

RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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

President: Pierre Guibentif

Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Email: pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt

**No 2
2023**

Editorial Committee: Pablo Ciochini (Chair)

National Scientific and Technical
Research Council

Email: ciochini@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Last August 30th in the Stora Salen of Lund University, I had the privilege of participating in the inauguration session of our 2023 annual meeting. There I had the pleasure to deliver words of thanks to the organizers and sponsors of that impressive event, to the attendees, who made the trip bringing presence and substance, as well as to all those who participated in the recent election to which I owed my position in that session, and after brief reflections about the research challenges faced nowadays by our discipline, brilliantly addressed by the event. I ended my speech evoking the tools at our disposal to deal with these challenges, among them this Newsletter. It makes sense, at the opening this new issue, while also opening a new mandate, to reverse that order and to start with, as a first topic, this Newsletter itself. A crucial tool, since it is part of what enables us to exist as a group, as an indispensable addition to the main tools: meetings, in person as well as virtual.

This Newsletter enables us to exist as a group which not only continues but is gathering members; some of them identified by their role in its production—among those to be mentioned in the first place is Pablo Ciochini, who for several years has taken over the responsibility for regularly producing these issues and to whom I am extremely grateful that he accepted to continue this function, and Mavis Maclean for her extremely helpful and careful language editing; some issues give accounts of the members' experience – see in this issue the testimonies about the Melbourne and Lund Conferences from Alexander Kondakov, Mila Đorđević and Kirandeep Kaur; some are honoured for their contribution to the group's agency – here we include the most recent laureates of the Podgórecki Prize: Melissa Crouch and Sharyn Roach Anleu ; but see also the obituary for Helen Hartnell, and the note about the book recently published as homage to Reza Banakar; some – hopefully many – of them are experiencing their membership by browsing through

their members' eyes the issue just made accessible to them.

The Newsletter makes us exist as a group with ongoing activities which require coordination through shared information – see the call for papers for our 2024 meeting in Bangor; with its concerns – see the notes on books about law in a decolonial world, or in authoritarian contexts, and with its history, documented (continues on page 2)

ARTICLES & REPORTS

Editorial, Pierre Guibentif.....	1
Looking Back, Ulrike Schultz	2
On the 2023 RCSL Conference, Kirandeep Kaur.....	4
A Panel on Reproductive Rights, Mila Đorđević.....	5
My Own Private 2023 ISA Congress, Alexander Kondakov ..	6
CfP RCSL Bangor Conference 2024, Stefan Machura.....	7
WG Judicialization of Social Problems, Joao Velloso.....	8
WG Law and Popular Culture, Stefan Machura.....	8
Podgórecki Prize 2023 - Laudatio, Luca Verzelloni.....	9
2023 Podgórecki Prize Acceptance, Sharyn Roach Anleu.....	10
2022 Podgórecki Prize Acceptance, Melissa Crouch.....	11
David Nelken Elected To The British Academy.....	11
Obituary - Prof. Helen Hartnell, Michael Wrase.....	11
Criminal Legalities and Minorities in the Global South, George Radics.....	12
Publishing With The IISL, Leire Kortabarria.....	12
Studying Courts In Authoritarian Contexts, Seda Kalem.....	14
Call For The 2024 CLSA Meeting.....	15
3rd Oñati Declaration Impulse Workshop.....	15
RCSL Membership.....	15
Call book donations for the IISL library.....	15
RCSL Board, Working Groups.....	15
RCSL office address.....	16

by the series of successive issues – in this issue see the many papers saving memories of the 2023 Lund Meeting – and of special occasions with papers like Ulrike Schultz's detailed and generous retrospective on her 2018-2023 RCSL President's mandate.

It makes us exist as a group in its context – see here the notes about the current call of the Canadian Law & Society Association, as well as about the publications of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, and about an IISL initiative of special relevance, and by the way it establishes bridges between the International Labour Organization and labour relations in the Basque Country, as well as between sociology of law and international labour law.

It also makes us exist as a group with its organizational structures – see the notes about the working groups on Judicialisation of Social Problems, and Law and Popular Culture. And this is the precise point at which to tackle the second topic I wish to address here: the results of the RCSL internal Board elections announced at the RCSL Business meeting held on August 31st in Lund. Firstly I have to remember that at the June elections Laura Noemi Lora, Teresa Piconto-Navales, Stefanie Lemke, Pablo Leandro Ciochini, Katrin Seidel, Dee Smythe and Julia Dahlvik were elected to the Board. The internal elections took place on line from November 2nd to 6th. Teresa Piconto-Navales and Dee Smythe were elected as Vice-Presidents; Stefanie Lemke as Secretary; Laura Noemi Lora and Germano Schwartz as Co-opted Executive Committee Members; Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Ole Hammerslev and Susana Santos as Co-opted Observer Members; and Teresa Piconto-Navales, Dee Smythe, Ole Hammerslev, and Ulrike Schultz as RCSL Representatives at the IISL Governing Board.

I would like to express here my thanks to all elected colleagues for having accepted nomination to these different demanding functions. I look very much forward to working with this splendid team, which will also include the WG chairs, in the strengthening of RCSL as a player in the global socio-legal field. And I also would like to address a very special thank to those who took over the RCSL Board duties throughout the 2018-2023 mandate: Sharyn Roach Anleu, Swetha Ballakrishnen, Luigi Cominelli, Lucero Ibarra Rojas, Stefan Larsson, and Lynn Mather, for their contribution to the energy and pluralism of the RCSL; as well to those who were elected to represent RCSL at the IISL Board for that mandate: Luigi Cominelli, Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Susanne Karstedt, Rosemary Hunter, and Marta Soler Gallart for their committed and substantial contribution to the IISL's development. Eventually, I have to evoke here with gratitude Reza Banakar and Manolo Calvo García. And I have to say *einen besonders herzlichen Dank* to Ulrike Schultz, for all what she did as RCSL President, and I am happy to introduce thereby her contribution to this issue.

Pierre Guibentif

pierre.guibentif@iscte-iul.pt

pierre.guibentif@ens-paris-saclay.fr

LOOKING BACK AT MY FIVE YEARS AS RCSL PRESIDENT FROM JULY 2018 TILL JULY 2023

In July my term as RCSL President ended. I have handed over to Pierre Guibentif, my successor, the necessary documents, and am trying to give him all the relevant information for his term of office and to pass on the "Know-How" I have acquired over the five years in office.

It was a pleasure to be RCSL President, but also a demanding task. Our association is not particularly large, if we consider the number of members, but if we consider the activities in which many, many more colleagues of the global socio-legal world are involved, it is huge. And the – what we could call – "global impact" is impressive. This is why I always hope that more colleagues who were and are in my distribution lists will apply for RCSL membership. Here again is the link to the RCSL membership form: <https://www.iisi.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form>.

I started my term with the wonderful RCSL Conference in Lisbon in September 2018, which Pierre Guibentif had organised perfectly. It was the biggest RCSL conference we have had so far.

Although I have been an RCSL member for decades (the first RCSL Conference I attended was in Oxford in 1981) and although I have been an RCSL board member for some time, I still had to learn about all my tasks as President and how to deal with them. The first thing to do was to absorb the RCSL statutes and also the ISA regulations, as we are formally a sub-division of the International Sociological Association, and I had to structure my work. This included creating a timetable for what is due when: the Podorecki Prize, the nomination of the Onati SD, the elections, IISL board meetings etc. I always kept a long list of things to do.

The next big task was to organise the RCSL Conference for the 30th anniversary of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Onati in June 2019. Structuring the program and dealing with many organisational issues is – as all those who have organised a conference know – no trivial task. I proposed as the subject "Linking Generations for Global Justice". For me as a mother and grandmother and a person who loves teaching and has done so in many institutions and over many years - including IISL -, the generational cooperation and support of the young generation is what matters.

And then Corona hit us.

The RCSL Conference we had planned for 2020 in Lund – everything was ready by the end of February 2020 – had to be postponed. We were happy that we could hold it this year from 30th of August till the 1st of September, 2023. The title we had chosen: "Law, Society and Digital Pasts, Presents and Futures" was still as topical as three years ago - and, perhaps, even more so, since everybody and particularly scholars are worried about ChatBots. It is the hot topic these days. I am really happy that the conference became a great success with more than 300 participants. We heard very interesting papers, had intensive discussions, and we have structured the work in our projects and

working groups and enjoyed the hospitality of our Swedish colleagues.

