in a range of peer-reviewed journals including *Law & Society Review*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* and *International Journal of Constitutional Law*. She is the editor of several volumes, including *Constitutional Democracy in Indonesia* (2023) and *Women and the Judiciary in the Asia-Pacific* (CUP 2021).

This year's Podgórecki Prize Committee was composed by Germano Schwartz (chair), Benoit Bastard and Dee Smythe.

RCSL INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS MEETING, JULY 10-12, 2022, UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

Those of us who were able to join this meeting of the WGLP with the IRC Gender and Customary Law Workshop, (38 in person and 20 online), held on July 10-12 before the full RCSL Meeting in Lisbon, would like to record our gratitude and our pleasure at this opportunity to join with colleagues old and new to share ideas and developments in our exciting field of study. It was an honour to be working in the ancient University of Coimbra, where Dr. Sara Araújo's organisational help and tremendous support not only enabled us to work in these beautiful surroundings, but also to visit the University including the CES and the Faculty of Law, and to enjoy the town, particularly the final evening in the House of Fado. Despite the need to make alternative transport plans on our last day, due to strikes on the railways and motorway closures due to fires, those who were travelling to Lisbon and beyond were, as far as we understand, able to reach their destinations. The conference was stimulating, successful and enjoyable. We would like to thank most warmly Lisa Webley who overcame many difficulties, Covid related and other, to facilitate this very successful meeting in her last days as Chair of this group. We look forward to working with Avrom Sherr who will take over as her successor shortly. The group would also like to thank Ulrike Schultz for helping us as always, even while carrying out her demanding responsibilities as President of the RCSL, co sponsor of the Global Meeting on Law and Society in Lisbon immediately following the Legal Professions meeting. The meeting opened with a session from Subgroup 1: Ethics and Deontology, chaired by Tamara Butter with papers from Jos Hoevenaars on how Dutch subdistrict judges deal with unrepresented parties, Ezgi Özlü on ethical aspects of ECRU reimbursements, and Derk Venema on bringing moral and ethical arguments together. In parallel Subgroup 10: Women/Gender in the Legal Profession was chaired by Ulrike Schultz and heard from Garima Pal on the consequences of the under-representation of women in the higher judiciary in India, Merike Ristikivi on the aspirations of Estonian women lawyers to become a judge in the interwar period and Peter Robson on depictions of alternative routes to justice for women through revenge genre films.

On our second day, Subgroup 1 reconvened with papers from Rick Abel presenting on whether ethics should restrict the ends lawyers pursue, a contribution from Trevor Clark, and another from Tamara Butter on Dutch ethical reasoning in practice, in parallel with Subgroup 7: Legal Education chaired by Avrom Sherr with papers from Luis Fernando Perez Hurtado on the significant growth of Mexican legal education, Nina Holvast on professional identity formation, and Ulrike

Schultz on the importance of law related education. Later that morning, Subgroup 10 reconvened and was chaired by Sara Araújo with papers from Ligia Afonso on multiple outlines of gender and power asymmetries in Portuguese legal professions, and a joint paper from João Paulo dos Santos Dias, Filipa Queirós, Paula Casaleiro and Fernanda Maria Costa de Jesus on gender issues in working conditions in Portuguese courts. A parallel session was held by Subgroup 12: Histories of the Legal Profession, chaired by Eyal Katvan with papers from Gal Amir on Palestinian legal tactics to secure human rights in Israel, Na'ama Ben Ze'ev on Palestinian Arab lawyers in political careers, Yair Sagy on the history of Law reports in Palestine and Eyal Katvan on lawyer's signboards as a teaching tool. After lunch Subgroup 11: Project 2018, discussed progress led by Ulrike Schultz, Rick Abel, Ole Hammersley and Hilary Sommerlad, with Lynn Mather, while the Family Policy and Law, Subgroup 2 chaired by Benoit Bastard and Mavis Maclean with other members including Verda Irtis, held their business meeting presenting their new project on access to family justice and legal capacity.

