

# RCSL NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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### In this issue...

Much of this issue is devoted to the presentation of the Adam Podgórecki Prize, which aims to draw attention to outstanding accomplishments in socio-legal research. The recipient of the prize, which was awarded for the first time this year, was Erhard Blankenburg, whose outstanding lifetime achievements is well known to all those who are familiar with sociology of law.

The generous donation made by Professor Maria Łoś has guaranteed continuity in awarding this prize for many years to come. There are two items regarding the Podgórecki Prize in this issue. The first item is by Vincenzo Ferrari, who chaired the 2005 Committee for Podgórecki Prize and the second is by Alex Ziegert, who is chairing the 2006 Committee. Vincenzo briefly presents Erhard Blankenburg's work and Alex defines the aims and terms of the prize and invites nominations for the 2006 award.

Moving on to a different matter, a committee was set up at the RCSL Annual Meeting in Paris to prepare for the election of the new board members and the new president whose mandates will start immediately after our next annual meeting, which will take place in Durban as part of the ISA's World Congress next year. We hope that the ballot papers will be sent out to our members in January 2006 and all of our members participate in electing the new board members and the new president.

This brings me to the ISA World Congress. Those who have browsed through the ISA's home page (<http://www.ucm.es/>) have noticed that a great deal of effort and organisation has been put into preparing this meeting. The Congress in Durban will in many ways be an historic meeting of world sociologists in the Continent of Africa and the RCSL is honoured to be part of this event. The RCSL has prepared a preliminary

programme and a list of sessions, which are published in this issue. Those interested in participating in the Congress should send an abstract to one of the session coordinators as soon as possible.

I would also like to remind our members that they may apply for travelling grant in order to participate in the Congress. However, priority will be given to applicants from C and B countries and to those who are members of both RCSL and ISA. Information on Financial Support is available at:

<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/support.htm>.

Finally, we have included an item from Oñati Institute (IISL), which in many ways supports and provides a base for the Research Committee. Oñati invites applications both for the next year's Workshops, which are subsidised by the Institute, and also for the 2007/2008 Master's Programme. Those of you who are involved in teaching law or sociology students might help to spread the news regarding the Master's Programme among your students. Different grants are available to students attending the Oñati Master's, which has now also gained the recognition of the Basque Country. Oñati Institute, for example, awards one full scholarship each year to a student from a C country to attend the Master's Programme. This scholarship is funded by the Institute, the Basque Government and the RCSL. In fact RCSL's entire income from the fees that our members pay is devoted to supporting this scholarship each year. Information on the grants and other awards are available on Oñati Institute's website (<http://www.iisj.es/>).

The next issue of the newsletter will carry debates on socio-legal issues, a short piece on the development of sociology of law by John Griffiths and book notes.

*Reza Banakar*  
RCSL Secretary

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## The Annual Meeting in Paris

The annual meeting of the Research Committee was held in Paris, July 11 to July 13, 2005. It was one of the largest meetings ever, and a very successful one in every way. A lot of the credit must go to Anne Boigeol for the wonderful local arrangements. Many other faculty and students also worked hard to make it a success, and to see to it that everything ran smoothly (this is not always the case). To be perfectly honest, some of the credit must also go to the city of Paris itself which was its usual brilliant and fascinating self.

A side-effect, and a good one, was the chance to meet with French colleagues, and to attract more French socio-legal scholars; and this too was successful. The program was rich and varied. There were many excellent panels. I want to mention one in particular-- the opening plenary, which dealt with the French issue of head-scarfs in the school, an issue which has sparked a vigorous discussion in France. It would be hard to think of a clearer example of the impact of globalization on the socio-legal world. This is, to be sure, in some ways a parochial French issue-- in many countries, the right of a student to wear a head-scarf would not be questioned-- and thus involves the specifics of French legal and social culture. But the issue has far broader implications. In these restless days, immigration is changing the face of country after country; and questions about pluralism, about the multiplicity of religions and cultures, have risen to the top of the agenda in country after country. Our organization, which is by nature international and multi-cultural, has a solemn duty to explore such global issues of law and society; and I think we made some progress in this meeting in the shadow of the Pantheon of Paris.

Lawrence M. Friedman  
President, RCSL

## Recent Donations to the RCSL

*Donations were made to the Adam Podgorecki Prize by:* Reza Banakar, Sandra Burman, Vincenzo Ferrari, Lawrence Friedman, Jacek Kurczewski, Maria Łoś, Alex Ziegert.

*General Donations to the RCSL were made by:* David and Louise Trubek, Malcolm Feeley, Kai D. Bussman, Philip Lewis.

*Donation were made to Treves Grant by:* Erhard Blankenberg, Kai D. Bussman, Don Fleming, Judith Fudge, Volkmar Gessner, Richard Mohr, Harm Schepel, Ion Vladut.

