

Minutes of the RCSL (RC12) Business Meeting and Board Meeting

Berlin, Germany, 27 July, 2007, Senatsaal, Humboldt University - 13.30

Present: Anne Boigeol, Luigi Cominelli, Benoît Bastard, Guy Osborn, Johannes Feest, Peter Robson, Valerio Pocar, Jean Van Houtte, Ulrike Schultze, Vittorio Olgiati, Lawrence Friedman, Marina Kurkchyan, Masayuki Murayama, Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Pierre Guibentif, Carlos Lista, Mavis Maclean, María Teresa Picontó, Rosemary Hunter, Vincenzo Ferrari, Malgorzata Fuszczara, Antonio Azuela, Rogelio Pérez Perdomo.

Apologies: Stephan Parmentier, Volkmar Gessner, Angélica Cuellar, Devanayk Sundaram, David Nelken

The business meeting was also attended by other members of the RCSL.

1) The Oñati consortium.

Joxerramon Bengoetxea presents the project to create a Consortium which will act as network of socio-legal associations. The first step is to compile a worldwide directory and draw a map of associations. A further step will be to serve as a platform to connect organizations together. He reminds the board that there will be a meeting of all the association representatives just after the board meeting.

For Vittorio Olgiati: the idea of a world consortium is absolutely necessary. There is real need for interdisciplinarity, but the platform will have to be very well defined.

Joxerramon Bengoetxea underlines that before committing to the consortium, all the associations will need a feedback from their members.

Johannes Feest thinks that the Consortium will have to act with great care. The experience of the Oñati Institute has always been very inclusive. In a way, the Institute is a method to give a say to all the people participating in its activities.

For Pierre Guibentif: it is now time to address the formal issues. The achievements of the Oñati Institute are solid, and the Basque government has provided an extremely valuable connection. The Institute must be cautious in making changes to the arrangement with the Basque government. The Consortium has to operate globally but it needs a local base. It needs also a precise design.

Masayuki Murayama: the Japanese association started an internal debate. The Consortium should function as a network. We need to decide what will be the relationship between the RCSL and the Consortium, because the consortium will have to be a powerful organization in order to organize a world conference every 4 or 5 years. And we must understand if Oñati is willing to take on the responsibility of this organization.

Joxerramon Bengoetxea recalls that the Oñati institute may offer the directory of the associations and a platform for feedback. But it cannot organize such a big conference. The consortium shall do it. Oñati is only able to organize much smaller events.

Vincenzo Ferrari has nothing against the Consortium, and the Oñati institute can offer substantial contribution. But we must ask what the Consortium implies in terms of the Oñati governance. For next year's Milan RCSL conference, a place has been reserved for national associations.

For Pierre Guibentif: The Consortium should not change anything for the Institute governance.

Peter Robson thinks that Oñati should concentrate on its uniqueness, and has doubts about the compatibility of the Institute and the Consortium.

Mavis Maclean asks if the Consortium option was discussed with the administrative staff.

Joxerramon Bengoetxea: At the moment the staff of the Institute is showing support. But for now it is not wise being obsessed with the organization of world conferences. The main idea for the Oñati Institute is to make it a network of networks. Financial implications have been already considered. There is a clear opportunity to ensure the services of the Institute also for the future.

Lawrence Friedman: many people voiced their reservations over the idea of a world congress. One of the reasons is that historically there is a difference between the Law and Society Association and all the other national associations. The LSA was open to international membership from the very beginning. International membership in the LSA is constantly growing, but is predominantly American. The Research Committee flaw is that it is attached to the International Sociological Association, and it is brought to a giant ISA meeting every four years. The Consortium can avoid these flaws. It could engage in specific socio-legal issues and might be more manageable.

Vincenzo Ferrari raises the question of the RCSL membership identifiability in ISA meetings. This is the same problem that we have with LSA meetings. We should multiply the occasions of scientific encounters for the RCSL.

For Marina Kurkchyan: the idea of a Consortium is a top-down idea, and it is probably better to ask to local associations what their real needs are. We should create networks of working groups, that is horizontal networks.

