

RCSL NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

<http://rcsl.iscte.pt/>

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Letter from the President

The Berlin joint meeting of LSA and RCSL, with the co-sponsorship of 4 other socio-legal associations was a major event: nearly 2,500 participants for a socio-legal meeting! It was a very international meeting, with 72 countries represented and the success of the event is in a large part due to the excellent work and cooperation of 3 entities: the Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, and the executive office of Law and Society Association.

The choice of venue, Berlin, was perhaps a contentious one. Many participants were sensitive to the highly symbolic dimension of the city. From a socio-legal point of view, the fall of the wall changed the face of Europe and of the world, raising a lot of legal and socio-legal issues.

The participation of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law was honourable. Seven Working groups of the Research Committee organized 25 sessions. The usual ceremony of the Podgórecki prize was integrated in the general award ceremony, and in addition we had the pleasure to honour 2 eminent scholars: Richard Abel and Vincenzo Ferrari. (See infra)

The Research Committee had its Business and Board Meetings. The RCSL appears to be a lively organization: two new WG have been proposed and approved (see infra) and the project for an on-line journal (with the Oñati institute) is going ahead.

For the future, the RCSL has to affirm its specificity: sociology of law and, at the same time, to participate fully in the wider milieu of law and society, notably in supporting the Oñati project of consortium of socio-legal associations.

Next year there will be two major events in the field of sociology of law: the annual meeting of the Research Committee, in Milano and Como, and the Barcelona Forum of Sociology, organized by the International Sociological Association for its mid-term meeting, (see infra). We hope that many of you will attend one or both meetings.

It is important to encourage young scholars to attend RCSL meetings and activities. So we would like to

continue with the policy of giving grants to PhD students coming from C countries (4 grants were awarded for the Berlin meeting). This policy requires money. Donations from the members are always welcome! Similarly, suggestions of how to make the RCSL more attractive would be welcome too!

Anne Boigeol
RCSL President

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BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING

Dear friends,

The RCSL Board is delighted to announce that **two new Working Groups** were established during the Berlin annual meeting: the **WG on Law and Migration**, chaired by **Devanayaka Sundaram**, and the **WG on Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution**, chaired by **Masayuki Murayama**. The minutes of the RCSL Board and Business meeting which took place

during the Berlin meeting last July, including the annual report on RCSL finances, are posted at: http://rcsl.iscte.pt/rcsl_board_070727.pdf.

Luigi Cominelli
RCSL Secretary

LAW AND JUSTICE IN THE RISK SOCIETY THE 2008 RCSL MEETING: MILAN-COMO, JULY 9-12

The 2008 annual meeting of the RCSL will be devoted to "Law and Justice in a Risk Society" and held from Wednesday 9 July afternoon, to Saturday 12 July 2008, on the invitation of the *Associazione di Studi su Diritto e Società*, the *Sezione di Sociologia del diritto dell'Associazione Italiana di Sociologia*, the *University of Milano*, the *University of Milano-Bicocca*, the *University of Insubria-Como* and the *Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale (CNPDS)*.

Besides the panels organized by the **RCSL Working Groups**, the following **Workshops**, specifically connected with the topic of the conference, will take place: *Ecology; Commons; European Integration; Market Economies, Enterprises and Work; Health and Assistance; Identities and Religion; Media and the Internet; Legal Systems and their Risks; War and Terrorism; Security and Social Control; Law and Family; Law and Biomedical Technologies; Law and Anthropology*.

Individual contributions on socio-legal topics will also be welcomed and discussed in *ad hoc* sessions of "**Research in Progress**".

The languages of the meeting will be **English, French** and **Spanish**. Registration fees will include a social dinner, conference meals and coffee-breaks and will be as follows: 100 Euro - Students and 'C country' participants; 170 Euro - RCSL Members; 200 Euro: non-members.

Paper abstracts and full panels proposals must be submitted by February 15, 2008, using the forms which can be downloaded at this page:

<http://users.unimi.it/RCSL2008/>.