On the final day Subgroup 7 met again, chaired by Avrom Sherr, with papers from Susan Bartie on the first environmental law teachers, Tony Bradney on the marginalisation of legal academics in England in the early part of the 20th century and Victor Chimbwanda on the relationship between culture and legal education in South Africa, in parallel with Subgroup 4: Judiciary chaired by Nina Holvast and Luca Verzelloni with papers from Nienke Doornbos on community courts as legal transplants in the Netherlands, Sharyn Roach Anleu reflecting on judicial work and emotion work and with a contribution from Luca Verzelloni. Subsequently subgroup 6: Access to Justice and Legal Aid, chaired by Alan Paterson heard papers from Ab Currie on mobile legal advice, Matthias Killian on the German Bar and the chair Paterson on legal aid provision and quality impacts in the context of Covid. In the final session which closed the Working Group meeting, Subgroup 8: Professional values chaired by Hilary Sommerlad included papers from Elke Olthuis on whether it matters which judge handles your case, Maria da Gloria Bonelli on legal professionals and democracy and Robert Rosen on mindfulness and the practice of justice.

The meeting of the IRC on Gender in Customary and Indigenous Law met alongside the Working Group. The first session was chaired by Ulrike Schultz with papers from Sara Araújo on gender, equality and the right to difference in legal pluralist societies in the context of East-Timor and Mozambique, Martha Gayoye on constitutionalism and living customary law in the context of Kenya and South Africa, Mirabelle Chi Epse Okezie on the interplay between customary law on inheritance in Southern Cameroons and the human rights principle of gender non-discrimination. The second session was chaired by Sara Araújo and included papers from João Pedroso and Elisa Samuel on customary and state law in Mozambique, Maria Bartholomei on the Maori beading tradition, and Monika Lindbekk on Islamic divorce in Denmark. The diversity of papers as between the IRC on Gender in

Customary and Indigenous Law and the Working Group on the Legal Professions added depth and breadth to your discussions.

The Legal Professions Workshop continued to develop during the pandemic, to publish additional collections of its work, and to make a major contribution to the Sociology of Law.

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FEMINISM, LAW AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE – 10-12 JULY 2022

The twice-postponed conference on Feminism, Law and Citizenship finally took place in the lovely surroundings of the Sorbonne's Law School in Paris on 12-14 July 2022. The conference (which was entirely in-person) was organised by Alexandrine Guyard-Nedelec (former co-chair of the Working Group on Gender, Law and Society) and Rosemary Auchmuty (former chair of the Legal Professions Working Group) and attracted 75 participants from all over Europe, the Americas, and Australasia. There were streams in French and in English, and topics ranged across feminist activism, democracy and the rise of populism, women's rights, reproductive rights and reproductive justice, gender equality, gender and sexuality, intersectionality, subjectivity, politics, economics, and criminal, family, employment and public law. We were grateful for a financial contribution from the RCSL as well as from the universities of the organisers, the University 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, which provided the rooms, IT support, administrative support and delicious catering, and the University of Reading, which sponsored the drinks reception and paid for the British plenary speakers. A team of capable graduate assistants under the supervision of Marina Krivitzky ensured that everyone navigated the building and the programme without difficulty.

The conference began with a drinks reception on the Sunday evening at a café in the Latin district. The following day, official proceedings were launched by Rosemary Hunter and Erika Rackley interviewing the recently retired President of the UK Supreme Court, Lady Hale, who reflected on the themes of the conference in the light of her own experience. The plenary speaker on Tuesday was Professor Diane Roman whose address, in French accompanied by excellent slides in English, made clear the importance of reproductive rights for women's citizenship. The plenary sessions were recorded and can be found here:

<https://mediatheque.univ-paris1.fr/isjps-institut-des-sciences-juridique-et-philosophique-de-la-sorbonne-umr-8103/>

The conference dinner was held at La Coupole, the legendary brasserie in Montparnasse, where participants ate a convivial meal in splendid surroundings.

