

RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

President: Johannes Feest

FB6, Universität

28334 Bremen, Deutschland

email: feest@uni-bremen.de

fax: +49-421-2189316

**Summer
2000**

Secretary: Hector Fix-Fierro

UNAM

Mexico City, Mexico

email: jacmtz@attglobal.net

fax: +52-5-6652193

RCSL ELECTION RESULTS

In April 2000, 429 members in good standing received ballot materials. By June 5, 150 ballot sheets were received at the IISL in Oñati. The count, performed under the supervision of the IISL director, Pierre Guibentif, produced the following results (ratified by the RCSL Board on 9 July 2000):

RCSL President

Johannes Feest	133
Hector Fix-Fierro	8
Abstentions	8
Invalid	1
Total	150

RCSL Board

(of the twenty people that stood for election, the following were elected)

David Nelken	65
Johannes Feest	62
Anne Boigeol	49
David Trubek	37
Francis van Loon	34
Sandra Burman	30
Jacek Kurczewski	30
Masayuki Murayama	28
Hector Fix-Fierro	28
Joanna Shapland	28
Paola Ronfani	26

CHANGE OF STATUTES APPROVED

The changes in the RCSL statutes were approved by a vote of 137 for approval and one vote against, with 11 abstentions and one invalid vote (Total = 150). The new version of the by-laws (reprinted in the last Newsletter) shall come into effect on January 1, 2001. The new Statutes will be published again in the next RCSL Newsletter.

MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD

In its first meeting, on 9 July 2000 in Oñati, the new Board has elected the following persons to form the executive Board:

- two vice-presidents (David Nelken and Ann Boigeol)
- the secretary (Hector Fix-Fierro)
- two more members of the executive Board (Masayuki Murayama; David Trubek).

The criteria used to reach this decision were the proportion of votes received together with the wish to provide geographical and linguistic representation. The meeting recalled the possibility under the Constitution of co-opting further members "in order to extend RCSL activities in specific areas or to take care of specific activities" (part 5.4 of the Statutes). The president is asked to approach possible representative from Africa.

OÑATI IISL

Pierre Guibentif completed in July 2000 his successful two-year term as Oñati director. He was lauded by the new RCSL president as having consolidated the work of his predecessors. His linguistic abilities enabled him to communicate easily with all parts of the socio-legal community. In addition he was able to strengthen relations with the Basque government and the University of the Basque country. A comprehensive report on the 10-year history and work of the Institute has been edited by him and will be available in the four official languages of the IISL (Basque, English, French and Spanish). Guibentif will be succeeded in September 2000 by a duumvirate consisting of Bill Felstiner (USA) and Manolo Calvo Garcia (Spain), which is scheduled to last for three years. For the first half of this term Felstiner will be the official Director, while Calvo will serve as his Vice Director. After eighteen months they will change roles.

But these are not the only role changes with respect to the IISL: on becoming Director of the IISL, Bill Felstiner resigned as IISL Board member and was replaced by Rogelio Perez Perdomo, whose place in turn was taken over ex officio by the new RC SL President Johannes Feest.

WORKING GROUPS

For the renewal of present working groups as well as for the acceptance of new ones an advisory committee was constituted. It will give an opinion until the end of the year. Meanwhile all WG chairs will remain as members of the RC SL Board.

RC SL BUDGET

The RC SL secretary reports that the average yearly income from membership fees amount to about 3500 EURO = US \$. Recurring expenditures stem from the twice-yearly publication of a newsletter (about 300-400 EURO per issue) and the RC SL's contribution to the Treves grant for a scholarship. Since an appeal to members has raised so far only 600 EURO, the RC SL will have to contribute the balance of 2400 EURO. This means that the RC SL comes precariously close to the limits of its financial possibilities.

It was agreed that in the future all persons who are not paid up RC SL members will have to pay an extra fee when attending annual meetings. The Board also studied a proposal to introduce the following new fee structure, based on the ISA model of three levels depending on the GNP of the country of residence:

countries A: 160 EURO = US \$

- countries B: 80 EURO = US \$

- countries C: 40 EURO = US \$

Students pay 50 percent. Waivers can be granted by the RC SL secretary. In the case of members from countries C, applications for waiver are automatically granted. ISA members, who have to pay higher fees anyway continue to pay 40 EURO/US \$.

After discussion, the Board decided that the proposal should be presented to the membership via the Newsletter, making clear the reasons for extra funds. A Board decision is scheduled for the next Board meeting, July 2001 in Budapest.

TREVES SCHOLARSHIP

The following persons have graciously responded to the appeal for contributions to the Treves fund: Rick Abel/Antonio Azuela/Reza Banakar/Erhard Blankenburg/Tony Bradney/Maureen Cain/Fiona Cowney/Eve Darian-Smith/Don Fleming/Bob Kidder/Masayuki Murayama/Rogelio Perez Perdomo, Luigi Solivetti.