Information on registration details, including the participation form and all other relevant data (hotel and other facilities) will follow and will be published on the meeting website.

CALL FOR PAPERS - FIRST ISA WORLD FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY (BARCELONA, SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2008)

The RCSL will participate with its delegates at the ISA First World Forum of Sociology, to be held in Barcelona from 5th to 8th September 2008.

The Forum echoes some necessities and opportunities strongly felt in the ISA in the last years to promote intra-, inter- and trans- disciplinary communication and dialogue among RCs and their members. Accordingly, the Forum is not only

conceived as a sort of Interim Meeting, vis-à-vis ordinary ISA World Congress, but re-defines the traditional format of ISA meetings. It will combine parallel programs of RCs (streams of common sessions) and a general program consisting of papers given by RC representatives (plenary sessions). The general theme of the Forum is "Sociological Research and Public Debate". As regards RCs programs, RCs were requested to sort out a main theme whose topic could fit precisely into the Forum general theme, that is, (1) deal with a relevant issue in public debate, to which (2) the concerned RC disciplinary speciality contributed in some ways.

Given the above, the RCSL Board appointed Vittorio Olgiati as *ad hoc* Scientific Coordinator, and approved, after a large and interesting discussion, his proposal to choose "**RE-THINKING LEGAL JUSTICE**" as RCSL main theme.

The call for papers is posted on the RCSL website. Individual Papers, WG Sessions and Joint RC's Sessions proposals concerned with the theme should be sent to Vittorio Olgiati - olgiati@soc.uniurb.it - who will act as RCSL coordinator. The final dead-line for submission is December 15th, 2007.

The 31st of January 2008 is the dead-line to send the final program of the RCSL to ISA secretariat. It is also the deadline for travel grant application to ISA (to be sent directly by the applicants : isa@isa-sociology.org)
The dead-line for registration is the 1st of June 2008.

RCSL-ISA PODGÓRECKI PRIZE

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Law (RCSL) established the Podgórecki Prize in 2005, to honour the memory and lifetime achievement of the late Adam Podgórecki, who was a founding member of the RCSL and the International Sociological Association (ISA) and a leading figure for many years in the international law and society community. Podgórecki 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. His inimitable personal style was direct, engaging and uncompromising and he is fondly remembered by his many admiring colleagues in Warsaw, Oxford and Ottawa and all over the world. The Prize is awarded yearly by a committee chosen by the President of the RCSL. Every other year, the prize is given to a distinguished scholar, in recognition of his or her contributions to the field. In the alternate years, the prize is given to a younger scholar, to reward promising work in the sociology of law and allied disciplines.

The Podgórecki Prize rules can be downloaded at: http://rcsl.iscte.pt/rcsl_apodgpr.htm.

THE PODGÓRECKI 2007 RECIPIENTS:

Vincenzo Ferrari



In the European, and indeed, the international world of law and society studies, perhaps no individual has been as important a force as Prof. Vincenzo Ferrari, holder of the chair of Sociology of Law at the University of Milan. He has written extensively on the subject, in clear, insightful, and learned texts and studies. He has trained and

inspired the next generation of scholars in the field in Italy. Prof. Ferrari has been a member of the Board, and President, of the Research Committee; has been active in the International Sociological Association, and in the Oñati Institute for the Sociology of Law. His work on the functions of law has been translated into several languages. A man of many languages, many ideas, and many friends, his career is a model of integrity, scholarship, and dedication. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that we have named Vincenzo Ferrari as co-winner of the Podgórecki prize for 2007.

