

# RCSL NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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

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**Fall  
2008**

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### Letter from the President



#### Milano-Como 2008: what a meeting !

The annual meeting of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law took place in Milano and Como on the 9,10, 11 and 12 of July 2008. After the meetings in

Durban 2006 (jointly with the International Sociological Association) and Berlin 2007 (jointly with the Law and Society Association), it was important for the RCSL and its membership to have their own event, to see the scope of researches in the field and appreciate the popularity of the discipline.

And it was really a success!



It was a successful meeting by the number of participants: 300 people coming from 30 countries around the world. We know that Italy has a tradition of welcoming RCSL meetings: it is the 5th time that such an event has been organized in this country (after Varese 1968 and 1971, Cagliari 1979 and Bologna 1988). Italy is one of the continental European countries where the teaching of sociology of law in law faculties is more developed. The result is there: the number of Italian scholars attending the meeting was significant.



The organizers took the risk of locating the meeting in three different places, at the University of Milano "Statale", in the heart of Milano, at the new university of Milano "Bicocca", in the suburbs, and at the Insubria University in Como, 30 kilometers north of Milano, in a former convent that hosts today the Law Faculty. Helped by a very good organization, the conference worked very well: people moved to the different places, with only a little drop for Como! Vincenzo Ferrari, Luigi Cominelli and the organizing committee, have to be credited of a great part of this success.



But the success resulted also from the interest in the topic of the meeting ("law and justice in the risk society") from the quality of the papers presented and from the quality of the discussions which characterized most sessions.



We heard about globalization and the resulting challenges to democracy and the rule of law. We heard about the risks stemming from post-colonial societies. We heard about the European management of risks with regard to human rights. We heard about the risk of law, among the many interesting themes.



Two pleasant events were particularly delightful: a concert at the beginning of the meeting where we enjoyed a trio of young musicians playing Brahms and Astor Piazzolla and a wonderful afternoon cruise on Lake Como on the last day.



The RCSL has been very active this year. After the Milano-Como meeting there was significant participation in the ISA World Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, where, thanks to the involvement of Vittorio Olgiati, we had a good representation with 9 sessions. Two meetings in one year is - and must be - exceptional for a rather small organization such as RCSL. But is also a sign of vitality.

Anne Boigeol  
RCSL President

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## DONATIONS

The Research Committee is grateful to Sol Piccioto for his donations to the Treves grant fund.

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOLOGY OF LAW and ISA RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Joint Conference:  
**the IISL 20th Anniversary  
&  
the 2009 Annual Meeting of the RCSL**

**Oñati, 7-10 July 2009**

**COMPLEXITY  
CONFLICTS  
JUSTICE**  
*Twenty years of Sociology of Law*

Web page:

[http://www.iisj.net/antBuspre.asp?cod=4336  
&nombre=4336&prt=1](http://www.iisj.net/antBuspre.asp?cod=4336&nombre=4336&prt=1)

In the last twenty years significant events and processes around the world have triggered intense and far-reaching transformations that have had broad and deep social and legal consequences. Such events include: the development of transnational markets, the crisis of the nation-state, profound changes to the labour market, technological development, migration, people trafficking, refugees, urban growth, environmental threats, terrorism, drug trafficking, new forms of political and social violence, repeated human rights violations, the emergence and increasing participation of transnational social movements in global politics, and new cultural, ethnic and religious tensions.

Socio-legal specialists face the challenge of understanding the complexity of these modern-day conflicts and tensions and it is in this context that sociologists of law wonder about the identity of their field of knowledge, how it interrelates with other social sciences, the humanities and politics and its relevance and usefulness in our contemporary world. The 2009 Oñati Conference intends to take up this challenge and to provide innovative responses to these issues. The 20th anniversary of the IISL provides an excellent opportunity for discussing the main achievements of sociology of law, its missed opportunities and its unfulfilled "promises" between the time the Institute was created up to today, as well as the challenges posed to the sociological study of law by contemporary social changes and conflicts.

At the same time, while preserving the thematic independence of the RCSL working groups this Joint Meeting is attempting to create a space for either developing WGs regular meetings, and/or discussing trends and prospects in their respective fields during recent years.

Finally, the meeting aims to foster internal dialogue within the RCSL between different perspectives, programmes and research groups, as well as with other theoretical approaches that also have a socio-legal perspective.