The RCSL Conference we had planned for 2021 in Bangor is now scheduled for the first week of September 2024.



Ole Hammerslev, Ulrike Schultz and Pierre Guibentif at the RCSL meeting in Lund. Credits: Ole Hammerslev

The ISA World Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, which was to have taken place in 2020, due to Corona was finally held in virtual form at the end of February 2021. In 2020 it was also decided to organise the next ISA World Congress in 2023 instead of 2022 which meant that the election period for all Research Committees and the ISA governmental structure was prolonged by a year till 2023. From 20 – 22 September 2021, I organised a virtual RCSL Conference with the help of Luigi Cominelli, who provided all the necessary technical support. All of this is well documented on the RCSL website, which Pierre Guibentif has set up and services. It can be found here: <https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/rcsl-meetings>. We hope that one of our younger colleagues can take over the website which Pierre Guibentif has set up and managed for many years. The good thing about the virtual meetings was that we are now all familiar with Zoom and other technologies for virtual conferences. We also used them for RCSL board and members meetings when we could not meet in person, and we use them for planning meetings and personal exchanges. This makes international work and collaboration much easier. In July 2022, we celebrated our 7th Global Socio-Legal Conference in Lisbon. Again, Pierre Guibentif was a central person in organising it. I was lucky that I could attend all of the global conferences (Amsterdam 1991, Glasgow 1996, Budapest 2001, Berlin 2007, Honolulu 2012, Mexico City 2017, Lisbon 2022). For the last three, I have also been involved in the organisational work.

Another big task was to head the RCSL group at the board of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Onati. The institute was founded by the Ministry of the Basque country and ISA/RCSL in December 1988. I became a board member in 2006, nominated at the time by the then RCSL President Anne Boigeol. A lot of change has happened since and at breathtaking speed in the past few years. Managerialism has not only hit universities worldwide but also IISL. The institute had to cope with technological change. We

had a lot of budget discussions. The Scientific Director who is appointed by the IISL board on the proposal from RCSL now gets the status of a Research Fellow from Ikerbasque, the Basque Foundation for Science. A strategic committee was set up to deal with the question of how to enhance research at the institute, although of course a lot of research happens through workshops, visiting scholars, students and the resulting publications (OSLS, Sortuz; Hart Publishing and Dickinson).



Pierre Guibentif at the RCSL meeting in Lund. Credits: Ole Hammerslev

I would like to thank all those with whom I have worked, my Vice-Presidents Sharyn Roach Anleu and Pierre Guibentif, who took over after Manuel Calvo García died, both were always available and backed me up. It is wonderful that Pierre Guibentif could become my successor.

I would like to thank the other members of the RCSL board, the elected members and the working group chairs, comp. <https://rcsl.hypotheses.org/working-groups> (we now have 15 working groups, three of which were created in the past few years). Thanks have gone to the RCSL secretaries Lucero Ibarra Rojas, Barbara Bello and Laura Lora; Pablo Ciocchini who was in charge of our Newsletter, always reliable and in time, and the editorial team, particularly Mavis Maclean, who checked the language of all contributions within hours, also all those who contributed to the Newsletter; Lucas Konzen, who was the RCSL representative for the IV ISA World Forum in Porto Alegre; and Robyn Holder, who had the same task for the XX ISA World Congress in Melbourne who both had to invest a lot of time for RCSL; Ole Hammerslev, Michael Molavi and their colleagues at Lund university, who had the huge task of organising the Lund Conference and made it a great success; also Stefan Machura, who has started to organise the RCSL Conference in Bangor; my predecessor Masayuki Murayama, who managed the RCSL elections so well, all those who served on the (5!) committees for the Podgorecki Prize and those in the three committees for the selection of the Scientific Directors for the IISL; the RCSL members on the Onati board: Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Luigi Cominelli, Rosemary Hunter and Susanne Karstedt, and the ISA representative Marta Soler Gallart, who helped to think creatively about the future of IISL, not always an easy task; all the Scientific

Directors in the past five years: Vincenzo Ferrari, Noe Cornago, Martin Ramstedt and Sabine Frerichs; the master students at IISL from whom I have learnt at least as much as they – I hope – have learnt from me; the devoted staff at the IISL, the administrative director Maite Elorza, who took over her position in difficult times and shoulders a heavy workload, Susana, who is active in the master programme and organises the Onati Community and the WhatsApp group Onati Friends, Manttoni, who always gives reliable organisational support to RCSL, Malen, who is heart and soul of the workshops, Leire, who has a huge task as the IISL publications officer, Raquel, who not only deals with the library but with many technical issues, Ainhoa, who is in charge of visiting scholars and the Residencia, and finally Marije, who has responsibilities in many of the listed areas, they are all always very helpful. And of course, I have to thank the representatives of the Basque country who provide the financial foundation for the IISL and our cooperation. We can pride ourselves that the IISL is a unique institution.

I cannot name here all those who have been important for me over the five years in office. Therefore, a general thank you to the many with whom I have been in contact over the years, who are active in sociology of law, who have organised webinars, workshops, seminars and conferences, who have published socio-legal articles and books - and who hold on to RCSL.

I hope I still have many years in the field, I am part of several socio-legal projects, e.g., on gender in customary and indigenous law and proceedings, on notaries across borders, am involved in several publication projects and of course, I hope to meet many of you in the years to come and cooperate with you. So, all my best wishes, keep well and keep going.

Ulrike Schultz
Ulrike.Schultz@FernUni-Hagen.de

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE LAW, SOCIETY AND DIGITAL PASTS, PRESENTS AND FUTURES CONFERENCE 30 AUGUST – 01 SEPTEMBER 2023

I'm a Doctoral Candidate at Warwick Law School in the field of employment rights and equality based legislations in the UK. I am currently teaching at the University of Warwick the European Union Law module as well as domestic legal modules such as Trusts and Tort law. I'm continuing to build a portfolio of practical experience in the legal sector specialising in Employment, Business, Immigration, Pensions and Litigation Regulatory Advice Law in the UK. I actively participate in the social systems theory research working group with a focus on labour law in the EU.

I was thrilled to have been part of the conference and chaired a vibrant roundtable discussion in beautiful Lund Sweden. I had the opportunity to engage with industry leaders in different research fields, experts, and visionaries, to explore innovative strategies and ideas to drive forward progress in our respective fields. It was an absolute pleasure to participate in the three days conference on the theme of Law, Society and Digital

Pasts, Presents and Futures as part of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) which was organised successfully.



The University of Lund. Credits: Kirandeep Kaur

The Author Meets Readers session that I had chaired was useful and insightful to the field of social systems theory. I express my profound gratitude to everyone I met during the 3 day conference specifically Prof. Ralf Rogowski and all the commentators Prof. Alfons Bora, Prof. Pierre Guibentif and Prof. Germano Schwartz who contributed to this enlightening exchange of knowledge. I felt the roundtable helped me to develop my knowledge in my research field of the social systems theory and understand the wider research communities view on Niklas Luhmann's work. I hope to share my experience and knowledge with the overall research communities of the University of Warwick. I am also sharing this with professional contacts in specific industries such as (but not limited to) the legal industry in the UK. I have shared details on LinkedIn to grow presence among professional networks of the RCSL initiatives and the details of the 2023 RCSL conference event in Lund Sweden. Together, we are shaping the future of our industries and forging lasting connections.



Kirandeep Kaur, Ralf Rogowski, Germano Schwartz, Pierre Guibentif and Alfons Bora. Credits: Kirandeep Kaur

I personally would like to thank everyone involved and organising the conference and social meetings in Lund Sweden. Ulrike Schultz and Pierre Guibentif, the president of the RCSL have been helpful in circulating communication and guidance ensuring everyone was involved.

Looking to the future of my own involvement with RCSL, specifically, I am collaborating with existing 'Social legal theory and systems' working group on RCSL and arranging plans to present our finding in 2024. There was an open discussion during the RCSL business meeting regarding the next RCSL conference, which is scheduled to take place in the UK, Wales Bangor during September 2024. I am keen to attend given the success of the conference in Lund Sweden. I am born and raised in the UK so I am extremely pleased to hear this will be taking place locally. I will be willing to contribute and volunteer to the RCSL agenda with organising this conference as both a researcher and a member of this strong research community.