More contributions are needed and welcome. Please send your pledges to Bill Felstiner (IISL, A.P., 20560

Oñati, Spain; fax +34 943 783147; email: onati@iisj.es.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE RC SL (JULY 2000)

On 9 July 2000, the RC SL had 432 members from the following 53 countries: USA (68), UK (40), Italy (28), Germany (25), Canada (24), Brazil (20), Australia 19), Spain (17), Mexico (15), Japan (14), India (13), Belgium (12), France (12), Netherlands (12), Poland (10), Argentina (9), Peru (9), Finland (8), Colombia (6), Denmark (6), South Africa (5), Venezuela (5), Rumania (4), Switzerland (4), Austria (3), Bulgaria (3), Greece (3), Hungary (3), Norway (3), Russia (3), Cuba (2), Costa Rica (2), Egypt (2), Israel (2), Ireland (2), Portugal (2), Bangladesh (1), Belarus (1), Chile (1), Korea (1), Czech Republic (1), Ecuador (1), Georgia (1), Iceland (1), Latvia (1), Nigeria (1), New Zealand (1), Puerto Rico (1), Senegal (1), Slovenia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Uruguay (1).

The distribution of our members by world regions is as follows:

AFRICA	9
ASIA	30
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND	20
EUROPE (Western)	79
EUROPE (Central/Eastern)	30
USA/CANADA	92
LATIN AMERICA	72

RC SL ANNUAL MEETINGS

Together with the Spanish Association for the Analysis of Law and Society (DyS) the RC SL has held its annual meeting in July 2000 in Oñati. The meeting was attended by over 100 scholars from 20 countries. It was the first almost truly bilingual annual meeting (i.e. without simultaneous translation): some of the sessions were held in English, others in Spanish, some alternating between the two languages. Most of the papers are available from the IISL Centre of Documentation (elvira@iisj.es).

The next annual meeting will be held, jointly with the Law & Society Association, July 4-7 2001, at the European University in Budapest.

In 2002 our annual meeting will be, July 8-12, in the context of the World Congress of the International Sociological Association in Brisbane, Australia.

OÑATI ESSAY PRICE

In the context of the RC SL annual meeting in Oñati, the results of the third edition of the Essay price competition were announced. This time the work of George Gurvitch had been the topic of the competition (see Oñati Newsletter 10, Winter 99/00). In an anonymous procedure, the three referees

(Jacques Commaille; Vittorio Olgiati and Paavo Uusitalo) agreed unanimously to give the prize to a paper entitled: "Integrating Reciprocal Perspectives. On George Gurvitch's Theory of Immediate Jural Experience". The essay turned out to be written by RCSL member Reza Banakar (Oxford), who happened to attend the meeting and was given deserved ovations by the multinational audience.

Last years price (focussing on Leon Petrazycki) went to RCSL member Kasia Dzerniczewska (Warsaw). In its first year, the competition was won ex aequo by Julio Avalos (now Caracas) and RCSL member Pompeu Casanovas (Barcelona) with essays on Vilhelm Aubert.

Publication of the essays is underway.

BUDAPEST 2001: CALL FOR PAPERS AND MORE

Preparations for the next annual meeting (Budapest, July 4-7, 2001) have already started. All WGs of the RCSL are asked to attend and run sessions. As usual, individual papers are also welcome and will be assigned to sessions by the program committee (please contact the RCSL president or secretary; addresses on first page of this Newsletter). In addition, it was agreed to launch Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs), as a way to bring scholars from the two Associations together and thereby facilitate international research collaboration in selected topics for presentation at the meeting in Budapest in July 2001. The CNRs met twice at the LSA meeting in Miami Beach. They will continue their work, primarily by electronic means, between the 2000 and 2001 meetings. Additional CNRs can still be set up. Individuals interested in the work of any CRN should contact the following organisers by email (for more details see the Web Page of the Law and Society Association: lawandsociety.org/ann-mtg/crn2.htm). At present, the following CNRs exist:

1. Transnational Actors

(Nancy Reichman, University of Denver;
e-mail: nreichma@du.edu)

2. Judicial reform and Alternative Dispute Resolution in Context

(Carroll Seron, Baruch College, City University of New York; e-mail: carroll.seron@baruch.cuny.edu)

3. Constitutional Ethnography

(Kim Scheppele, University of Pennsylvania;
e-mail: kimlane@oyez.law.upenn.edu)

4. Labor Rights

(Ruth Buchanan, University of British Columbia,
buchanan@law.ubc.ca
David Trubek, University of Wisconsin,
trubek@mac.wisc.edu)

5. Citizenship and Immigration

(Susan Cutin, Los Angeles State University,
scoutin2@calstatela.edu)

6. Crime, Policing, and Social Capital

(Robert Sampson, University of Chicago,
rjsam@spc.uchicago.edu)

7. Comparative Consumer Bankruptcy and Debt Adjustment

(Bill Whitford, University of Wisconsin,
whitford@mac.wisc.edu)

8. Cause Lawyering

(Austin Sarat, Amherst College,
adsarat@amherst.edu
Stuart Scheingold, University of Washington,
e-mail: stugold@u.washington.edu)