The complete call for papers will be published soon on the Oñati Institute and on the RCSL web page. For info, please write to Malen Gordo Mendizabal: [malen@iisj.es](mailto:malen@iisj.es)

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## THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE RCSL TO THE FIRST ISA WORLD FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY IN BARCELONA

From 5th to 8th September 2008, the First ISA World Forum of Sociology was held in Barcelona on the general theme of "Sociological Research and Public Debate". The interesting peculiarity of this First ISA Forum consisted in its innovative scientific and organizational format: conceived as an Interim Conference between the traditional four-year time-span of ISA World Conferences, it directly involved both RCs as such, and their members, in the promotion of their own disciplinary thematic areas, while establishing intra/trans-sectional disciplinary dialogues among themselves and with the lay public.

To comply with the general theme of the Forum and raise the interest of the media, the RCSL came up with a problematic socio-legal issue widely felt by the public opinion: "Re-thinking Legal Justice". A consistent call-for-papers was hence made to stimulate new studies and research on the contours and meanings of the everlasting, but also changing, relationship between "Law" and "Justice".

The response to the RCSL's call-for-papers on such an issue was extraordinarily successful. Seven RCSL Sessions, each one including five presentations, were set up, respectively on: "Legal Justice as Social

Justice ? The Case of Gender, Race, Class and Minority Groups"; "Social Mobility, Law-policy Making and Legal Justice"; "The Construction of Legal Justice in an Era of Constitutional Change"; "The Quest for Legal Justice between Theory and Practice"; "New Paradigmatic Dimensions of Legal Justice: Insights from System Theory"; "Legal Justice as a Matter of Professional Expertise"; "Social Experience, Legal Justice and Cultural Values". Besides the above Sessions, four presentations by well-known RCSL representatives were listed in special Forum Common Sessions (i.e. sessions common to different RCs). The importance of these achievements is even more significant if one considers that a number of other international conferences of great relevance for socio-legal scholars have been held and are still announced within the year, and that new colleagues from any part of the World joined for the first time RCSL's activities.

As far as the scientific value of the RCSL endeavour, the academic level of all the presentations delivered in all Sessions - as any participant can confirm - was remarkable indeed. Equally remarkable was the level of the discussions that followed. Even though unexpected events compelled some registered colleagues to miss their Session, it seems absolutely fair to say, altogether, that the RCSL made a noteworthy contribution to the success of the Forum, while improving its international reputational standing within the overall sociological field.

First ISA World Forum RCSL Coordinator  
Vittorio Olgiati

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## LIORA ISRAËL: WINNER OF THE PODGÓRECKI PRIZE 2008



Liora Israël is a fine example of the new generation of young French scholars in social sciences who are working on legal or juridical topics. She is a sociologist. She completed her PhD in sociology in 2003, with her doctoral dissertation "Dark

Robes, Dark Years. Resistance Among Lawyers and Magistrates": she analyzed how a number of them used the law and handled their professional activity in order to resist to the Vichy regime. She received the higher honours for her PhD.

Her dissertation was published in 2005 as a book under the title "Robes noires et années ombres. Avocats et magistrats en résistance pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale". Here is the summary of her dissertation:

"Resistance in legal circles is an occasion to study the legal professions, political mobilization and law in action through looking at a critical historical moment. The parallel examination of lawyers and magistrates,



and even law professors, during World War Two is a means of focussing on the use of law, despite the statutory differences between those professions that interested most of the scholars in the past. Legal professions are thus redefined on the basis of their common use of law. The political reach of law is examined through its mobilization in judiciary resistance. More generally, resistance is analyzed as a form of collective action. The focus on mobilization of resources and coordination between actors leads to stress on the peculiar impact of matters being hidden and risk, especially in the judiciary. Concerning the use of law, this research takes into account the various dimensions of legal mobilization in political action, including legitimacy, use of the judicial arena, and expertise.”

Liora Israël has contributed to popularize the cause lawyering movement in France and has written a chapter in Austin Sarat and Stuart Scheingold (eds) *The Worlds Cause Lawyers Make: Structure and Agency in Legal Practice* (Proofs attached). She is very active in the field of sociology of law, working to develop it through networking, teaching and through her current researches on the political mobilisation of law in the Seventies.