Kirandeep Kaur
K.Kaur.2@warwick.ac.uk

RCSL CONFERENCE IN LUND: A PANEL ON ARGUING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

I was delighted to present a research "Humanity or Exploitation? The Future of Reproductive Technologies in Serbia" co-authored with Milica Vlajić, at the International Conference on Law, Society, and Digital Past, Present, and Futures held from August 30th to September 1st at Lund University. Our presentation focused on analyzing the normative framework governing assisted reproductive technologies (ART) in Serbia and its social implications. Notably, Serbian law currently criminalizes surrogate motherhood, although a preliminary draft of the Civil Code of Serbia proposes the legalization of surrogacy contracts. In our paper, we discussed the lack of public debate on the legal and social aspects of this legalization and the role of digital and mass media in shaping public opinion on this topic. We emphasized the ambiguous aspects of legalization, its potential for misuse, and the dissemination of misinformation. While ART is often promoted as an act of humanity and a matter of choice, on the other hand, the ubiquitous trade in ova, embryos, and the practice of surrogate motherhood reveals the exploitative character of new reproductive technologies, which potentially affects predominantly women from marginalized social groups, imposing numerous ethical, legal and social challenges.

Our presentation was part of the panel titled "Arguing Reproductive Rights" chaired by Professor Marta Bucholc from the University of Warsaw and a member of Abortion Figurations. Other presenters in the panel included Nikoletta Pikramenou, Carolina Mosquera Vera, Karina S. de Vries, and Lourdes Peroni, all from the University of Warsaw. Nikoletta explored the impact of international developments in reproductive rights on LGBTQI+ persons. Carolina discussed the

trajectory of the right to abortion in Colombia and the potential of socio-legal mobilization to advance women's rights. Karina and her co-authors examined violations of sexual and reproductive health rights in Poland, considering the concepts of margin of appreciation (1) and state sovereignty. Lourdes presented the use of human rights discourse in abortion debates within the Inter-American System of Human Rights, with a focus on the *Manuela v. El Salvador* case (2).



Marta Bucholc And Mila Đorđević Credits: Mila Đorđević

The panel generated substantial interest and engaged in thought-provoking discussions on the ethical implications of reproductive technologies, including a debate between radical and liberal feminist perspectives on surrogacy. Milica Vlajić and I are currently working on finalizing our paper with the insights and questions we received during the conference.

This conference was one of the largest I have attended, providing valuable experiences and networking opportunities. In my free time, I explored Lund and Copenhagen, two cities I had not visited before. I also connected with the fellow panelists, fostering potential future collaborations. I enjoyed my free time with colleagues from the University of Belgrade (Andrea Nikolić, Nikola Ivković, Đorđe Marković, Đorđe Krivokapić and Luka Glušac) and discussed potential future conferences and projects.

This experience served as a reminder of the irreplaceable value of in-person conferences, not only for professional development but also for building friendships and collaborations. This research was done as part of The Horizon Twinning project "Advancing cooperation on The Foundations of Law – ALF" (3). Also, I extend my gratitude to the Research Committee for the Sociology of Law for the support in enabling my participation in this conference, and I eagerly anticipate the next RCSL Conference in Wales, UK.

Mila Đorđević
mila@ius.bg.ac.rs

REFERENCES

(1) The margin of appreciation (or margin of state discretion) is a legal doctrine which was developed by the European Court of Human Rights to judge whether a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights should be sanctioned for limiting the enjoyment of rights. The doctrine allows the court to reconcile practical differences in implementing the articles of the convention. Such differences create a limited right for contracting parties to derogate from the obligations laid down in the Convention.

(2) In a landmark ruling, on November 30, 2021, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights deemed El Salvador responsible for the death of a Salvadoran woman, Manuela, who in 2008 was unjustly sentenced to 30 years in prison for aggravated homicide after suffering an obstetric emergency that resulted in her pregnancy loss. Manuela died imprisoned two years later from cancer, after receiving inadequate medical diagnosis and treatment. The State was found to have violated Manuela's rights to life, health, judicial protections and guarantees, freedom from discrimination and gender violence, and other rights.

(3) The main objective of ALF Project is to promote University of Belgrade Faculty of Law in becoming a widely known and sought-after top-class European research and teaching institution, by raising its research and teaching profile and strengthening its research management and administrative skills. The objective will be achieved through a thorough and extensive three-year-long transferral of foundational knowledge, both academic and administrative, from three leading research institutions at the European level: Institute of Legal and Political Sciences Faculty of Law University of Lisbon, University of Genoa, and University of Surrey.

MELBOURNE, JULY 2023 - MY OWN PRIVATE ISA WORLD CONGRESS

The 20th ISA World Congress had been postponed due to Covid. It was supposed to be my first ISA World Congress. Hence, as for me, it was anticipated with a feeling of prolonged anxiety. I even submitted two abstracts just to be sure not to miss it. I was really determined to go. Yet, first Covid stood on my way and then airfares: the congress was organised in Australia, exactly 17,208 km from Dublin where I live. By the time the pandemic was over, flight prices skyrocketed (perhaps, for all the good reasons!). Still, the congress commenced on the 25th of June 2023 in Melbourne, and I was there. This is a very personal account of my experience of the 'sociology Olympics'.

You can only imagine how many reasons were there for people not to attend the ISA congress. Apart from expensive airfares and long distances you'd have to commit to for the sole purpose of simply listening about someone's research, all the sessions were 'hybrid' meaning that you could tune in anywhere in the world to absorb all the papers you wanted. In fact, if you have the congress app, you can still revisit every panel by logging in there and watching hours of Zoom-style

presentations. Certainly, you can hardly feel what it was like to be in attendance, but at least you can get all the facts right, if this is what you are after.

I had a set of different objectives. Even though hearing about other people's research is fun, my aim was to present my own. It just happened so that my first book *Violent Affections* was out in print, and I was eager to share the news with the world of sociologists. It treats court decisions on anti-queer violence as potentially significant sources of sociological information about both mundane and institutionalised whereabouts of power. In result, I conclude that we are experiencing a new stage of power relations – neo-disciplinary power – which transforms the law, emotions, and other forms of collective practices and institutions. I do not want to boast, but I think the paper in which I developed these ideas went very well. It was part of a great panel Theorizing Desires organised by Ying-chao Kao and Alan Martino from RC on the sociological theory. I can't say the same about my second paper, though: it was scheduled early in the morning, and I do not know if there was anybody online, but there was definitely almost no one in the room. Perhaps, it adds to anxieties and uncertainties of modern academia that even when you travel across the world in search of fruitful conversations, you may still find only yourself to talk to. Anyway, that was my second objective: networking and getting to know new people. What online conferences cannot give is meaningful connections to other colleagues. I've been to a few 'networking' sessions on Zoom during Covid where completely unknown to each other people were supposed to devotedly chat as if they were on a normal coffee break. That felt as another level of awkward: the feeling of being ready to press the button 'leave now' anytime while still forcing yourself to smile into the camera. The ISA Congress was nothing of the kind: even though some awkwardness must always accompany conversations with strangers, I managed to ameliorate previous connections and acquire new ones. The distance which conditioned the conference experience played an important role here, too: for the first time in many years, I met colleagues who moved out from Europe or were initially not from there, including my former MA student who is already completing her PhD in Melbourne. In fact, my feeling was that the composition of the World Congress was rather skewed towards Oceania – I imagine this is exactly what people from Australia and Asia experience when they come to conferences in Europe also claiming global representation. Awkward again, even though differently from Zoom-coffee-breaks-awkward.

For networking purposes, I attended almost all panels centred on LGBTQ studies as this is one of my main areas of research interest. Most of the panels referred in one way or another to the rise of the far right as threatening democracy and human rights which is very evident in attacks on LGBTQ communities worldwide. Closely related to this was another set of panels I attended: it was organised by RC12 and titled Sociology of Hate Speech Laws. Hate speech generates violence and is distributed freely via online media. So far, our societies appear to be rather defenceless in front of this threat. On the other hand,

hate is an old emotion whereas we appear to be up against neo-emotions (from 'doom scrolling' to 'eco grief') whose societal effects are yet to be discovered (as the Congress attests, research is ongoing). Perhaps, my neo-disciplinary power relations can explain what's going on!? In relation to legal aspects, the topics of emotions and the law were covered in the panel Meaning-Making, Emotion and Legal Change organised by Sharyn Roach Anleu within RC12.