The conference went off without a hitch thanks to Alexandrine and her team's excellent preparations. The weather was glorious and everyone seemed

happy to be with like-minded people in Paris, the city of light. Most importantly, because we mingled and chatted during the coffee and meal breaks, we were able to make connexions with people who shared our interests and concerns that should lead to further collaborations, joint research and (we hope, at least) political and social change.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and the conference received excellent publicity through social and formal media. The Sorbonne published an interview with Alexandrine and a series of photographs from the event:

<https://www.pantheonsorbonne.fr/actualite/congres-international-autour-feminisme-droit-et-citoyennete>

The Brazilian journal *Confluences* published interviews with both organisers in English and Portuguese:

<https://periodicos.uff.br/confluencias>

We are hoping to publish some of the papers from the conference and there seems to be interest in holding another conference on the same themes in two years' time. Anyone who is interested who reads this could email the organisers for details of any future event:

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Rosemary Auchmuty

NEW RESEARCH GROUP: KNOWLEDGE AND OPINION ABOUT LAW AND LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

The main aim of this new research group is to provide a forum, or – in broader terms – a community, for all those who are interested in studying popular attitudes and beliefs about the law and are also willing to engage in methodological and substantive discussions.

Retrospectively, the publication of the book entitled *Knowledge and Opinion about Law* (written by Podgórecki, Kaupen, Van Houtte, Vinke, and Kutchinsky) in 1973 was an important moment in the development of 20th century legal sociology. This book exposed the issue of how to apply modern statistical research tools in socio-legal studies in order to have a view on how and what people think of the law. That is, it turned the interest of legal sociology to quantitative methods – with special regard to survey research – when studying mass attitudes towards the law. In addition, the authors of the book also pointed out that there is a room for cross-country comparison in empirical legal sociology. Thus, this book laid down the foundations of a research tradition focused on popular attitudes towards the law and devoted to survey studies and statistical data analysis that was flourishing in the coming decades, mostly – but not exclusively – in Europe.

Naturally, criticism of this novel stream of legal sociology also emerged soon. Numbers and their relationships can tell a lot about human action, but they are also unable to explain the entirety of human phenomena including the knowledge and understanding of law. In addition, the use of surveys as

a primary source of 'scientific' data can also be questioned from various points. Many points were apparently missing from the approach of KOL studies, for instance: it could be biased by the weaknesses of survey data collection; it was also unable to persuasively link the intent of people, measured by the surveys, with their real actions; and, due to its macro perspective, individuality as a social phenomenon remained outside its scope. So, many socio-legal scholars advocated novel and qualitatively different approaches to the same problems. They also argued that these new perspectives had to be linked to the critical approach and the use of qualitative methods in order to bring difference and individuality to the surface; in addition, they also suggested that the scope of these path-breaking studies should be much more limited as compared to the KOL studies' national scope in many cases. Partially, at least, these new endeavours, critical by their very nature, put the issue of legal consciousness into their focus. However, though they wanted to represent a completely different attitude, through their critical references they also preserved some connection to the KOL studies.

Nowadays both, the tradition of KOL studies and the critical, legal consciousness-oriented approach of socio-legal phenomena play a role in the recent worldwide setting of socio-legal studies. Legal consciousness studies look to be the most influential in both scholarly and intellectual terms, but the formation of a new wave of KOL studies can also be observed in the last years. Thus, the intellectual background of empirical legal sociology on popular attitudes towards the law seems to be divergent and colourful and this is definitely good news as it shows the vitality of this field of research.

Irrespective of the fact that someone is subscribed to either a KOL-like or a legal consciousness-like approach of socio-legal issues discussion and critical engagement with others' work are musts for all scholars. Therefore, the main aim of the research group will be to facilitate the scholarly exchanges of socio-legal scholars sharing the same research interest by providing a lively platform for discussion. This may happen either in the form of online communication and workshops or conventional conferences in the future.