Liora is a founding member and former co-president of the “legal sociology” network of the French sociological association and has still co-organized many scientific meetings. She is junior professor at the prestigious *École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, where she teaches sociology of law.

#### **PODGÓRECKI PRIZE 2009: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Law (RCSL) established this 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. Among other things, he worked tirelessly for the independent status of socio-legal research against the pull of the large disciplines of sociology on one side and law on the other. The Prize is awarded yearly by a committee chosen by the President of the RCSL. Every other year the prize is given to a younger scholar, to reward promising work in the sociology of law. In alternate years, the prize is given to distinguished scholar.

In 2009, the Prize will be awarded for a distinguished scholar in recognition of his or her contribution to the field of sociology of law. Nominations of distinguished socio-legal scholars are invited for the 2009 Podgórecki Prize. Nominations require support from at least two members of the RCSL. Nominations must include: the candidate’s CV; a statement from the nominators of the value of the candidate’s work. The members of the 2009 Podgórecki Prize Committee are: Malgorzata Fuszara (chair), David Nelken and Antonio Azuela de la Cueva. Nominations should be sent to Malgorzata Fuszara

([mfuszara@isns.uw.edu.pl](mailto:mfuszara@isns.uw.edu.pl)) or to the Secretary of the RCSL ([luigi.cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:luigi.cominelli@unimi.it)), and should be received by 30 March 2009.

#### **THE 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://rctl.iscte.pt/rctl\\_apodgpr.htm](http://rctl.iscte.pt/rctl_apodgpr.htm)

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#### **A TALE OF THREE STUDENTS**

The RCSL sponsored the trip to the Milano-Como RCSL annual meeting and to the Barcelona ISA Forum for 3 graduate students.

These are their stories:

##### **Agnieszka Kubal (Poland)**

*How do they go about the law? The responses of Polish migrants towards British law*



Thanks to the travel grant support received from the RCSL, I had the opportunity to attend the Research Committee on Sociology of Law, Annual conference. My participation was a meaningful and valuable academic experience. I presented a paper in a workshop chaired by Prof. David Nelken - Comparative Legal Culture (WGCOM01). My paper was entitled: How do they go about the law? The responses of Polish migrants towards British law. It explored people’s responses to the new legal systems and the role of legal culture. The theoretical considerations drawing on the rich scholarship of legal culture were supported by empirical data stemming from the fieldwork I conducted between December 2007 and May 2008.

The paper received some very interesting comments and thought-provoking questions. The discussion on the intricacies and controversies around the concept of legal culture, which continued during the workshop, helped me to re-define the term in order to employ it better within my current research project. I also greatly valued the discussions and feedback regarding the fieldwork I conducted and the quality of empirical data.

I also had the opportunity to participate in a number of interesting paper presentation sessions, workshops and panel discussions that have broadened my perspectives of the socio-legal field. They were followed by a series of intellectually stimulating discussion sessions. All these provided me with 'an interest agenda' for the forthcoming years of my research.

The quality of the presentations, panel discussions and other academic activities, as well as the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of Milan during the 4 days of the conference convinced me to keep trying to participate in the forthcoming meetings. I very much value and appreciate the time and effort contributed by the organizers in preparing this event for the dissemination of the socio-legal scholarship and the personal interaction of the researchers.

Both academically and socially, the conference was a great place to meet and interact, also on non-academic basis, with some very well known researchers in various areas of socio-legal studies. I also made new friends among young scholars, who are at a similar stage in their research as I and are either struggling with de-limiting their research question or pursuing their fieldwork. It was very interesting to exchange experiences and various 'tips'. The hospitable atmosphere of Milan and its vibrant night life also contributed to the conference being an unforgettable experience.

**Pablo Leandro Ciochini (Argentina)**

*A "state of exception" in the Basque Country?: The role of the Spanish government, the European Court of Human Rights and the implications for democracy in Europe*



In the annual meeting of the RCSL at Milan-Como I presented a paper for the first time thanks to the economic support given by RCSL Travel Grant without which it would have been impossible for me to attend.

My paper analysed the Spanish policies of dissolution of political parties in the frame of

fight against terrorism and was co-written with Stefanie Khoury who unfortunately could not come to Milan. I knew it was a highly polemical paper so I expected some kind of reaction from the audience but what I did not know was that the insights were going to be so helpful. Before, during and after the

presentation I had the opportunity to talk about the paper with scholars from all over the world who enriched my knowledge with their suggestions.