There were many sessions and panels with a variety of topics discussed during the World Congress in Melbourne. Indeed, it was an unexpectedly meaningful and rich conference which I truly enjoyed. Big conferences usually signify superficial engagement and overwhelming flow of information. Surprisingly, this was not my experience of the congress: on the contrary, each paper resonated, and each discussion felt profound. Still, what stuck with me afterwards was the feeling of absences: the absence of the usual crowd from nearby universities, the relative emptiness of large plenary halls, and the haunting digital dark hole of web-camera staring at you wherever you go (obviously, to deliver your knowledge globally to the world that stayed home). I wonder if in four years these tendencies wither away or grow bigger. Perhaps, I shall witness it myself if I find funding to cross the world for another 'sociology Olympics'.

Alexander Kondakov
alexander.kondakov@ucd.ie

"REPRESENTING LAW" RCSL CONFERENCE 3-6 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT BANGOR UNIVERSITY – CALL FOR PAPERS

2024 RCSL Conference is co-sponsored by: Vereinigung für Recht und Gesellschaft; DGS-Sektion Rechtssoziologie, the *Journal of Law and Society* and the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University; Centre for Socio-legal Studies, Oxford University.

Law is an abstract concept that requires representation in everyday knowledge and opinion, in theories, as well as representation within professions such as judges, lawyers, police and other officers, and not least representations in architecture and even products of popular culture. This applies in whatever ways we understand law: as a specific social system (Niklas Luhmann), as a distinct area of legal expertise, as law-in-the-books, or as "living law" beyond state law (Eugen Ehrlich).

"Representing law", the theme of the RCSL conference in Bangor (Wales/UK), from 3 to 6 September 2024, is a cross-cutting topic for sociologists of law and others interested in the analysis of law in society. Lay-people and the legally trained alike have implicit and explicit ideas about the law that guide their actions, from everyday economic interactions to political engagement. Some of these are influenced by training at school or university. Not only lawyers receive such training, but also thousands of managers in business, and state servants such as social workers, even if theirs is concentrated on aspects of the law. Employee representatives will learn about law from their workers'

unions. The media circulate images of law, be that accurate in a lawyerly sense or rather not. Some of this is part of political struggles, when for example a newspaper declares judges as "enemies of the people" for their ruling in a high-profile case. For centuries there is with every new media development a concern that people are misled and manipulated. The latest are issues with social media, the filter bubbles it creates, the extremism social media algorithms cultivate. In contrast, many observe that media cling to conservative messages and are becoming effectively mouth-pieces for existing institutions and interests. Nevertheless, media messages need not be evaluated as negatively necessarily. Fictional portrayals of law, of legal professions and institutions often suggest that they can indeed be trusted to some extent at least and they suggest legal reforms or better practicing of law. For example, lawyers should not be guided by economic self-interest, or judges and prosecutors not by political ambitions. Aesthetic and representational understandings of law may guide people as to what law means for them. In addition, personal experiences and those of trusted others like family and friends may be very decisive for how people are imagining law.

Scholars of law and neighbouring subjects have investigated law from different perspectives and dealt with it differently in their teachings. For some, law is to be harnessed as a force for social change, to strengthen the position of e.g., employees or of victims of crime. Others value the law especially because it provides a system of check and balances for political power. For example, law can prevent administrations from interfering with individual rights. Scrutiny has been applied to the grass-roots usage of law, how members of society unite or differ in their legal actions. Prominent are also analyses of apex courts and other high-level legal institutions, as well as the ways in which they proceed. Theories of law highlight social, political, and economic inequalities which are produced by law and reproduced in law, but also the potential for reform presenting itself through law. Successful examples for the latter include the championing of human rights. Other analysts have pointed out how procedures and daily routines in legal institutions have consequences for the application of law, and even self-legitimise the law (Luhmann). Theories of law have become powerful ways of representing law.

Who speaks for the law? Who decides legal conflict and provides legal advice? Who is best placed to adapt law to changing social conditions? Such questions also form part of the conference theme. In some ways, the legally trained and especially those in legal offices, are privileged interpreters of the law, at least in modern states relying on a differentiated-out legal system. This raises issues of legitimacy and of democratic representation. Critics question why graduates of leading universities, those with long family tradition in law, why males rather than females in high legal offices, are still dominant. Some social groups are underrepresented in law, and some are described as discriminated against by holders of legal offices. This may affect national minorities and those discriminated on "racial" and ethnic grounds. The economically

marginalised can suffer from further disadvantages inflicted by the way the law operates.

Representations of English and U.S. law are more prominent than representations of other legal systems. On a very basic level, it follows from English being the language of global communication and commerce. The U.S. media industry has cultivated a world-wide market of ideas, notions of U.S. law and legal institutions travel in every corner of the world with popular TV shows, film, and other cultural products. For better or for worse, international audiences may learn about a law that is not the one prevailing in their home country. On a different level, in academia, concepts and perspectives from the common law countries are often reaching wider than those from countries with other legal arrangements, social and political backgrounds. The RCSL conference provides an opportunity for academics from countries with different histories and systems to exchange their ideas and to enrich their own thinking with insights from joint discussions.

Bangor University, hosting the RCSL conference in 2024, is located in a Welsh-speaking area and the conference offers the opportunity to discuss as one of the strands issues around bilingual provision of legal services. Local courts proceed in Welsh and English. Welsh speakers can have all legal communication in their mother tongue. Other countries are discussing to develop a similar service for minorities and the conference offers a unique opportunity to learn about bilingualism in the legal sphere.

As demonstrated, the conference theme "Representing Law" covers a wide area of academic interests. However, the RCSL working groups are invited to organise their own panels on whatever topics they want to discuss, as well as their business meetings. Invited are also single papers on topics of sociology of law / socio-legal studies.

In addition, the *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS) and the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University as co-sponsors of the conference are organising a stream/session on socio-legal studies in Wales and the UK and invite young colleagues to submit their papers to this stream. The Journal will support selected paper presenters with their conference fees. Details of how to apply will be announced in due time on the conference homepage.

Deadline for proposals of papers, roundtables or panels is 15 February 2024. Submissions are requested through the conference website: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/events/representing-law-rctl-conference-2024>

Stefan Machura
rctl2024@bangor.ac.uk

REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUP JUDICIALIZATION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The Working Group on Judicialization of Social Problems was created in December 2021, and since then it has been active with local events and participating in RCSL during ISA conferences and sister Law & Society meetings. In 2023, we organized

the following activities in main national and international conferences:

"Four Variations of Punishment and Social Control", an open session (plenary) at the Canadian Law & Society Association Annual Meeting and offered to all academic associations participating in the Congress of the Canadian Federation Humanities and Social Sciences (Toronto, mai 2023).

Followed by three sessions at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia:

- Our regular session on "Judicialization of Social Problems and Governance of Security in Comparative Perspectives" within the RC12 (RCSL);

- A joint session on "The Criminalization of Struggles for Rights, Democratic Regression, and Legal Mobilisation", within the RC12 and RC47 (Social Classes and Social Movements);

- A plenary session on "Understanding the Criminalization of Struggles for Rights: Resurgent Authoritarianism or Deliberalization of Democracies?", co-sponsored by the RC12, RC29 (Deviance and social control) and RC47.

In addition to these sessions, our members participated individually in other sessions of both events, the Annual Meeting of the Law & Society Association (Puerto Rico, June 2023) and the RCSL Meeting at Lund (September 2023).

We are planning sessions at the 2024 Meeting of the Canadian Law and Society Association in Montréal (June 15-17), as the chair of the working group is the lead conference organizer and the venue is an accessible hub for participants coming from Europe, the Americas and Africa. Do not hesitate to contact us for further details.