## The 2005 Podgórecki Prize

Adam Podgórecki, who passed away in 1998, together with William Evan, founded the Research Committee on Sociology of Law within the International Sociological Association (ISA). He was a member of that team which took this decision in Washington, D.C., in 1962, and which also included scholars such as Jean Carbonnier, Jan Glastra van Loon, Vilhelm Aubert and Renato Treves, amongst other prominent scholars. Adam occupied the centre stage and was almost symbolic for the development of sociology of law, not only in Poland, where he lived until 1976, before moving to Canada, but also internationally. His works are indeed among the milestones of the renaissance of sociology of law after Second World War, especially in that they ingeniously combined theory and empirical research and while trying to develop an empirically based socio-legal theory.

On initiative of Adam's wife, our colleague Maria Łoś, the Research Committee on Sociology of Law decided to establish a permanent prize to commemorate and honour his contribution to sociology of law. The terms of the prize are described by Alex Ziegert in the item below.

To award the first Prize, an *ad hoc* committee set up by the President of the RCSL, that was chaired by me and included Jean Van Houtte and Anne Boigeol, and Maria Łoś. There were a number of potential candidates who clearly deserved this honour, but after much deliberation and careful consideration of various candidates, the committee decided that this year's prize should be awarded to Erhard Blankenburg. Erhard has indeed offered a fundamental contribution to sociology of law throughout his life-long research and teaching. If we look at current bibliographies, it appears that his name is among those most frequently mentioned. Erhard is among those scholars who have never forgotten that in the social sciences, and in sociology of law especially, there is no theory without observation, in the same way that there is no observation without a theory. He has done extensive research both in Germany and in the Netherlands and has always integrated his findings into a theoretical view, with no ambition to build up an overall theory claiming to universal and indisputable validity. He has instead succeeded in constructing a solid middle range theory which is what sociology of law needs for its future development. His *Mobilisierung des Recht* a case in point.

For these reasons, on behalf of the *ad hoc* committee, we are honoured to award Erhard Blankenburg to the first Adam Podgórecki Prize.

Vincenzo Ferrari  
Chair of the Podgórecki Prize Committee 2005

## The Podgórecki Prize 2006

The late Professor *Adam Podgórecki* was a founding member of the Research Committee of Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). He worked tirelessly and fearlessly for the independent status of socio-legal research against the pull of the large disciplines of sociology on the one side and law on the other. He became one of the great leaders in the field with a large number of innovative contributions to socio-legal research, delivered with his inimitable personal style, which was direct, engaging and uncompromising and is fondly remembered by his many admiring colleagues in Warsaw, Oxford and Ottawa and all over the world. In honour and memory of the lifetime achievements of Adam Podgórecki and his inaugurate place in the history of RCSL, the Board of RCSL established the Annual RCSL *Adam Podgórecki Prize* at its meeting in 2004. The Prize is awarded for outstanding achievements in socio-legal research, either in the form of distinguished and outstanding lifetime achievements in one year or in the form of outstanding scholarship of a socio-legal researcher at an earlier stage of his or her career, in the next year of the award. Gifts from donors have made it possible to endow the prize.

The Board of the Research Committee, in its Paris meeting, decided to follow these terms and award the *2006 Adam Podgórecki Prize* to an emerging outstanding socio-legal scholar. For this purpose, it set up a Prize Committee, chaired by me and left the membership of the Committee and selection procedures to my discretion.

I would like to take this opportunity of the publication of the RCSL Newsletter to provide the members of the Research Committee and the wider community of sociology of law scholars and researchers with an as early as possible information, that is before the Committee is fully constituted and selection procedures are finally settled on. I hope that this can give everybody in the Research Committee and the wider community of researchers good time to think and communicate about possible nominations for the Prize. However, this early information should also invite members to respond with suggestions and directions to the Committee where to look for the 2006 Adam Podgórecki Prize winner.

After consultation with the President, the Secretary and other members of the Research Committee, the following points can be provided for further clarification on awarding the *2006 Adam Podgórecki Prize*:

1. "Emerging outstanding socio-legal scholar" is deemed to mean a researcher who has published one or more significant works within no later than 10 years of his or her doctorate.

2. All nominations are welcome - there is no bar on self-nominations.
3. The publication or publications or the research can be in any national language, in line with the status of the Research Committee as an international network; however, for work in languages other than major languages represented in the on the Prize Committee, the nominator should give some indications of the values of the work, and, ideally, provide selected translations. To consider work in less well-known languages, the Prize Committee may co-opt further members and consult with other members of the Research Committee.
4. The *Adam Podgórecki Prize* has two clear and different objectives. One objective is to honour outstanding, and in this sense, exemplary colleagues who during their careers have produced consistently inspiring and guiding work. The other objective is to honour, and in this sense it encourages, colleagues who have yet to leave their mark on the international level of knowledge production in socio-legal research. It seems appropriate then to reflect this distinction in the two different forms for the award. The Prize for lifetime achievements would be awarded as an honorary prize, symbolised by a commemorative plaque, while the Prize for emerging outstanding scholarship would be a money prize amounting to the bi-annually accrued amounts set aside yearly in the budget of RCSL for the *Adam Podgórecki Prize*. The Prize Committee will endeavour to include these principles in the terms of the Prize and submit the reviewed terms to the Board of the Research Committee at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

*Alex Ziegert,  
Chair of the Podgórecki Prize Committee 2006*

### Call for nominations for the RCSL Adam Podgórecki Prize 2006

The *RCSL Adam Podgórecki Prize 2006* is awarded for outstanding scholarship of a socio-legal researcher at an earlier stage of his or her career (see note on [The RCSL Adam Podgórecki Prize](#) above).