Besides, attending the meeting allowed me to listen to well-known scholars whose publications I have read before presenting their last advances in their work. From their presentations I have learnt a lot of how to write and present an academic paper, knowledge that I expect to be able to put into practice in my next presentation. Moreover, the ambiance of the meeting was of a relaxed and opened interaction. This allowed me to talk about my Masters thesis, ongoing work with different people, some of whose material I am now using.

Although talking with high-rank scholars was an impressive and extremely useful experience, I also enjoyed very much relating to postgraduate students. Because we share age and conditions we could engage in more personal conversations, sharing doubts and fears but also tips about the process of entering the academic world.

Finally, the background of the meeting: the beautiful University of Milan, the surroundings of Lake Como should be mentioned since they gave to the whole meeting a marvellous atmosphere. I am very grateful to the RCSL for giving me the chance to attend the meeting, especially to Luigi Cominelli who helped me through all the process of requesting the grant.

**Thamy Pogrebinski (Brazil)**

*Pragmatic Law and Justice*



I was very pleased when I found out that I have been awarded the RCSL grant to take part into the I ISA Forum of Sociology, in Barcelona. As a post-doctoral scholar in Brazil, it is indeed very difficult to obtain enough financial support to travel overseas for

international conferences. On the other hand, the benefits associated to an eventual participation in an academic conference such as the ISA Forum are immensurable, especially when you come from an academic context that clearly lacks opportunities for high-level intellectual exchange.

The RCSL had a total of seven panels in the ISA Forum, all of them wonderfully organized and coordinated by Prof. Vittorio Olgiati. The panels evolved around the general theme 're-thinking legal justice', and dealt with topics as diverse as racial justice, systems theory, the role of constitutional courts, and legal pluralism - just to mention a few examples. The panelists were also as diverse as the papers given: scholars from different continents found at the RCSL sessions a chance to present ideas on their legal cultures, and to join the committee's general concerns around the theory and practice of social justice. I very much profited from the powerful and rich debates that followed each presentation, and

have learned a lot from both paper givers and panel's discussants.

The paper I gave at the Forum is entitled "Pragmatic Law and Justice". It relies on some aspects of Pragmatism's philosophy - such as experimentalism, instrumentalism, and fallibility - which I believe are rich enough to be developed in a pragmatic approach to law suitable to a country as Brazil, where severe inequality must be addressed by a conception of social justice that may eventually require the judicial power to play a very active - and perhaps pragmatic - role. I received a very rich and helpful feedback from the audience, as usual mostly composed by the committee's members and the fellow panelists. The interesting comments and important questions that were addressed to me during the discussion that followed the presentation were enormously valuable, and will definitely help me to improve the further research I plan to undertake on that topic.

In sum, the overall experience I had at the I ISA Forum of Sociology was very important to strengthen my intellectual background, and to pave the future of my research on sociology of law. I also had the chance to meet very interesting people at the RCSL's sessions, and some of them will most certainly become part of my professional network. I very much hope to engage in the activities of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law from now on, and to play an active part on it as a member and as a participant of the upcoming meetings. Looking forward to Oñati, to celebrate the IISL's 20th anniversary with some more exciting discussions along with my new colleagues from the RCSL!

Thamy Pogrebinschi is currently associate professor of the Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ), Brazil.

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## THE RCSL TRAVEL GRANTS 2009

The Research Committee on Sociology of Law will offer a travel subsidy to 3/4 graduate students from B and C countries who submit their proposals for the RCSL Oñati meeting 2009 (see above).

Applications must consist of a curriculum vitae and a one-page statement illustrating current research interests, to be sent by March 15, 2009, to Luigi Cominelli ([luigi.cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:luigi.cominelli@unimi.it)).

The list of B and C Countries is available at: [http://www.isa-sociology.org/table\\_c.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/table_c.htm)

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## ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF THE ISA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

The RCSL requires to hold an election of the members of its Board in 2009. Newly elected members will formally take office in 2010 in order to fit

in with the new calendar of the ISA, the International Sociological Association.

According to the statutes of the RCSL (Part 6), all individual members are eligible for election to the Board, provided they have paid the annual fee. All members are also eligible to stand for election as President of the RCSL.