Joao Velloso
joao.velloso@uottawa.ca

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE AT THE LUND CONFERENCE

At the excellently organised RCSL conference from 30 August to 1 September in Lund (Sweden), the RCSL Working Group on Law and Popular Culture had two panels and a members' meeting. The first panel included presentations by Guy Osborn and Mark James of University of Westminster and Manchester Metropolitan University, UK: "The Material, Spatial, Textural and Legal Qualities of Event Tickets" and of Iker Nabaskues Martinez de Eulate, University of the Basque Country, Spain: "The Hole of the Doughnut and the Legal Norm in Your Honor (HBO 2021)". It was completed by contributions from Jennifer Schulz, University of Manitoba, Canada, speaking about: "Law and Film Methodology: Being Honest/Beyond the Canon" and finally Michael Rendall, University of Strathclyde, UK, talking about "The Coming-of-Age Movie in The Days of Streaming: 'Cuties' and Controversy". The ensuing discussion continued with the topics raised by these inspiring presentations. Picture 1 has the presenters and some members of the audience.



Picture 1: Presenters of the first panel of the Working Group on Law and Popular Culture, with audience in the Lilla Salen of Lund University. The first row has some of the presenters, from the left: Guy Osborn, Iker Nabaskues Martinez de Eulate, Jennifer Schulz, then as the third from the right: Michael Rendall. Mark James is standing in the second row, behind Iker Nabaskues and Jennifer Schulz. Credits: Stefan Machura.

The working group's second panel had five presentations:

- Stefan Machura, Bangor University, UK: "War Crime in Opera".
- Peter Robson, University of Strathclyde, UK: "Law in War: The Republican Court in 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley'".
- Iker Nabaskues Martinez de Eulate, University of the Basque Country, Spain, with his second presentation of the day: "The Spectre of Srebrenica".
- Giovanna Truda (co-author: Laura Noemi Lora), University of Salerno, Italy, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina: "The Fascination of Crime for Young People".
- Ferdinando Spina, University of Salento, Italy: "Representation of the Trial during Fascism, World War II and the Post-war Period in Italian Cinema and Television".

Discussions extended well into the break after the session. Picture 2 shows the presenters of the second panel.



Picture 2: Presenters of the second panel from left to right: Stefan Machura, Peter Robson, Giovanna Truda, Ferdinando Spina, Iker Nabaskues Martinez de Eulate. Credits: Stefan Machura.

The business meeting of the working group re-elected Stefan Machura as the working group's chair. The success of this year's panels makes one to look forward to the next at the RCSL conference in Bangor (Gwynedd, UK). Anyone interested in contributing to the activities of the group is invited to contact the group's chair.

Stefan Machura
s.machura@bangor.ac.uk

PODGÓRECKI PRIZE 2023 - LAUDATIO TO PROFESSOR SHARYN ROACH ANLEU

Esteemed Research Committee,
Esteemed Prize Committee,
Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and honour that I provide a summary of the reasons behind the nomination of Professor Sharyn Roach Anleu to the RCSL-ISA Adam Podgórecki Prize – lifetime achievements – year 2023.

This nomination has been jointly submitted alongside two esteemed colleagues who, regrettably, cannot be with us here in Lund: Robyn Holder, Senior Research Fellow at the Griffith Criminology Institute, Australia, and Alex-ander Sasha Kondakov, Assistant Professor at the UCD School of Sociology, Ireland. Therefore, I shall speak on their behalf as well.

Following the inspirational example set by the founding father of our Research Committee - Adam Podgórecki – Professor Roach Anleu has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in socio-legal research.

To support her nomination, I would like to briefly focus on three pivotal aspects of her distinguished career:

1. scientific contribution;
2. ability to overcome disciplinary boundaries;
3. training of the new generations of legal scholars.

Scientific Contribution

Firstly, throughout her illustrious career, Professor Roach Anleu's research has revolved around two central themes: legal professions and the intricate inter-play between law and other regulatory mechanisms. Her contributions to the scholarly literature have been extensive, encompassing a diverse range of topics, including:

1. the everyday work of courts and judicial officers;
2. judging and humour;
3. professionalization of judiciary;
4. women in law;
5. deviance and social control.

But, probably, her most significant contribution concerns the empirical analyses of the emotional dimensions of judicial work. In this context, it is important to highlight her innovative application of some key sociological concepts – such as emotional labour, job satisfaction, professionalization, and work/family balance – to a population – the judiciary – and to a

specific public organization – the court of justice – that have not been previously studied as a profession and as a workplace.

Ability to overcome disciplinary boundaries;

Secondly, she has played a pioneering role in overcoming disciplinary boundaries by connecting socio-legal studies with other disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, cultural studies, gender studies, criminology, and organizational studies, among others. Her work has inspired scholars and practitioners from both the global south and north and her research has had a tangible impact on society, as she has actively promoted judicial well-being and the socio-emotional development of the justice system.

Training of the new generations of legal scholars

Lastly, we have to remember her contributions to the training of the next generations of socio-legal scholars around the world. She has a longstanding commitment to the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, and she has consistently demonstrated her profound commitment to mentoring and supporting emerging socio-legal scholars, leaving an indelible mark on the academic community.

Allow me to share a personal experience – I can personally attest to her dedication, passion, and attention toward young scholars and colleagues.

For all these reasons, we firmly believe that Professor Sharyn Roach Anleu deserves the lifetime RCSL-ISA Adam Podgórecki Prize, in recognition of her groundbreaking contributions to the field of socio-legal studies.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Luca Verzelloni
luca.verzelloni@unimib.it

**2023 PODGÓRECKI PRIZE ACCEPTANCE
SPEECH: SHARYN ROACH ANLEU.**

I am deeply honoured to be receiving the 2023 Podgórecki Prize. I would first like to thank my nominators: Dr Luca Verzelloni, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, Dr Robyn Holder, Griffith Criminology Institute, Griffith University and Dr Alexander Kondakov, School of Sociology, University College Dublin. I also appreciate Luca's very generous words of introduction and lovely overview of the nomination. Second, I would like to thank the members of the 2023 Podgórecki Prize Committee: Christian Boulanger, Germany (chair), Jiri Priban, U.K. and Alysia Blackham, Australia. I appreciate their hard work assessing the nominations and know from my own experience such committees involve difficult decisions. The 2023 Podgórecki Prize goes to a senior scholar for distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements. I take this as an invitation to look backwards and reflect on my career.

There are a few key moments or turning points, which I only realise their significance by looking back. It was not apparent to me at the time, how life changing some of these moments were. In some ways, I enjoyed a fair

amount of luck, serendipity or being at the right place at the right time. However, I have observed senior women often attributing their achievements or success to luck (perhaps suggesting a randomness) rather than their own hard work, acumen, and intelligence. I prefer Seneca's definition of luck: opportunity meets preparation.

My career in socio-legal research has been more of a following my nose, a wandering, rather than the strategizing and career building architecture that is now required in the contemporary university. I can identify four important moments, or junctures:

1. My appointment at Flinders University – with the brief to establish the sociology of law. During my interview, I gave a talk about Weber and the legal profession. My doctoral dissertation was on women in-house counsel in the US, which I completed at the University of Connecticut, studying with Myra Marx Ferree, Albert Cohen, Seymour Warkov and Eve Spangler. . The job interview went well; my cv was a couple of conference presentations, no journal articles, book chapters or books, but a US PhD in hand.

2. Research Collaboration with Kathy Mack at Flinders University: we have a complementary skill set, and our Judicial Research Project which commenced in 2000 continues. It is a national project, funded by the Australian Research Council, which has looked at many aspects of judicial life and work across the full range of Australia's courts. With comparative analyses and collaboration with the National Center for State Courts, and many conversations with Stina Bergman Blix and Åsa Wettergren regarding their similar research in Sweden. Traditionally the judiciary has been considered hard to reach for empirical researchers. Through surveys, court observations, interviews, as well as secondary data and documents – we have examined: job satisfaction, work-family intersections, impartiality, and legitimacy, and most recently judging and emotion. I am on a current project examining judicial stress and wellbeing.

3. Invitation to teach at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Oñati. Over several years I have taught socio-legal research methods and research design and have learned so much about diverse research projects in many different countries. There is so much to say about the Institute, that I would here all day.

4. Participating in the RCSL. It is a friendly, just-right conference: not too small and not too large. I think it is where I first met Luca, though I now don't recollect. Also working closely with Ulrike in these past years has been a real pleasure. Again, a lifetime of socio-legal research means making friendships with like-minded colleagues all working on aspects of law and society across diverse disciplines and countries is possible, and enjoyable. This is the context for guiding and inspiring work.