Richard Abel



Richard Abel is the Connell Professor of Law, at the University of California (Los Angeles). He has had a long and distinguished career as a law and society scholar. He is probably best known for his rich contributions to the sociology of the legal profession in the United States and Great Britain; he is also the co-editor, with

Philip Lewis, of *Lawyers in Society*, a path-breaking collection of studies of legal professions around the world, in three volumes. He has also written about law in Africa, in particular South Africa. He is the author or editor of almost two dozen books. He has been an extremely active and productive member of the international law and society community. He has also always been a clear, steady, and consistent voice in pursuit of justice and the rights of the common woman and man. For these and many other reasons, the Research Committee is pleased to recognize him as one of the winners of this year's Podgórecki prize.

PODGÓRECKI PRIZE 2008 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 2008, the Prize will be awarded for an outstanding published study by an emerging socio-legal scholar. The study may be in the form of a book, an article or a

series of article. **Nominations of emerging socio-legal scholars are invited for the 2008 Podgórecki Prize.** Candidates are eligible if they have published one or more significant works within 10 years of their doctorate. Nominations require support from at least two members of the RC SL. Publications can be in any language. For works in languages other than those known by the prize committee, the nominators should ideally provide selected translations. To consider works in less well-known languages, the Prize committee can co-opt further members and consult other members of the RC SL.

Nominations must include

- the candidate's CV
- a short statement from the nominators of the value of the candidate's work
- copies of relevant publications

The members of the 2008 Podgórecki Prize Committee are: Rosemary Hunter (chair), Pierre Guibentif and Teresa Picontó-Novales. Nominations should be sent to Rosemary Hunter (R.C.Hunter@kent.ac.uk), or to the Secretary of the RC SL (luigi.cominelli@unimi.it), and should be received by **30 March 2008**.

A TALE OF FOUR STUDENTS

Last July the RC SL sponsored the trip to the Berlin RC SL-LSA meeting for 4 graduate students. These are their stories:

David Restrepo Amariles (Colombia)

Human Rights in a Sociological Perspective: The Case of the Displaced Population in Colombia



My participation in the Berlin Conference "Law and Society in the 21st century" was a meaningful experience that has encouraged me to continue my academic career. Thanks to the support received from the Research Committee for the Sociology of Law I had the opportunity to assist in an important

number of sessions that broadened my perspectives of the socio-legal field and provided me with a "Research Agenda" for the forthcoming years. The conference was also an appropriate opportunity to present the Master's thesis I was writing at that moment for the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law.

The feedback provided by the pertinent interventions of the participants contributed enormously to the improvement of the final version. The conference was undoubtedly a proper space to put in common thoughts and ideas with both notable professors and new generations of socio-legal scholars participating in the Graduate Students activities.

The quality of the participants, panels and activities as well as the friendly atmosphere during the 4 days of conference have convinced me to keep participating in the coming meetings. I appreciate the time and effort contributed by the organizers in setting up this magnificent event for the diffusion of the socio-legal work and the interactions of the researchers.

Devyani Prabhat (India)

An Empirical Study of Max Weber on Legitimacy and Resistance: Opposition to the USA PATRIOT ACT in the United States

I am a PhD candidate from India at New York University (Sociology department). I am also a lawyer who practised in New Delhi, India, and then in New York City after enrolling in the New York Bar. I practised primarily in public interest litigations and criminal defence of indigent persons. I would like to thank the Research Committee in Sociology of Law for sponsoring my participation in the Berlin conference of the Law and Society Association this year.

At the conference, I presented a paper in a panel on Weber and Legitimacy. I participated in the Graduate Student Activities discussions and workshop. The conference was an excellent opportunity for me to meet scholars working on my areas of interest (political sociology and sociological theory especially in the context of law, the state and political violence). At present, I am contributing to a special issue on Weber and Legitimacy in collaboration with the other panelists. The presentations and discussions at the conference reveal so many different ways of doing research and thinking about socio-legal issues. It helps one think beyond the disciplinary trainings that are country specific (e.g. an American way of research versus a continental approach).