Members of the Board who are currently in their first term of office are entitled to stand for re-election in this ballot. The ballot will be supervised by a committee composed by Benoit Bastard (Vice-President), Peter Robson and Maria Cristina Reale.

Members willing to be candidates, as members of the Board or as President, should send a short resume of their candidacy (5 to 10 lines) to Benoit Bastard ([benoit.bastard@free.fr](mailto:benoit.bastard@free.fr)) and to the Secretary of the RCSL (Luigi Cominelli: [luigi.cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:luigi.cominelli@unimi.it)) before November 30, 2008.

These applications will be published in the Newsletter. Then the ballot paper will be sent to all RCSL members in the beginning of 2009.

## ELECTION DU COMITÉ DIRECTEUR DU COMITÉ DE RECHERCHE DE SOCIOLOGIE DU DROIT

Le Comité de recherche de sociologie du droit doit procéder, en 2009, au renouvellement de l'ensemble des membres de son bureau - sachant que le mandat effectif des nouveaux élus pourra ne prendre effet qu'en 2010 pour être en correspondance avec le calendrier de l'association internationale de sociologie. Selon les statuts (Part 6), tous les membres à jour de leur cotisation sont éligibles au bureau et tous les membres peuvent présenter leur candidature à la présidence du RCSL.

Les membres du bureau qui sont en poste actuellement peuvent renouveler une fois leur candidature. L'organisation des élections est assurée par trois membres du RCSL, Benoit Bastard (vice-président), Peter Robson et Maria Cristina Reale.

Les membres qui souhaitent présenter leur candidatures, pour être membre du bureau du RCSL ou pour la présidence, doivent le faire en adressant une courte présentation de leur candidature (5 à 10 lignes) à Benoit Bastard ([benoit.bastard@free.fr](mailto:benoit.bastard@free.fr)) et au secrétaire du RCSL (Luigi Cominelli: [luigi.cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:luigi.cominelli@unimi.it)) avant le 30 novembre 2008.

Les candidatures seront ensuite publiées dans la Newsletter et le matériel de vote sera envoyé à tous les membres au début de l'année 2009.

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## NEWS FROM THE OÑATI INSTITUTE:

### INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S IN SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

The deadline to receive applications for the 2009/10 Programme ends on February 20th 2009. For more information you can visit the IISL web page:



<http://www.iisj.es> or contact Susana Arrese Murguzur ([susana@iisj.es](mailto:susana@iisj.es))

#### PROVISIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAMME 2009/10

21 - 25 Sept. 2009, *Comparative Legal Culture*  
Joxerramon Bengoetxea - University of the Basque Country  
28 Sept. - Oct. 2009, *Theory of Sociology of Law*  
Marina Kurkchiyan - Oxford University  
12-23 Oct. 2009, *Quantitative Methodology*  
Sharyn Roach Anleu - Flinders University  
26 Oct. - 6 Nov. 2009, *Socio-Legal Research: Theory and Practice / Qualitative Research*  
Angela Melville - University of Manchester  
9 - 20 Nov. 2009, *Gender and Law*  
Rosemary Hunter - Kent Law School  
23 Nov - 4 Dec. 2009, *Transnational Criminal Justice*  
Dave Whyte - University of Liverpool  
7 - 18 Dec. 2009, *Nature and Law*  
Vittorio Olgiati - University of Urbino  
4 - 8 January 2010, *International Relations, conflict resolution and democracy (1 week)*  
Igor Filibi & Noé Cornago - University of the Basque Country  
11 - 15 January 2010 *Conflict Resolution*  
Ulrike Schultz - Fern Universität  
18 - 22 January 2010 *Negotiation and Dispute Resolution*  
Luigi Cominelli - University of Milan  
25 Jan. - 5 February 2010, *Law and Anthropology*  
Letizia Mancini - University of Milan  
8 - 19 February 2010, *Transitional Justice and Rule of Law*  
Adam Czarnota - University of New South Wales  
22 Febr.- 5 March 2010, *The Practice of Dissenting Opinions: A Comparative and Sociological Approach*  
Marie Claire Belleau - Université Laval, Canada  
Rebecca Johnson - University of Victoria, Canada  
8 - 12 March 2010, *Globalization and Law*  
(to be confirmed)  
15 - 26 March 2010, *Territory and Sustainability: a socio-legal perspective*  
Antonio Azuela - Universidad Nacional de Mexico