I am deeply honoured to receive the 2023 Podgórecki Prize. Thank you. Have a wonderful conference which

is so well organised and curated by Ole Hammerslev and the local team here in Lund.

Sharyn Roach Anleu
sharyn.roachanleu@flinders.edu.au

ACCEPTANCE OF PODGÓRECKI PRIZE 2022 BY MELISSA CROUCH

It is a great honor to be awarded the Podgórecki Prize 2022 for sociolegal research. I would like to thank my three nominators who have been mentors to me and who model diverse ways of being and doing sociolegal research. I have greatly valued the opportunity to learn from Professor Adam Czarnota and Professor Martin Krygier (UNSW) on transitional justice and the rule of law respectively, particularly through our collaborations in Myanmar over many years. They generously shared their research expertise, experiences and knowledge of the democratic and constitutional transition in Eastern and Central Europe to an eager audience. I also express my deep appreciation to my third nominator, Professor Adriaan Bedner (University of Leiden) for the opportunity to learn from his tireless leadership, partnerships and contributions to the growing sociolegal community of scholars in Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to the president and council members of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law, and to this year's Prize Committee: Professor Germano Schwartz (chair), Professor Benoit Bastard (University of Paris) and Professor Dee Smythe (University of Cape Town). I appreciate that the time and effort involved in sitting on prize committees is a real service to the field.

The RCSL plays an important role in connecting and fostering a generous intellectual community of sociolegal scholars. In my view, one of the great strengths of the RCSL is the depth and breadth of its comparative focus on the legal profession. I have appreciated being involved in the international working group on lawyers in the 21st century and contributing in a small way to the publication of the second edition of Richard Abel's classic collaborative text.

My research has focused on authoritarian regimes and the challenges for law, the legal profession and the courts in such contexts. While the study of law in illiberal and authoritarian regimes was once peripheral, the rise of populism, the decline of democracy and the global pandemic has seen the topic pushed to the front and centre of much research. The study of law in authoritarian and illiberal regimes poses particular methodological and ethical challenges; one way to navigate these issues is by adopting a socio-legal approach.

Overall, the RCSL embodies for me a long-standing commitment by scholars of sociolegal studies to the empirical study of legal pluralism. For my work on both Indonesia and Myanmar, legal pluralism is an indispensable concept and one that remains salient in the 21st century due to the interaction of international, regional and domestic legal orders as well as non-state forms of law.

Thank you again for this prize, it is humbling, unexpected and a great honor.

Melissa Crouch
melissa.crouch@unsw.edu.au

DAVID NELKEN HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THE BRITISH ACADEMY

David Nelken, a long standing member of the RCSL, and a former Vice- President, who has been awarded the Podgórecki Prize in 2011, has been elected to the British Academy.

OBITUARY - PROF. HELEN HARTNELL, PH.D. (1954-2023)

Our colleague Professor Helen Hartnell, Ph.D. passed away on Monday, 18 September 2023, at the age of 68. For us, the Berlin colleagues who worked with Helen, the news of her serious illness and her sudden death was and is a shock.

Helen Hartnell crossed the borders between the different academic cultures and disciplines like hardly anyone else in German socio-legal research. A US lawyer, she came to Germany back in the early 1980s and worked in various legal contexts, including as a research assistant at the Free University of Berlin and as a lawyer for an international law firm. From 1997 to 2013, she was a professor of law at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. During this time, Helen maintained regular contact with the socio-legal community in Berlin, with a particular interest in supporting young academics.

Visiting fellowships, including Fulbright and DAAD professorships, took her to the CEU Budapest, Harvard Law School, the Free University of Berlin and the University of Helsinki. Her main research interests lay in the areas of International Business Law, Law of the European Union and Socio-Legal Studies. Her Ph.D. thesis at Berkeley deals with the Europeanisation of civil justice from a political science and elite sociology perspective. For her thesis, Helen conducted and analysed several expert interviews with relevant actors in the field.

Helen was also an active part of the RCSL community. She attended the Legal Profession Group Meetings quite regularly, e.g. in Frauenchiemsee, Andorra and also the virtual meeting in 2021.

Those who knew Helen in her wonderfully humorous, wise and encouraging way know how much we miss her. She returned to Berlin from New Orleans in early August, as always with many plans. She had the firm intention to be at the Socio-Legal Congress in Innsbruck in September. The diagnosis of her incurable cancer hit her completely unexpectedly.

Michael Wrase
michael.wrase@wzb.eu

BOOKS

George B. Radics and Pablo Ciochini (eds.). *Criminal Legalities and Minorities in the Global South: Rights and Resistance in a Decolonial World*, (Cham: Palgrave, 2023).

Dr Pablo Ciochini and I offer our second edited volume on Criminal Legalities, this time, focusing on the topic of “minorities.” Our book *Criminal Legalities and Minorities in the Global South: Rights and Resistance in a Decolonial World* (Palgrave, 2023) in its title announces to the reader what we endeavored to do. We tackled the controversial topic of who constitutes a “minority” to highlight how the term itself tends to be framed from a distinctly Northern perspective. Discrete categories of race, gender, sexuality, and class become fused together in the South, with structural events such as violent regimes, neoliberal economic policies exacerbating inequality, entrenched foreign values, and the explicit criminalization of certain identities emerging as the strongest influences on minorities in the South.

The second part of the title highlights our efforts to contribute to the decolonization of the social sciences. Over the past decade, Dr Ciochini and I have made concerted efforts to promote and highlight the work of scholars based in the South, who are from the South, or who have personal attachments to it. The chapters in this book are no exception. They demonstrate how when enmeshed in the circumstances you are studying, a fresh perspective emerges—one accountable to the people around you, but also one that does not accept global social science trends wholesale. To us, this is part of the decolonization process: de-centering the global production of knowledge, and shining light on voices that emerge outside of the Euro-American center.

The chapters in our book highlight events that are of national, historical significance like the Caradiru prison massacre in Brazil, while revealing the daily trials of trans sex workers whose existence is hidden and punished in the Philippines and Turkey. We took a broad view in demarcating the “Global South.” Chapters discuss the situation in large nations like Brazil and India, and smaller nations such as Ghana and Singapore. We were also very grateful to have been able to include a chapter on the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, and on the distressing situation in Afghanistan. Topics such as urban slums, securitization, and economic growth as an excuse to repress rights, surface throughout the countries studied. The identities explored include ethnic and religious minorities, sexual violence survivors, female offenders, and drug users. Most importantly, the topics and identities studied reveal stories of survival, growth, and local, national, and international solidarity. It reminds us that nowhere is the spirit to survive stronger than in places where communities are greatly under threat. This book, therefore, operates as a repository of national histories and personal stories that deserve attention, while simultaneously serving as a primer on

the strategies and tactics of survival for the rest of the world to take note of and seek inspiration.

Contributing to discussions on the process of how a minority emerges, how the law is implicated, and how one survives and resists this process, the book will be of interest to socio-legal scholars looking at crime, criminology, and deviance. It will also be of interests to lawyers looking at how criminal law works in the South, and social scientists studying the impact of the law onto society. The chapters have been edited to appeal to a wide range of readers, from undergraduate students to scholars looking for alternative theoretical perspectives and case studies on the topic of crime and minorities. We're excited to share this book with the socio-legal community of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law and are eager to continue to work with those who believe in our mission and the scholarship found in our new edited book. We invite you to review our edited book, and to reach out us if you'd like to get involved in our future projects.

George B. Radics
socrgb@nus.edu.sg

PUBLISHING WITH THE IISL: A FRUITFUL YEAR IN NEAR-RETROSPECT

The Oñati IISL offers several venues of publication to its stakeholders, workshop groups, Master's students and teachers, visiting scholars, and other academics who may be interested in harnessing the IISL's reach and reputation to disseminate their research in sociology of law. This year of 2023, many academics have benefited from these venues of publication, and the general output has been very considerable and consistent with the rise in recent years ever since the pandemic.

The IISL's indexed journals, *Oñati Socio-Legal Series* (indexed in Clarivate's Web of Science ESCI index and in Elsevier's Scopus) and *Sortuz* (indexed in Elsevier's Scopus) have put out 6 issues altogether.