Socially the receptions at the conference were an excellent way to meet and know interesting people. I enjoyed learning about the history of Berlin which brings alive the landmark events of the 20th century—the world wars, the stories of the cold war, and finally the end of the cold war. Berliners are friendly and hospitable. Everywhere I went I received plenty of smiles and help with buying tickets and getting directions. Apart from the invigorating conversations at the conference site, I will cherish memories of the great Berlin museums and delicacies of the city's cuisine.

Meergul Bobukeeva (Kyrgyzstan)

Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Thin Peace is Better than a Good Quarrel



This summer I participated in the International Conference "Law and Society in the century: Transformations, Resistances, Future" in Berlin, which was organized by the Law and Society Association and the Research Committee on

Sociology of Law (RCSL). The chance to participate in such an event was provided to me by the above mentioned institutions whose assistance I really appreciate.

I am glad that young researchers from the former Soviet Union countries, including Kyrgyzstan, have an opportunity to listen to the scientists well-known all over the world and carry on a dialogue with them. Such meetings not only provide information and materials. But also give an opportunity for future cooperation of the participants of the conference in different spheres of law, sociology, etc.

It was nice that the subject of my paper was interesting for the participants of the conference, and that it provoked a response. To my mind non-governmental dispute regulations, such as arbitration, are of current importance and in future they will be the main tool of dispute resolution. In this connection I would like to study and make a contribution in the development of these institutions in order that the research assists the correct understanding of a role for alternative methods of dispute resolution in modern law and public relations and their successful application.

In Berlin I was given a unique opportunity to cover the experience of Kyrgyzstan in a sphere of development of alternative methods of dispute regulation and learn the development of such methods in other countries and I used that opportunity.

Arnim Agrawal (India)

Emerging Demographic Dynamics, Globalization, and Migration: The Socio-Legal Aspects of Human Rights



The International Conference organized by the LSA and the RCSL at Humboldt University, Berlin, was my first exposure to an international conference of this magnitude where more than 2,000 delegates had gathered. The participants in this conference included distinguished legal luminaries and eminent scholars of sociology of law and related

fields. I had the opportunity to make presentation of my paper co-authored jointly with my friend which was also the first paper of that session. The theme of our Working Group was 'Law and International Migration'. Here, I also had the opportunity of witnessing other presentations. These presentations helped me to undertake self assessment of my paper and try to understand the strengths and weaknesses of my presentation. The presentations were followed by an intellectually stimulating question-answer session. Our presentation drew many questions from some very noted scholars from international galaxy of scholars present in the hall. I mustered courage to respond to various questions put up to us. Some of the questions drew counter questions too. The eminent and stalwart senior scholars appreciated and encouraged my responses to the questions posed after the paper

presentation. It was a very confidence boosting and enlightening experience for me. I also had the golden opportunity to attend some other sessions and listen to some very illuminating research papers. The question-answer sessions gave me a fair idea of how to address and participate actively in an academic debate in such an intellectual forum.

I made many friends and also was able to acquaint myself with some very well known names in various fields of academia. This experience helped me academically as well as intellectually. I am indeed grateful to RCSL for providing a generous grant towards my travel expenses. I must say but for this grant I would not have been able to make use of this opportunity. To conclude in a nutshell, presenting a research paper at this conference was a lifetime experience which was akin to a dream come true for me. I keenly look forward to participating in more of such well-organized conferences. Hats off to the LSA and the RCSL for the impeccable management and organization of the conference. I would like to thank both for giving me an opportunity to be a part of this amazing initiative of theirs.

THE RCSL TRAVEL GRANTS 2008

The Research Committee on Sociology of Law will offer a travel subsidy to 2 graduate students from C countries who submit their proposals for the RCSL Milan-Como meeting (see above) and to 1 graduate student from C countries who will submit a paper proposals for the ISA Barcelona meeting (see).

Applications must consist of a curriculum vitae and a one-page statement illustrating current research interests, to be sent by March 15, 2008, to Luigi Cominelli (luigi.cominelli@unimi.it).