Oct. 09 - March 2010, Thesis Seminar & Tutorials  
Oñati IISL Scientific Director and Visiting Fellows

April - September 2010  
Research Project / Master Thesis

#### THE NEW OÑATI INSTITUTE DIRECTOR FOR THE YEARS 2009-2011

In its September meeting, the Governing Board of the Oñati Institute approved the nomination of Professor Sol Picciotto as the next Scientific director after the end of Carlos Lista term. Sol Picciotto, Professor Emeritus at the University of Lancaster, will be



scientific director from September 2009 to August 2011.

#### PRESENTING THE RCSL WG ON LAW AND URBAN SPACE

Urbanization is often mentioned as one of the fundamental changes human societies have undergone in the last two centuries. Whereas it has attracted a great deal of attention from sociology in general, the same cannot be said about the sociology of law in particular. Exploring the relationship between law and the urban condition of societies has been the goal of IRGLUS, the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space, since its recognition as a working group of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law in 1996.

The WG was re-launched in the Berlin meeting in 2007 where two sessions took place. The main themes discussed then were the role of the Judiciary in urban conflicts and the use of expropriation as a policy instrument in urbanization processes. After the Berlin meeting we have continued the activities of the group through our mailing list and our blog ([www.irglus.wordpress.com](http://www.irglus.wordpress.com)). The group maintains links with other three research networks: the first one is Confurb (Conflicts de Proximité / Dynamiques Urbaines), a group originated in the University of Tours, with projects in France, Canada and Mexico, in which the use of law in urban conflicts is analyzed in comparative perspective; the second is a network on expropriations for urban purposes, financed by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (Cambridge, Mass.) that develops comparative research on that subject in six Latin American countries; the third is the Law and Geography group of the Law and Society Association. In the 2008 RCSL meeting in Milan the group organized three sessions which focused on the following issues: Property, urban space and social vulnerability; Urban space and social conflict; and Urban space and the legal system. This collection of themes highlights the variety of interests among IRGLUS members. We are trying to widen as much as possible the participation in order to be able to fulfill our group's principal purpose to foster discussion between academics from diverse backgrounds - jurists, geographers, sociologists, political scientists, urban planners, environmentalists-. Our aim is to include anyone who is currently doing research or is just interested in the relationship between law and urban space.

We are currently organizing several sessions within the 2009 RCSL meeting that will take place in Oñati next year. We are also planning to organize a joint meeting with the Law and Geography group from the Law and Society association in 2010. As a result from this we expect to have enough material to publish at least one book. In the meantime we will continue to work and to disseminate our activities through our blog and our mailing list.

If you are interested in learning more about the law and urban space working group, taking part in any of our activities or just would like to be included in our mailing list please contact Antonio Azuela at [azueladelacueva@gmail.com](mailto:azueladelacueva@gmail.com) or Carlos Herrera at [carlosherreramartin@gmail.com](mailto:carlosherreramartin@gmail.com).

Antonio Azuela, Carlos Herrera

## NEWS

### **DOTTORATO TREVES**

The **Renato Treves International Research Doctorate in "Law and Society"**, based in Milano and offered by a consortium of European Universities and Research Centres (**University of Milano, University of the Basque Countries, University of Como-Insubria, University of Bologna, University of Urbino, University of Lund, Carlos III University of Madrid, University of Antwerp, Oñati Institute, Centro nazionale di prevenzione e difesa sociale**), will shortly issue a call for a new intake of PhD candidates. The doctoral students will be trained both by shared participation in intensive courses, mainly in the form of seminars, and above all, by undertaking individual research projects. The research projects shall ensure maximum integration between theories of reference and research methods.

If you are interested in receiving the call please write to Paola Branchi: [phd@fildir.unimi.it](mailto:phd@fildir.unimi.it).