9. Counter-hegemonic Globalization

(Boaventura de Sousa Santos, University of Coimbra, bsantos@gemini.ci.uc.pt
Cesar Rodriguez, New York University,
cr357@is9.nyu.edu)

10. Legal Culture of Mediterranean Europe and Latin America

(Lawrence Friedman, Stanford University,
lfr@leland.stanford.edu
Rogelio Perez Perdomo, Central University of Venezuela, e-mail: rperez@newton.iesa.edu.ve)

11. Public Opinion and the Legal and Judicial System

(José Juan Toharia, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, jj.toharia@uam.es)

12. Integrating Gender into Legal Education: Transforming Women's Legal Status in Latin America

(Ann Shalleck and Tammy Horn, American University, e-mail: shalleck@wcl.american.edu)

More CNRs are being planned, e.g. one on "Governance of Cities" (Karstedt@aol.com).

While CNRs include scholars from all parts of the world, participation of some scholars from Central/Eastern Europe and Latin America were assisted by a two-year grant to the Association from the National Science Foundation and support from the American Bar Foundation. Funds from the NSF grant will again be used to support the travel of a limited number of scholars from those geographical regions to Budapest. Additional efforts at fund-raising to expand the travel support available are ongoing.

FLORISA VERUCCI (+ APRIL 2000)

The RCSL is mourning the death of another one of its members. Florisa, a lawyer and women's rights activist in Brazil, has also been very active in the WG on Gender Equality. Her latest book publication came out in November 1999 (*Da mulher em mutacao*). A great number of her earlier publications (some in Portuguese, some in English) can be found in the IISL library/Centre of Documentation. She has been a leading figure in feminist politics in Brazil. She acted as a counsellor for the Ministry of Justice and was the only female member on the important Committee of experts on constitutional law during the period of transition from military regime to democratic rule and civil government in the early 1980ies.

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE BODY POLITICS

With the above topic, the Australian and New Zealand Law & Society Conference 2000 will take place from 6 to 8 December in Brisbane.

Papers are invited which address the conference theme or one of the sub-themes of:

- Law, order and punishment
- The politicization of human rights
- Law schools, legal education and socio-legal studies
- The role of theory
- Globalization and law
- Technologies of the body
- The impact of economic rationalism
- Revisions of the social settlement

Paper proposals should be accompanied by an abstract of approx. 100 words, and should be received by **18 August 2000**.

Address to: Law & Society Conference, Socio-Legal Research Centre, Faculty of Law, Griffith University, Nathan, Qld, 4111, Australia. Enquiries phone: + 61 7 3875 3747 Fax: +61 7 3875 5169.

Email: M.Hassall@mailbox.gu.edu.au or Rosemary.Hunter@mailbox.gu.edu.au_or see the conference website at www.gu.edu.au/school/law/slrc/slrc.html.

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND FAMILY LAW

There are many new journals trying to catch our attention. But there also older ones that could need wider circulation. A case in point is *The Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. We have been asked to give our readers some basic information supplied by the publishers. We are glad to do so, since it happens to be an interdisciplinary journal of the socio-legal kind.

Editors: Christina M. Lyon, University of Liverpool, UK ; Adrian James, University of Bradford, UK

Publication Details: Volume 22, 2000, 4 issues per year, ISSN 0964-9069

Recent editorials have addressed problems relating to: children, civil liberties, ethnic minorities, families, housing, education, including special needs, immigration, physical and mental health, residential homes, social security, welfare rights and social work. The journal has a sectional format with long and short analytical articles on law and practice in many fields. There are also a number of sections dealing with different aspects of the interface between law and practice. Features include: Articles, Cases, European Section, Ombudsman's Section and Book Reviews. More information is available at the Taylor & Francis website at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>, including subscription information, instructions for authors and sign-up details for SARA, a free online contents alerting service. Sample copies are available from the publisher:

Routledge, Taylor and Francis Ltd, Rankine Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 8PR, UK

Tel:+44 (0) 1256 813002; Fax:+44 (0) 1256 330245; E-mail:journals.orders@tandf.co.uk

RCSL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Johannes Feest, President

David Nelken, Vice President (Elected member)

Anne Boigeol, Vice President (EM)

David Trubek, Executive Member (EM)

Masayuki Murayama, Executive Member (EM)

Hector Fix-Fierro, Secretary (EM)

OTHER RCSL BOARD MEMBERS

Antonio Azuela de la Cueva (WG chair)

Benoit Bastard (WG)

Sandra Burman (EM)

Maria Angelica Cuellar (WG)

Adam Czarnota (WG)

Vincenzo Ferrari (Past President)

Jan Glastra van Loon (PP)

Jacek Kurczewski (EM)

Mavis Maclean (PP)

Vittorio Olgiati (WG)

Stephan Parmentier (WG)

Rogelio Perez Perdomo (PP)

Paola Ronfani (EM)

Joanna Shapland (EM)

Francis Snyder (WG)

Fanny Tabak (WG)

Francis van Loon (EM)

Jean van Houtte (PP)