The list of C Countries is available at:

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/table_c.htm

THE OÑATI INITIATIVE FOR A WORLD CONSORTIUM OF ASSOCIATIONS

The Oñati Institute took the initiative to propose the creation of a World Consortium of Associations dealing with the Law and Society and the Law and Humanities fields (see the last issue of the RCSL Newsletter: summer 2007).

During a preliminary meeting in Oñati, a Co-ordinating Committee was set up. Three successive steps were agreed on for the consortium:

- Step One: creation of a directory of the existing associations in law and social sciences.
- Step Two: creation of a platform for the exchange of information between the associations.
- Step Three: exploration of future forms of cooperation between the associations.
- Step Four: exploration of the possibility to create a joint body for the organization of a World Conference.

In order to discuss this project with a wide panel of associations, the Coordinating committee decided to hold a meeting in Berlin, last July.

Joxerramon Bengotxea presented the project and chaired the discussion: many ideas, suggestions and worries were voiced at this meeting.

A "general agreement was achieved on the desirability of Step One and Two, which the Oñati Institute can already undertake with the collaboration of all associations present and those interested.

Step One will require cooperation from the members and from all individual scholars for the purpose of which the Oñati Institute would continue with its survey

Step Two will involve a platform for the member Associations of the Oñati Consortium to exchange information. The Oñati Institute will contact these associations in order to enquire what their needs are regarding networking and information."

Further steps will depend on the will of the members. The Oñati Institute was given mandate to appoint a Steering Committee, which will make a report on the mission of the Consortium, its structure and its finances.

Carlos Lista, the new scientific Director of the Oñati Institute, and Susanne Karsted were proposed as chairs of the Steering committee. Future meeting will take place in Montreal in May 2008 and in Milan in July 2008.

OÑATI IISL: GOOD-BYE JOXERRAMON, WELCOME CARLOS

Joxerramon Bengotxea has ended his term as scientific director of the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law.

Each scientific director has brought something specific to the Institute. Joxerramon brought his knowledge and understanding of the Basque society and his awareness that Oñati could play a significant role within the international milieu of socio-legal research. Thank you Joxerramon, and, as you are not very far, we hope you will long be a "fellow traveller" of the Institute.

Since September 2007, the new Scientific Director is Carlos Lista. He is both a sociologist and a lawyer. He is a professor at the National University of Cordoba (Argentina) where he teaches sociology of law and sociological theory. He knows the Institute quite well, having taught on the masters programme and participated in several events: congress, workshops... His presence will reinforce the links of the Institute with Latin America which, as we have seen in Berlin, appears to be a continent where a lot of socio-legal work is undertaken. Welcome Carlos!

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE OÑATI INSTITUTE (THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW)

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati, Basque Country, Spain (www.iisj.es) invites applications for the position of Academic Director between September 2009 and July 2011.

The Oñati Institute has a rotating directorship. Once every two years a new Scientific Director is appointed with a view to maintaining and enhancing the Institute's unique multicultural atmosphere. The Oñati Institute is renowned for its global profile, and the RCSL adopts this recognition of the diversity of legal cultures as a guideline in search of candidates for the next directorship, the term of which will begin on 1 September 2009.

Knowledge of English is necessary and a fair competence in one of the other Institute's languages (in particular Spanish or French) or any other international language is desirable. Some familiarity with the Oñati Institute and its activities is also advisable. The job carries a Spanish visiting professor's salary (plus fringe benefits like travel allowances and free accommodation).

Socio-legal scholars interested in this challenging task are invited to submit formal applications or letters of intent and CVs to the RCSL President (Anne Boigeol: boigeol@ihtp.cnrs.fr). The RCSL Board will select and propose one or more of the candidates to the Oñati Institute Board, which will confirm the appointment of the next Director in September 2008. Informal inquiries may be made to Professor Carlos Lista (email: clista@iisj.es).