### **INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**XXXIV ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (December 27-29, 2008) University of Rajasthan, Jaipur**  
**"YOUTH, GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION"**

**SYMPOSIUM – I Globalization and North-South Hiatus: Dilemmas, Disparities and Dynamics (International Symposium)**

**SYMPOSIUM – II Globalization, Youth and Challenges of Reconciliation in Transitional Societies.**

**SYMPOSIUM – III Globalization and Issues of Core and Periphery with special reference to Marginalized Groups in India**

**SYMPOSIUM – IV Socio-Cultural Transformation in Rajasthan: Opportunities and Challenges**

Invitation to submit abstracts to the conference:

With a feeling of great privilege and pleasure we welcome you to the 34th All India Sociological Conference at Jaipur in Rajasthan. You are invited to submit abstracts for paper presentation at the conference through any of the 22 Research Committees (RCs) and "Adhoc Group on Sociology of Law" of the ISS. Since all the paper presentations at the Conference (except those in the Symposia) will be made through the RCs, interested scholars are

advised to contact the Conveners of the concerned RCs/Adhoc Group on Sociology of Law for presenting papers. The list of RC Conveners and their email addresses is attached in a separate link over here. Two copies of the abstract of the paper in not more than 400 words should be submitted to the RC Conveners in the Abstract Form not later than September 30, 2008. Each abstract should carry the Membership Number of the participant and the Name and the Number of the RC to which it is submitted. (The scholars willing to present paper in the Adhoc Group on Sociology of Law may send it to Dr. Arvind Agrawal, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur – 302 004, along with Rs 400/- for 5 years' membership fees for the Adhoc Group). Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated by the respective RC Conveners by October 15, 2008. RC Conveners will send a copy of the abstracts received by them by October 15, 2008 to the Organizing Secretary, XXXIV All India Sociological Conference. The ISS members (Life/Ordinary/Student) who have paid the RC membership fee (Rs. 200/- for 2 years and Rs. 400/- for 5 years) per Research Committee alone are allowed to present papers in the conference. Only the abstracts of those who register before October 31, 2008 and submitted in the Abstract Form will be published in the Conference Souvenir. All the delegates are requested to keep checking the iss website (<http://www.insoso.org/>) for latest announcements and information regarding this Conference.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Dr. Arvind Agrawal, Organizing Secretary, XXXIV All India Sociological Conference, Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur – 302 004;

E-mail: [drarvindagrwal@gmail.com](mailto:drarvindagrwal@gmail.com)  
[sociology@uniraj.ernet.in](mailto:sociology@uniraj.ernet.in)

or Dr. Rashmi Jain, Conference Coordinator, XXXIV All India Sociological Conference

E-mail: [rushme14@yahoo.com](mailto:rushme14@yahoo.com)

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ISRAELI LAW AND SOCIETY**

**Global, Regional, and Local: Law, Politics, and Society in Comparative Perspective, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 24-26, 2008**

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

The Program Committee of the Annual Conference of the Israeli Law and Society (ILSA) invites scholars conducting research on any aspect of Law and Society to submit proposals for individual papers and organized panels. Panels and papers devoted to the main theme of the conference - "Global, Regional, and Local: Law, Politics, and Society in Comparative Perspectives" - are especially invited. Other topics relating to the field of law and society in its broad meaning are also welcome.

Proposals should be accompanied by an abstract of 200 words as MSWord email attachment. (Include title of paper, name and email address of author with the text of the abstract.) Organizers of panels should



collect abstracts from the panel participants and submit them together with a description of the panel. Graduate students should submit a letter from their thesis supervisor in support of the proposal, together with the abstract.

Proposals should be submitted by email to the Program Committee at: [gbarzil@u.washington.edu](mailto:gbarzil@u.washington.edu) by July 30, 2008.

Program Committee: Chair: Gad Barzilai (University of Washington)

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION - CALL FOR PAPERS: IMPACT OF LEGAL CHANGE ON LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

The International Journal of the Legal Profession invites submissions for a symposium on how legal changes impact the day-to-day work of legal practitioners. The types of issues that would be appropriate for articles includes how legal change impacts such things as the market for specialized legal practices, lawyers' decision making practices about which cases to pursue, the way lawyers handle specific types of cases, or how lawyers work with experts; these topics are meant to be suggestive not exhaustive. More specific examples in the U.S. context would include the impact of tort reform, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2005, changes in immigration law in the wake of 9/11, the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the Class Action Fairness Act 2005. Examples of legal changes in the UK that might be considered are The Companies Acts, Charity Act 2006 and Legal Services Act 2007. While the examples are drawn from the U.S. and the U.K., submissions dealing with the impact of legal change on legal practice in other countries is strongly encouraged.