Johannes Feest recalls that The RCSL has always collaborated with local organizations, in order to connect to national and local problems.

That is what happened in the conference in Poland.

Anne Boigeol: We have to keep in mind the different problems raised in the discussion, but it seems that the Board shows support to the Consortium project. The RCSL Board will be consulted during the process, and we will have to proceed with small steps.

Joxerramon Bengoetxea: informs the board that The President of the Oñati Institute Governing Board, who is the deputy minister of justice of the Basque government, is very interested by the initiative and will be present at the meeting for the Consortium initiative in Berlin.

2) Working Groups.

Anne Boigeol announces that two new Working Groups have applied to the RCSL Board in order to be recognized. According to the RCSL statute, they both have the requirements.

- The first working group is on Law and Migration and it was proposed by professor Sundaram, who could not attend this Board for health reasons. He sent a very complete application. The working group activities during the Berlin meeting were supervised by professor Agrawal. The Board approves the Working Group on Law and Migration.

- The second new Working Group is presented by Masayuki Murayama. It is a working group on Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution. It has 19 members from 8 different countries. It has organized several panels at the Berlin meeting. The Working Group will try to organize sessions featuring comparative quantitative as well as qualitative studies on dispute resolution.

The Board approves the Working Group on Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution.

Anne Boigeol invites the WG chairs to present a report of their activities.

Stefan Parmentier could not attend the meeting but sent a written report concerning the activity of the working group "*Human rights*", which has been very active.

Rosemary Hunter: the *Gender and Law WG* organized 6 sessions at the conference and is planning to participate at the Milano meeting. The presentation of the WG was published in the last RCSL Newsletter (summer 2007).

Marina Kurkchyan: the *Comparative Legal Culture WG* (co-chair : David Nelken) had several panels at the Berlin meeting. A new research project is starting and it will involve some European countries such as Poland, Bulgaria, the UK, Norway and Romania.

Antonio Azuela reports that the *Urban Problems* WG has been dormant for some time. At this meeting the WG organized a panel session and the WG will be reactivated.

Vittorio Olgiati, being involved in the Programme Committee for the Berlin meeting, could not devote the time needed for organizing the activity of the *WG on Social and Legal Systems*. Peter Robson, on behalf of Guy Osborn, presents the *Law and Popular Culture* WG activities. The WG has run three sessions at the Berlin meeting on films, sport and tv. On Saturday there will be a special session on cinema. There will be also a special gathering in Oñati and a new website is being developed. Benoit Bastard, on behalf of the new chair of the *Legal Profession* WG, Emmanuel Lazega, presents the activity of the WG. The WG had a meeting in 2006 in Brittany, with 60 people in attendance and an equal number of papers. About ten sessions during the Berlin Meeting were sponsored or co-sponsored by the WG. The 2008 conference of the WG will be held right before the Milan meeting, probably in Brittany again. Terry Halliday has just created a new subgroup. Ulrike Schultz underlines that the Legal Profession WG has several quite successful informal subgroups.

Anne Boigeol: The Board has received no reports from the WG European Integration (Chair: Harm Schepel), from the WG on Socio-legal methodology (Chair: Reza Banakar), and from the WG on Law and Politics (Maria Angelica Cuellar). Since the European Integration WG has not been active for some years, this WG will formally cease to be listed in the directory.

The Board approves the decision.

Anne Boigeol: For the WG on Socio-Legal Methodology, Reza Banakar, who is organizing workshops in Oñati, will be asked if he is still involved in the WG. Peter Robson will contact him.

Angélica Cuellar, who had a session of her WG on Law and Politics in Berlin, will be asked to make a report.

Vincenzo Ferrari reminds that all Working Groups should provide annually a written report and a list of participants in each working group. He suggests that each WG should organize at least one session during the RCSL annual meeting.

This proposal is approved by the Board.

Mavis Maclean suggests that the WG reports should be put on the website by Pierre Guibentif.

3) The Adam Podgórecki Prize.