PRESENTING THE RCSL WG ON "LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE"

This Group is one of the newer Working Groups, founded in 2006 and as such does not have the long history of some of the other groups the RCSL has supported. Nevertheless the group has begun to make some important progress and has built upon the developments that have occurred in law and popular culture over recent years. The formation of the WG allowed a consolidation of these developments - a series of streams at Socio Legal Studies Association Annual conferences, some of which were published in the Routledge Monograph 'Readings in Law and Popular Culture', the creation of the research network 'image et justice' and the Entertainment and Sports Law Journal (ESLJ) amongst others.

Berlin 2007 was the first time that RCSL WG in Law and Popular Culture (WGL&PC) sponsored sessions were held. Three successful sessions took place, entitled as follows:

- 1) 'Contemporary Sporting Themes and Issues'
- 2) 'The Popular/Legal Imagination'
- 3) 'Images of Justice in Times of Political Instability'

At the same time, we were successful in a bid to hold a workshop in Oñati in May 2008. This is an important move for the Group and it is anticipated that some excellent work will take place there, with some new faces participating as well as the ones we already know and love. Sessions are planned focusing around 'Sport and EU', 'Representations of Law' and 'Interdisciplinary Encounters' amongst others, and in addition the workshop will provide an opportunity to take stock of where we are at, and how we can move forward.

It is hoped that papers from this will be published in the Hart/Onati series, and that outcomes may also be considered for the ESLJ and the book series Studies in Law, Society and Popular Culture (edited by Steve Greenfield and Guy Osborn).

One thing that WGL&PC intends to try and do is to encourage new research and new scholars to the fold with a view to creating a really vibrant research network. The beauty of law and popular culture is that it potentially straddles so many areas and so many disciplines and its inclusiveness can be used in a very positive way to this end. We are currently looking at some online developments and details of these will be publicised as they become available. The Working Group is looking for new members who are interested in exploring the relationship between law and popular culture, and the group hopes to facilitate intellectual dialogue, collaborations, publications etc.

We would be delighted to receive new members to the group and an application form will appear shortly via the RCSL Working Group website. In the meantime if people have any queries please contact the Working Group Chair (G.Osborn@wmin.ac.uk).

Please also consider submitting papers to the Entertainment and Sports Law Journal, see: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/elj/eslj/>

Dr Guy Osborn,
University of Westminster School of Law
G.Osborn@wmin.ac.uk

CALL FOR HOST CITIES – RCSL MEETING 2009

The RCSL is now seeking expressions of interest in organising its 2009 annual conference. Please consider the possibility of hosting the conference in your city. The deadline for submission of a proposal to host the congress is February 29, 2008. Please write to the RCSL President Anne Boigeol (boigeol@ihtp.cnrs.fr) and to the RCSL Secretary Luigi Cominelli (luigi.cominelli@unimi.it).

NEWS

La **Sociedad Argentina de Sociología Jurídica (SASJu)**, agradece la difusión de la siguiente información sobre el VIII Congreso Nacional de Sociología Jurídica, que se realizará en Santa Fe,

Argentina, del 22 al 24 de noviembre de 2007. Fechas límite para la presentación de las ponencias: 26 de octubre de 2007. La inscripción al Congreso se realiza on-line. El formulario se encuentra en:

<http://www.fcjs.unl.edu.ar/congreso/>

Harvard and Stanford Law Schools wish to announce plans for an **international junior faculty conference**. The two sponsoring schools will act as hosts in alternate years. The first conference will be held at **Stanford, California, on October 16-19, 2008**. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate the international exchange of ideas and research among members of the legal academy, to encourage and further the work of younger scholars in the international community, and to surmount barriers between scholars of different traditions and cultures, in the interests of the development of legal scholarship on a transnational basis. The sponsoring schools invite any junior scholar to submit a paper for the conference. The paper may be on any legally relevant subject, and may utilize any legally relevant approach, quantitative or qualitative, sociological, anthropological, historical, or economic, on the role and function of law and legal systems in the modern world, or in the past. The papers for this initial year should be in English. Any scholar whose home institution is outside the United States and who has held an academic position for less than seven years, as of 2008, or whose last degree was earned less than ten years earlier than 2008, is invited to submit an abstract of no more than five pages that lays out the major argument of the paper he/she would submit, states what method the scholar will pursue to advance that argument, and indicates the paper's potential contribution to scholarship. On the basis of these abstracts, the sponsoring schools will invite the submission of full papers. The papers will be reviewed by an international committee of senior legal scholars, representing many different countries and many different styles and approaches. Approximately ten of the papers will be selected for presentation at the conference. Each paper will have two commentators, drawn from the international committee of scholars. The sponsoring schools will cover expenses of travel, including airfare, lodging, and food, for each participant. One copy of each abstract should be sent to Professor Lawrence M. Friedman, at Stanford University, Stanford California 94305 USA; and one to Professor William P. Alford, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Ma. 012138 USA, preferably by email (lmf@stanford.edu; alford@law.harvard.edu). The deadline for the submission of abstracts is January 4, 2008 and of final papers is May 23, 2008. Questions should be directed to either Professor Friedman or Professor Alford.

BOOKS

Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship, and Legal Activism, Susan B. Boyd, Margot Young, Gwen Brodsky and Shelagh Day (eds.), UBC Press, 2007.

Reaction and Resistance: Feminism, Law, and Social Change, Susan B. Boyd, Dorothy Chunn, Hester Lessard (eds.), UBC Press, 2007.

Legal Symbolism: On Law, Time and European Identity, Jiri Priban, Ashgate, 2007. *This book contributes to the field of systems theory of law in the context of European legal and political integration and constitution-making. It puts recent European legislative efforts and policies, especially the EU enlargement process, in the context of legal theory and philosophy, showing that the system of positive law has a symbolic meaning, reflecting as it does the semantics of political identity, democratic power and moral values as well as the complex relations between law, politics and morality.*

Liquid Society and Its Law, Jiri Priban (ed.), Ashgate, 2007. *This collection of essays brings together Zygmunt Bauman and a number of internationally distinguished legal scholars who examine the influence of Bauman's recent works on social theory of law and socio-legal studies. Contributors focus on the concept of 'liquid society' and its adoption by legal scholars. The volume opens by Bauman's analysis of fears and policing in 'liquid society' and continues by examining the social and legal theoretical context and implications of Bauman's theory. List of contributors: Zygmunt Bauman, Anton Schutz, Pablo S. Ghetti, Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, Emiliós Christodoulidis, Grazyna Skapska, Jiri Priban, Vito Breda, Pierre Guibentif, and David Nelken.*

Comparative Sociology is a quarterly international scholarly journal published by Brill of Leiden, Netherlands dedicated to advancing comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions. Two issues every year are devoted to "special topics," and three topics currently open for submissions are: Democracy and Professions; Rule of Law and *Rechtstaat*; and Typologies of Democracy and non-Democracy. Consult the Brill Website for descriptions of each topic www.brill.nl/coso. The Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. General submissions as well as those dedicated to these topics are welcome electronically by e-mail insert at compsoc@tamu.edu, and (initial) decisions on acceptance or rejection are typically made within less than three months.

THE RC SL BOARD (2006-2009)

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CORRECTION:

In the Berlin meeting programme published on the last issue of the RCSL Newsletter (Summer 2007), we omitted the name of David Nelken as convener of the panels organized by the Comparative Legal Culture WG. Our sincere apologies for this error.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE RCSL NEWSLETTER

The Winter issue of the RCSL newsletter will be published in February 2008. You are welcome to submit any material that is related to socio-legal research and which might be of interest for our members. The next issue will include short items (400-500 words), information about conferences, seminars and workshops, brief presentations of collaborative research projects, debates on issues related to teaching, information about courses, recent or forthcoming publications, notices on research funds, prizes and awards. The deadline to submit an item is January 15, 2008. Please write to luigi.cominelli@unimi.it.