The symposium editor will be Professor Herbert Kritzer, William Mitchell College of Law ([herbert.kritzer@wmitchell.edu](mailto:herbert.kritzer@wmitchell.edu)). Authors who have questions about whether their work would be appropriate for the symposium should contact Professor Kritzer.

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to the general editor, Professor Avrom Sherr, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, [Avrom.Sherr@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Avrom.Sherr@sas.ac.uk). Either Word or PDF format is preferred. Manuscripts should be double-spaced, and authors should insure that all identifying information (including that embedded by software) is removed prior to submission. Because it is a peer-reviewed journal, the International Journal of the Legal Profession requires that manuscripts submitted for consideration not be under simultaneous consideration by other journals.

Manuscripts will be evaluated for publication as submitted; the deadline for submission to insure consideration is February 1, 2009. Anticipated publication is late 2009.

The International Journal of the Legal Profession is an academic journal addressing the organization, structure, management and infrastructure of the legal professions of the common law and civil law world. The journal encompasses studies of the work, work practices, skills and ethics of the legal profession as well as the internal management of law firms and chambers. It also considers the methods and extent of provision of legal services. A range of socio-legal information is included involving inter-disciplinary interest from academic and professional lawyers, economists, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists and business academics interested in the world of law and lawyers.

**INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM: "CHALLENGES TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE – THE STRUGGLES FOR EQUALITY AND THE RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCE"**

As part of the activities in celebration of the its 30th anniversary, the CES (Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra) is organizing the International Colloquium "Challenges to Human Rights and Global Justice – The Struggles for Equality and the Recognition of Difference". This colloquium will take place at the Auditório da Reitoria of the University of Coimbra, on November 27th and 28th 2008.

For further information about the Colloquium: <http://www.ces.uc.pt/humanrightscolloquium/>

**COMPARATIVE SOCIOLOGY, CALL FOR PAPERS:**

Comparative Sociology ([www.brill.nl/coso](http://www.brill.nl/coso)) 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. In addition, book-length manuscripts may also be submitted to the related book series, International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology ([www.brill.nl/issa](http://www.brill.nl/issa)).

Two issues of the journal each year are devoted to "special topics," and six topics currently open for submissions (through July 2009) are:

- \* Democratic Quality and Social Democracy
- \* Constitutional Courts Cross-Nationally
- \* Institutional Design
- \* Bourdieu on Professions
- \* Public Realm Ascent v. Field Autonomy Ascent
- \* Enlightened Localism (edited by Benjamin Gregg)

Consult the Website for descriptions of each topic.

Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science ([compsoc@tamu.edu](mailto:compsoc@tamu.edu)).

Submissions are welcome not only from sociologists but also political scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists and others. Indeed, the journal and book series are particularly keen to receive works of comparative political sociology and comparative legal sociology. All submissions are

peer-reviewed and (initial) decisions are typically made within less than three months.

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## BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING 2008

The minutes of the RC SL Board and Business meeting which took place during the Milano-Como meeting last July, including the annual report on RC SL finances, are posted at:

[http://rcsl.iscte.pt/rcsl\\_board\\_080711.pdf](http://rcsl.iscte.pt/rcsl_board_080711.pdf)

Luigi Cominelli  
RC SL Secretary

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## THE RC SL BOARD (2006-2009)

### President:

Anne Boigeol: [aboigeol@gmail.com](mailto:aboigeol@gmail.com)

### Vice-Presidents:

Benoît Bastard: [benoit.bastard@free.fr](mailto:benoit.bastard@free.fr)

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### Elected Members:

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### Working Groups Chairs :

*Gender:* Rosemary Hunter:

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*Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution:*

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(Ofiati Scientific Director)

Luigi Cominelli: [Luigi.Cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:Luigi.Cominelli@unimi.it)

(RC SL Secretary)

Pierre Guibentif: [pierre.guibentif@iscte.pt](mailto:pierre.guibentif@iscte.pt)

(in charge of the website)

### Founding members:

William Evan and Adam Podgórecki (+)

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## NEXT ISSUE OF THE RC SL NEWSLETTER

The Winter issue of the RC SL newsletter will be published in January 2009. 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 December 15, 2008. Please write to [luigi.cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:luigi.cominelli@unimi.it).

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