Oñati Socio-legal Series is IISL's flagship journal, with a bimonthly periodicity. All of its issues and each of its articles carries its own DOI, which is permanent and remains static across the different iterations that the article may have (from First Online on to Version of Record, for instance). This year, it has published 5 issues so far, namely these:

Vol. 13 No. 1 (2023): *Rethinking the caste system* Issue edited by **Prakash Shah** (School of Law, Queen Mary, University of London). (<https://doi.org/10.35295/osls.iisl/0000-0000-0000-1331>)

Vol. 13 No. 2 (2023): *Innovación legislativa en tiempos de excepcionalidad*. Issue edited by **Lohitzune Zuloaga Lojo** (Universidad Pública de Navarra) and **Lisett D. Pérez Cuba** (Universidad Pinar del Río) (<https://doi.org/10.35295/osls.iisl/0000-0000-0000-1335>)

Vol. 13 No. 3 (2023): *Teorías Críticas e injusticia social: derechos humanos en tiempos de democracias débiles y neocapitalismos* (Edited by **Silvina Ribotta** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) and **Carlos Lema** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)).

This issue includes a Special section about Gender and Judging in the Middle East and Africa, edited by **Monika Lindbekk** (University of Southern Denmark) and **Rania Maktabi** (Østfold University College)

(<https://doi.org/10.35295/osls.iisl/0000-0000-0000-1373>)

Vol. 13 No. 4 (2023): *Access to justice from a multi-disciplinary and socio-legal perspective: Barriers and facilitators in European contexts* (Issue edited by Asbjørn Storgaard, Susanna Johansson and Karsten Åström (Lund University)

(<https://doi.org/10.35295/osls.iisl/0000-0000-0000-1350>)

Vol. 13 No. 5 (2023): *Los conflictos como pertenencia: Exploraciones acerca de las formas de resolución alternativa al castigo legal* (Issue edited by **Gabriel Bombini** (Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata) and **Ezequiel Kostenwein** (CONICET, Universidad Nacional de La Plata) (<https://doi.org/10.35295/135>)

OSLS's yearly schedule is not over yet, as it will soon publish a special issue with contributions made from scholars who participated in the event called *II Jornadas de impulso a la Declaración de Oñati de 2019: Las PYMEs vascas ante las transformaciones del mundo del trabajo: calidad del empleo en un contexto de reformas* (II Conference to promote the Oñati Declaration 2019: "Basque SMEs facing the transformations in the world of work: quality of employment in a context of reforms"), which was co-organized by the IISL to follow up on the conference hosted by the IISL in 2019 to commemorate the centenary of the ILO (see also below p. 15).

The trademark of OSLS is the fact that all of its output, with counted exceptions, consists of special issues, that is, monographic issues akin to edited volumes of pieces by different authors that aim to respond to a common set of questions in a coherent way. Each issue is proposed by a team whose members become guest editors and are responsible for the preselection of contributions, a first overview to ensure quality and coherence in the common framework (with the editorial duty to reject contributions that do not fulfill the requirements, quality or formal, to go out to external review), and keeping in check with the journal's managing editor as well as with the contributing authors to ensure fluid communication and effective teamwork.

On the other hand, OSLS welcomes individual contributions by authors who may or may not be familiar with the IISL and who may or may not have worked with the IISL before. These papers, just like the papers that are submitted as part of a special issue, go through double blind peer review, and are subject to the exact same standards of quality as the special issue contributions.

All papers are published, as far as possible, in an advanced mode of publication (First Online), as an added value service to authors, and later published on their scheduled date. Individual contributions are scheduled for final publication as an addendum to special issues and in a section of their own.

The IISL is proud to have maintained and rekindled its other online journal, *Sortuz, the Oñati Journal of Emergent Socio-Legal Studies* (which was actually

chronologically the first journal of the Institute), aimed at young and emergent scholars. After a long-winded hiatus, Sortuz assembled a new editorial team and has re-emerged to earn indexation in one of the major indexing databases, Scopus. Sortuz currently publishes an issue per semester, usually an assorted issue of contributions by emergent or senior scholars (the latter are equally invited and encouraged to contribute to Sortuz). Last year, Sortuz successfully schemed and edited a thematic issue, called *Race, Gender, Violence and Violation of Rights: Intersections in the 21st Century*. Posterior to that, it has published its first issue of this year and is preparing to publish the second. In parallel to that, Sortuz has collected several contributions after its call for papers for its second thematic issue, which will talk about Socio-legal theory and legal education. The enthusiastic general response to this call for papers, with both emergent and seasoned scholars sending in papers, only confirms the resurgence of Sortuz and its affirmation as a reliable, consistent, and quality venue of publication for young and senior scholars alike who wish to disseminate the findings of their research in the socio-legal field.

Both journals can boast remarkable diversity as well as an adequate gender representation in the authors that they publish. Moreover, while the main publishing language is English, both journals promote linguistic diversity and the presence of languages other than English in scientific literature. Proof of that is the fact that of nearly 100 papers published by OSLS in 2022, about a third were in Spanish, and nearly 10% were in Portuguese.

The IISL also owns and manages two book collections: the *International Series in Law and Society*, published by Bloomsbury-Hart, and *Oñati: Derecho y Sociedad*, published in Spanish by the Madrid-based publisher Dykinson. Both series are well-established as high quality collections of classic sociology of law, and new books are added to each series yearly. This year, the *International Series in Law and Society* has launched two new additions: *Combining the legal and the social in sociology of law: An homage to Reza Banakar*, an open access book edited by Håkan Hydén, Roger Cotterrell, David Nelken and Ulrike Schultz; and *Criminal Justice and The Ideal Defendant in the Making of Remorse and Responsibility*, edited by Stewart Field and Cyrus Tata. New book proposals are being reviewed by Hart and their external readers every year, arising from workshops hosted by the IISL. This is a carefully curated collection that relies on both internal and external quality assessment by the series directors, by Hart and by its network of expert readers. The Spanish-language series, published by the specialized publisher Dykinson, has recently put out the book called *Los significados de la seguridad: Una aproximación a los discursos y a las experiencias ciudadanas*, edited by Laura Fernández de Mosteyrín, María Luz Morán, Santiago Ruiz Chasco and Lohitzune Zuloaga Lojo, which has been distributed to libraries and universities in Spain and in the Spanish-speaking countries that are serviced by Dykinson. This prestigious collection is edited by former Scientific Directors of the IISL and the

proposals that are received are reviewed by qualified readers and carefully proofread and edited in-house by the IISL.

Leire Kortabarria
l.kortabarria@iisj.es

STUDYING COURTS IN AUTHORITARIAN CONTEXTS

I have always been inspired by Reza Banakar's contribution to socio-legal methodology. So in the piece I submitted to the anthology, I look back at our field experience in courts and reflect upon the methodological challenges we faced and handled through various strategies.

This was a reflection of a research on the accessibility and quality of criminal legal aid in Istanbul courts which we did more than a decade ago. Reading our field notes and remembering our presence in the field gave me a chance to reflect upon the challenges we faced while trying to have access to the case files. Before our "initial immersion" in the field, our original assumption - based on our formal knowledge of the judiciary- about the public accessibility of court data proved to be practically unrealistic. Not only did the official permission letter we received from the Ministry of Justice prove to be inadequate -if not sometimes unhelpful- but we also realized that access was an ongoing process that needed the cooperation of many. Hence, moving beyond the official permission and negotiating our way into the files, we indeed received the cooperation of most judges, and also the clerks, which together made access practically possible. In fact, judges were usually rather excited about the project, curious about the results, convinced about the significance of socio-legal fieldwork and quite critical of the judicial system. They were willing to talk quite freely to the extent that in some cases they would explicitly defy the authority of the executive with their political comments and criticisms.

Reflecting about this experience made me think about the "contingency of access" not only as a methodological issue but also a social and political one. A decade after the original research, I found myself questioning whether we could carry out a similar research in Turkey's current political environment and how we would need to rethink the problem of access. When we did the original research in the early 2000s, Turkey was living its "golden period" with the EU - with accession negotiations going on. Since the negotiation process rested largely on harmonization efforts through incessant rule transfer, the period in fact marked the second wave of sweeping legal changes in its modern history after the radical reform process of the early Republican period. We developed our project during this speedy reform period which was also one of increased cooperation between the Ministry and legal academia.