I call on all members of the Research Committee and socio-legal researchers in the wider community to nominate emerging outstanding socio-legal scholars or, as the case may be themselves, to the Prize Committee.

Please send all nominations or suggestions to the Chair of the Prize Committee ([alexz@law.usyd.edu.au](mailto:alexz@law.usyd.edu.au)) or the Secretary of RCSL ([R.Banakar@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:R.Banakar@westminster.ac.uk)).

*Alex Ziegert  
Sydney*

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## XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology

Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July 2006  
**The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World**

### Call for Papers

RCSL invites Paper proposals either on themes listed below or on other socio-legal topics. Potential paper givers should submit their paper proposals (an abstract of no more than 300 words) directly to session coordinators before December 15, 2005. Proposals which fall outside the themes mentioned above should be sent directly to the programme coordinators. More information on sessions, registration, accommodation etc. is available at:

[http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/rc/rc12\\_durban.htm](http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/rc/rc12_durban.htm)

#### Session 1

##### Family law

Coordinator: Mavis Maclean, University of Oxford, UK, [mavis.maclean@socres.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mavis.maclean@socres.ox.ac.uk)

#### Session 2

##### Legal professions (WG)

Chair: Benoit Bastard, Centre de sociologie des organisations, France, [bastard@mipplus.org](mailto:bastard@mipplus.org)

#### Session 3

##### Legal cultures (WG)

Coordinator: Marina Kurkchian, University of Oxford, UK  
[marina.kurkchian@socio-legal-studies.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:marina.kurkchian@socio-legal-studies.oxford.ac.uk)

#### Session 4

##### Law and politics (WG)

Coordinator: Maria Angélica Cuellar, UNAM FCPyS, Mexico, [cuellarv@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:cuellarv@servidor.unam.mx)

#### Session 5

##### Legal education

Coordinator: Carlos Alberto Lista, Argentina, [clista@ciudad.com.ar](mailto:clista@ciudad.com.ar)

#### Session 6

##### New forms of regulation

Coordinator: Max Travers, University of Tasmania, Australia, [Max.Travers@utas.edu.au](mailto:Max.Travers@utas.edu.au)

#### Session 7

##### Theory and methods in socio-legal research (WG)

Coordinator Reza Banakar, University of Westminster, UK, [r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk)

#### Session 8

##### Human rights in transition (WG)

Coordinator: Vincenzo Ferrari, University of Milano, Italy, [vincenzo.ferrari@unimi.it](mailto:vincenzo.ferrari@unimi.it)

#### Session 9

##### Social and legal systems (WG)

Coordinator Vittorio Olgiati, University of Urbino, Italy, [olgiati@soc.uniurb.it](mailto:olgiati@soc.uniurb.it)

#### Session 11

##### Women/gender in the legal profession

Coordinator: Ulrike Schultz, Fern University, Germany  
[Ulrike.Schultz@fernuni-hagen.de](mailto:Ulrike.Schultz@fernuni-hagen.de)

#### Session 12

##### Business meeting

#### Session 13

##### Law and language

Joint session with RC25 Sociolinguistics

Coordinator: Max Travers, University of Tasmania, Australia

[Max.Travers@utas.edu.au](mailto:Max.Travers@utas.edu.au)

The above list of sessions is tentative. The final programme will be posted on our website in February 2006.

#### Programme Co-ordinators

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## IISL Master's Degree in the Sociology of Law

The IISL offers a Master's degree in the Sociology of Law. Degree requirements include the successful completion of courses and the acceptance of a dissertation (*tesina*). The programme provides a broad knowledge of theoretical and empirical sociology of law. It includes intensive seminars taught by an international teaching staff, and production of an individual research project under the tutorship of a senior specialist in sociolegal studies, concluded by the writing of the final dissertation (*tesina*).

The seminars prepare students for independent scientific work and enlarge their capacity for practical problem solving. The programme aims to increase the knowledge and sociological understanding of different legal systems and their cultural contexts.

The seminars of the Master's Programme are taught in English. However, with the permission of the relevant professor, or the Scientific Director, students may produce written course work and/or the *tesina* in another language.

For further information:

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Email: [susana@iisj.es](mailto:susana@iisj.es)

### RCSL Executive Board

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Chair: Edesio Fernandes, UK

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Chair: Vitorio Olgiati, Urbino University, Italy

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Chair: Francis Snyder, Université d'Aix-Marseille III, Aix-en-Provence, France

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