The 2007 was awarded by Lawrence Friedman, chair of the Prize committee, jointly to two eminent scholars: Richard Abel and Vincenzo Ferrari.

For the 2008 Podgórecki prize, Anne Boigeol proposes that the Committee for the Podgórecki Prize be composed by Rosemary Hunter as chair, and by Pierre Guibentif and Teresa Picontó.

The proposal is approved by the Board. The committee will issue a call for nominations to be published in the next RCSL newsletter.

4) RCSL Communications

Anne Boigeol wishes to improve communications with the membership through the website and the Newsletter.

The RCSL now produces three issues of its newsletter every year. The next issue is due in October.

Pierre Guibentif has designed a website to inform Board members and RCSL members (<http://rcsl.iscte.pt>). It was realized at zero costs, and it is very easy to update.

In order to make the activities of the WG more visible in the RCSL, it has been decided to present the activities of all the working groups successively in each Newsletter: the first WG to present its work was "Gender and Law" in the summer issue of the Newsletter, the second will be "Law and Popular Culture", in the October issue.

5) The problem of young scholars in the RCSL membership

Jean Van Houtte recalls that the problem of attracting young scholars in the RcsL has always been there.

Anne Boigeol: proposes that, according to the new RcsL Statute, the young scholar who will be the winner of the Podgórecki prize becomes automatically a member of the RcsL Board.

Vincenzo Ferrari recalls that it is not so difficult to become a member of the RcsL. Young people can also apply for the Renato Treves international PhD in Law and Society, approved by the RcsL.

Anne Boigeol proposes to renew the experience of the 2005 Paris meeting, where a special session was organized for PhD students with the participation of eminent scholars.

6) The relationships of the RCSL with national socio-legal associations.

Anne Boigeol proposes to strengthen the participation of the socio-legal sections of the sociological national associations in the RCSL.

- The representative of the sociology of law section in the French sociological association: presents its national association and the project they have to organize joint meetings with the WG on legal profession and sessions on globalization and the transnationalization of law.
- Carlos Lista announces that the sociology of law section of the Argentinean Sociological Association would like to participate in the activities of the RCSL.

7) Board Sub-Committees reports.

3.1. E-Journal sub-committee:

Volkmar Gessner, chair of the e-journal committee, could not attend the meeting, but Carlos Lista, Guy Osborn and Joxerramon Bengoetxea also worked in this sub-committee and report that the project is going ahead.

3.2 Statute sub-committee:

Vincenzo Ferrari informs the board that: the work of the Statute sub-committee is still under way, and he will be able to present a proposal soon during the next fall.

3.3 Working groups sub-committee:

Vincenzo Ferrari considers that the working groups should be brought back to the Research Committee. Something should be done to establish closer links between the Working Groups and the RCSL.

Benoit Bastard reports that WG members do not want any change, probably because they are "happy with this situation". According to the statutes, working groups are autonomous because they have only to report to the RCSL. For Anne Boigeol: the relationship between RCSL and the working groups can evolve, and probably it would be better to make it clearer.

8) RCSL's finances.

Luigi Cominelli reports that the RCSL has two separate accounts: a general account and a Podgórecki account. The general account of the RCSL contains the membership fees and donations. The second account, which was set by the donation of Maria Los, is used to fund the Podgórecki Prize.

The balances on 12 July 2007:

General Account:	7.974,86 €
Podgórecki Account:	2.387,59 €

The RCSL pays a sum of 3,000 € towards supporting the Treves Scholarship to the Oñati Institute in September each year, and this year it will also pay between 1.500 € and 2.000 € for the Graduate Students travel grants awarded for the Berlin meeting.

9) The 2008 RCSL annual meeting (Milan and Como).

Vincenzo Ferrari announces that: the annual meeting of the RCSL in 2008 will take place at the Universities of Milano Statale, Como and Milano-Bicocca. The meeting will start at Milano Statale on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday, then it will continue at Milano Bicocca on Friday, and finally in Como on Saturday.