Image 1: Boğaziçi University Under Siege.

Source: <https://merip.org/2021/02/bogazici-resists-authoritarian-control-of-the-academy-in-turkey/>

Today however, Turkey is a fully neoliberal competitive authoritarian regime where risks and challenges of carrying out academic research increase every day. Particularly after the coup attempt against the government on July 15, 2016 and the two year long state of emergency that strengthened presidential powers with decree laws, there has been a massive purge in many fields, with 30% of all dismissals taking place in the education field. In higher education, 6,081 academics and 1,427 administrative staff from 122 universities together with 300 graduate students studying abroad on state scholarship were expelled (numbers may change). Around 40% of these expelled academics were from social sciences and humanities. Boğaziçi University, one of Turkey's most reputable higher education institutions, has become a symbol of resistance and resilience against the ongoing political oppression towards academia. Images 1 and 2 display the current situation.



Image 2: Protests of academics ongoing since January 2021.

Source: <https://www.haberturk.com/bogazici-universitesi-hocalarindan-rektor-atamasina-protesto-2926948>

Physical risks in the form of arbitrary detentions, police violence against protestors, disciplinary measures etc. prevail against the academia accompanied with even more chilling consequences like self-censorship, mobbing or other forms of harassment towards anti-government parties.

This situation demonstrates the difficulty of doing academic research and it even gets darker when questioning the possibility of doing research in courts, given that the judiciary has been another target of

executive attacks. In the 2022 EU Progress Report on Turkey, it is reported that overall, 3 985 judges and public prosecutors have been dismissed for alleged links to the Gülen movement since the 2016 attempted coup and only 515 have been returned to their positions and 17 more judges and prosecutors were dismissed over the reporting period.

So going back to the question of access, we need to think about its contingency not only in violent prone zones or military regimes but also in authoritarian contexts where restraints are not legal and dangers are not always physical, or apparent. Morgenbesser and Weiss put the problem perfectly when they argued that “illiberalism, including curbs on civil liberties and academic freedom, contorts the research process, often in fairly predictable ways” and that some of these may even be true for “purported democracies, where academic freedom -including the space for research and critical inquiry- is constrained”.

It looks like we need more discussion and experience sharing on the perils of doing legal fieldwork in less accessible and less transparent contexts which ultimately would help to develop socio-legal methodology. Something I truly believe that Reza would be very interested in to pursue and support.

Seda Kalem
seda.kalem@bilgi.edu.tr

CALL FOR THE CLSA MEETING

The 2024 CLSA Annual Meeting will be held in person from June 15-17, 2024 at McGill University (Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal), in conjunction with the 2024 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Call for papers is available at our website (<https://www.acds-clsa.com/upcoming-meeting1.html>) and the deadline to submit your proposals is November 17, 2023. The CLSA will offer some grants to graduate students, postdocs and eligible seasonal professors to help their participation in the event.

RCSL MEMBERSHIP AND FEES RENEWAL

The form to become a RCSL member or renew membership, can be found at:

<https://www.iisj.net/en/socio-legal-network/rcsl-membership-form>

Mantoni Kortabarria Madina
m.kortabarria@iisj.es

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

3RD OÑATI DECLARATION IMPULSE WORKSHOP

This event, which took place on October 24 th 2023 at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, organized by the IISL, establishes a bridge between the international socio-legal community and the International Labour Organization (ILO). It offers a remarkable example of cooperation between international socio-legal research and one international organization and therefore deserves a special mention in this Newsletter.

The following short history of the process that led to this event and the summary description of its programme included in the words of thanks issued by the IISL were published on the IISL Website (<https://www.iisj.net/es/sobre-el-iisj/actualidad/las-iii-jornadas-de-impulso-la-declaraci%C3%B3n-de-o%C3%B1ati-se-saldan-con-%C3%A9xito-de>) and in the IISL Newsletter (<https://sway.office.com/gezPoBiFOiBCBRPD?ref=Link>).

In 2019, at the occasion of the centenary of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Department of Labour and Employment of the Basque Government presented the Oñati Declaration, with the unanimous support of the Basque Parliament. In the format of a Decalogue, this Declaration aims at giving an impulse towards a pattern of labour relations that complies with international labour law and with the different dimensions of labour law. The Oñati Declaration was signed at the IISL, after the conference El Futuro del Trabajo que Queremos: Un Debate Global, which took place at the IISL, in April 2019, sponsored by the Department of Labour and Employment of the Basque Government, with the collaboration of the ILO Office in Spain.

After this initial event, the Workshop of 24 October 2023 was the third event organized by the IISL as Oñati Declaration Impulse Workshop. A Second Oñati Declaration Impulse Workshop took place in November 2022, in Bilbao at the Bizkaia Aretoa, under the title II Jornadas de impulso a la Declaración de Oñati de 2019: “Las PYMEs vascas ante las transformaciones

del mundo del trabajo: calidad del empleo en un contexto de reformas”.

Following the 3rd Oñati Declaration Impulse Workshop, the IISL wishes to thank all participants and attendees to the event. Over 200 people altogether participated and thus contributed to the success of the workshop.

The workshop became a forum where representatives of the academia, trade unions and government exchanged views on social dialogue as an instrument of change. There were participants from all the Basque universities and from many universities from all over Spain, as well as from other organizations and institutions. Among the speakers were Sami Tahri, from the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT), which was awarded in 2015 with the Nobel Peace Prize, along with the Tunisian employers, the lawyers' union and the Tunisian League of Human Rights; Felix Peinado, director of the ILO office for Spain; and the second vice-president of the Basque Government and Minister of Labor and Employment, Idoia Mendia, who participated in the inauguration.

The workshop was organized by the International Institute for the Sociology of Law of Oñati, the University of Deusto -which hosted it at its Bilbao campus- and the University of the Basque Country, and has been sponsored by the Department of Labor and Employment of the Basque Government.

The text of the Oñati Declaration can be consulted under <https://www.euskadi.eus/gobierno-vasco/-/noticia/2019/declaracion-de-onati-decalogo-para-un-modelo-renovado-de-relaciones-laborales/>

Based on texts produced by the IISL. A special thank to Leire Kortabarria for providing the relevant links.

RCSL GOVERNING BOARD **August 2023 - July 2027**

President: Pierre Guibentif

Immediate Past President:

Ulrike Schultz

Vice-Presidents: Teresa Piconto-Navales

Dee Smythe

Secretary: Stefanie Lemke

Elected Board Members except Vice-Presidents and Secretary:

Laura Noemi Lora

Pablo Ciocchini

Katrin Seidel

Julia Dahlvik

Co-opted Non-Voting Board Members:

Joxerramon Bengoetxea

Ole Hammerslev

Susana Santos

Additional Observer Member-IISL Scientific Director:
Sabine Frerichs

Working Group Chairs are also Board members.

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

RCSL Website: Pierre Guibentif

RCSL Newsletter editorial committee:

Pablo Ciocchini (Chair), Stefan Machura, Mavis Maclean, Swethaa Ballakrishnen, Lucero Ibarra Rojas, Laura Lora, Shozo Ota.

RCSL WORKING GROUPS & CHAIRS:

Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution: Irie Hideaki

Comparative Legal Culture: Marina Kurkchiyan

Comparative Studies of Legal Professions: Avrom Sherr

Gender, Law and Society: Letizia Mancini and Barbara Giovanna Bello

Human Rights: Dani Rudnicki

International Research Group on Law & Urban Space: T.B.A.

Judicialization of Social Problems: Joao Velloso

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: Martin Ramstedt

Social and Legal Systems: Lucas Konzen and Germano Schwartz

Sociology of Constitutions: Jiří Přibáň.

Knowledge and Opinion about Law – Legal Consciousness Balázs Fekete

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 Kortabarria Madina

IISJ

Avenida de la Universidad 8

Apartado 28

20560 Oñati (Gipuzkoa) – Spain

Phone: +34 943 783 064

Email: m.kortabarria@iisj.es

Newsletter address for correspondence and manuscripts:

Dr. Pablo Ciocchini

National Scientific and Technical

Research Council, Argentina

Email: ciocchini@gmail.com