If you are interested in joining this new research group, please email to Balázs Fekete:
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Balázs Fekete

BOOKS

Barbara Giovanna Bello (2021) *Dal margine al centro? I giovani tra diritto e pratiche sociali* (From Margin to Center? Youth, Law and Social Practices), Modena: Mucchi editore.



The volume aims to rethink the relationships between young people, law and social practices within the broader field of the critical theories of law and the interdisciplinary field of Youth Studies. From this perspective, the aim is to outline a possible youth critique of law - which brings young people from the margin to the centre of law, as well as socio- and philosophical legal reflections.

The structure of the book mainly unfolds through the analysis of the most significant non-binding international and supranational documents that are explicitly dedicated to youth and aimed at providing States with guidance in the implementation of policies that concern young people by paying particular attention to their voices in the decision-making processes, as well as to the protection of rights promoted by such documents.

In the last chapter, the author discusses the adequacy of an "International Convention on the Rights of Young People" as a set of standards for youth to achieve formal and substantive equality and autonomy in the contemporary world.

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COURSE ON SOCIO-LEGAL RESEARCH: PRACTICAL ISSUES IN PLANNING AND DOING RESEARCH (1)

This is a one week online course in the IISL Master programme which is offered for the second time this year. Like all courses in the master programme, the course can be taken separately. It aims to introduce students to an array of key issues when planning and undertaking research, especially empirical research projects. These issues are usually practical

considerations and must be built into doing the actual research. Students have the opportunity to discuss these issues in relation to their own thesis or other research thesis. Importantly, the course builds on the previous methods courses which each focus on quantitative and qualitative methods. Regardless of methodology, empirical research can raise questions of access, ethics, and funding applications.

In undertaking research, often we rely on others to supply material that we require, or would like to have, as part of the data – whether this be primary data such as interviews or surveys, documents which might be archived, or part of an organisation's record keeping, various statistics, or other material such as photographs, objects in museums, or private collections. The list is almost infinite. If research is ethnographic, or relies on (participant) observation, then researchers typically need permission to access those social settings. When using material produced by someone else – eg photographs, pictures, objects, cartoons, music, videos, and so on – another set of issues is the permission to use those items, and questions of copyright. Questions of ethics, permission and consent are essential for undertaking empirical research. The class addresses what is meant by ethical research and discusses the history of the development of ethical guidelines and overviews the main ethical requirements for socio-legal researchers and considers how ethical principles work in practice. The course considers the importance of integrating methods into a thesis research proposal.

This course also examines applying for research funding, including for doctoral studies. The course examines the steps in identifying sources of funding, including scholarships, post-docs or other fellowships, as well as grant funding. Writing successful applications is an art, and these sources of funding are usually highly competitive.

The course closes with the students presenting their initial thoughts on methodological design for their thesis projects and thus is an integral and complementary component of research methods training.

NOTES

(1) <https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-master/programme-20222023/course>

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RC SL MEMBERSHIP AND FEES RENEWAL

The form to become a RC SL member or renew, can be found at: <https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form> (not the RC SL old webpage)

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CALL FOR BOOK DONATIONS

The wonderful Library of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law is suffering. For the last ten years, the institute's budget has been almost "frozen" and the library could hardly keep pace with new developments. It is still perhaps the world's most comprehensive library in our field. A most recent analysis of the acquisitions showed that, especially for the years 2015-2018, an insufficient number of books came to fill up the shelves there. This was especially true for four of the seven areas of the library, e.g. Legal Norms, Social Control, Conflict Resolution and Legal and Judicial Occupations. For other significant subjects, such as law & behavioral sciences and law and digital technologies, as well as for anthropology of law, gaps are particularly visible. Non-English publications, also, are far less available than in the early days of the Institute.

The RC SL invites its members to contribute by offering a free copy of their own recent publications as a donation to the IISL library. This gesture would be helpful for solving our problems and would of course be highly appreciated. You can easily check on-line whether your publications are already present there (<http://www.iisj.net/en/library/about-library>).

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