All the working groups should take part in the program. The languages will be English, French and Spanish.

Stefan Machura suggests that it would be advisable to create a pdf or rtf document with information on the conference and an attractive layout. The most attractive initiatives for young scholars are the working groups. Cheap accommodation should be provided and welcoming events should be organized for younger students. The Berlin meeting has offered guided tours to local courts, and this option was really appreciated.

10) The 2009 RCSL annual meeting

The RCSL has received an informal proposal from Angelica Cuellar (Mexico,) and from prof. Sundaram and professor Agrawal (India) to host the 2009 annual meeting. The Oñati Institute can also welcome the annual meeting in occasion of the 20 years of the Institute. Peter Robson suggests that an open call for candidates cities could be issued.

11) ISA World Forum (Barcelona 2008).

Vittorio Olgiati reports that the ISA Barcelona meeting will put emphasis on the impact of sociological research. The conference theme for our Research committee will be "Rethinking legal justice". A call for papers has been already issued and then the program will be completed. Teresa Picontó will also assist with the programme.

12) Oñati IISL matters.

Anne Boigeol thanks Joxerramon Bengotxea for the excellent work he has made as scientific director of Oñati, and welcomes Carlos Lista as the new director of the Oñati Institute. Carlos will start in September 2007.

Carlos Lista mentions that in 2009 the Oñati Institute will be 20 years old, and that could be a good opportunity to host a conference.

+++++++The RCSL Board 2006-2009+++++++

RCSL Executive Board

President:

- Anne Boigeol: Boigeol@ihtp.cnrs.fr

Vice-Presidents:

- Benoît Bastard: benoit.bastard@free.fr
- Volkmar Gessner: Gessner@uni-bremen.de

Elected Members:

- Malgorzata Fuszara: mfuszara@poczta.isns.uw.edu.pl
- María Teresa Picontó: tpiconto@posta.unizar.es
- Valerio Pocar: valerio.pocar@unimib.it
- Peter Robson: peter.robson@strath.ac.uk
- Ulrike Schultz: Ulrike.Schultz@fernuni-hagen.de

Past Presidents:

- Johannes Feest: feest@uni-bremen.de
- Vincenzo Ferrari: vincenzo.ferrari@unimi.it
- Lawrence Friedman: lmf@stanford.edu
- Mavis Maclean: mavis.maclean@applied-social-studies.oxford.ac.uk
- Rogelio Pérez Perdomo: rperez@unimet.edu.ve
- Jean Van Houtte: jean.vanhoutte@ua.ac.be

Working Groups Chairs :

- *Socio-Legal Methodology* - Reza Banakar: rezabanakar@hotmail.com
- *Gender and Law* - Rosemary Hunter: r.c.hunter@kent.ac.uk
- *Comparative Legal Culture* - Marina Kurkchyan: mkurkchyan@hotmail.com; David Nelken: sen4144@iperbole.bologna.it
- *Legal Profession* - Emmanuel Lazega: emmanuel.lazega@ens.fr
- *Human Rights* - Stephan Parmentier: Stephan.Parmentier@law.kuleuven.be
- *Law and Politics* - María Angélica Cuéllar Vázquez: cuellarv@servidor.unam.mx
- *Urban Problems* - Antonio Azuela de la Cueva: lacueva@servidor.unam.mx
- *Social and Legal Systems* - Vittorio Olgiati: olgiati@soc.uniurb.it
- *Law and Popular Culture* - Guy Osborn: osborng@wmin.ac.uk
- *Law and Migration* - Devanayaka Sundaram: dsundaram@hotmail.com
- *Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution*: Masayuki Murayama: aa00092@kisc.meiji.ac.jp

Observers - Coopted Members:

- Carlos Lista: clista@ciudad.com.ar (Oñati Scientific Director)
- Joxerramon Bengoetxea : joxerramon@iisj.es (Oñati Scientific Director)
- Pierre Guibentif: pierre.guibentif@iscte.pt
- Luigi Cominelli: Luigi.Cominelli@unimi.it (RCSL Secretary)