



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON
LAW & URBAN SPACE (IRGLUS)

**REPORT FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW**

14 July 2014
Yokohama, Japan

Introduction

The International Research Group on Law & Urban Space (IRGLUS) was formed in 1993, aiming to gather academics from diverse backgrounds – jurists, geographers, sociologists, political scientists, urban planners and environmentalists who are doing research or are interested in the interface between law and urbanisation. Its working languages are English and Spanish.

Aim

IRGLUS' goal is to encourage socio-legal research in urban legal studies, as well as to organise international workshops for the presentation and dissemination of relevant research projects and findings.

Structure

IRGLUS' network is inherently organic, and relies on the support of its members. Members are free to organise events under the banner of IRGLUS or IRGLUS Latina America, which are then consequently shared via IRGLUS' various networks. There is no formal structure or legal entity for IRGLUS, but the network has a significant online presence.

Methods of Communication

IRGLUS has a website that contains information about the network, as well as limited content generated by members themselves.

<http://www.irglus.org>

IRGLUS has a page on Facebook, which is kept regularly updated and aims to create a social network of content relating broadly to law and urban space. The Facebook site also has the aim of encouraging new members to the network, and provides a space for discussion and debate.

<http://www.facebook.com/IRGLUS>

IRGLUS has a Yahoo Groups account, which it uses to maintain a database of members, as well as an avenue for members to communicate with one another.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/irglus/info>

IRGLUS also sends out a newsletter once every two months, summarising the activities of the group. The latest newsletter can be found here:

<http://eepurl.com/V2xiD>

In addition, members may sign up here:

<http://eepurl.com/ANq2z>

Activities

Workshop on Law, Urban Space and Social Justice

IRGLUS aims to organise a workshop once every two years. Since taking over the chairpersonship of IRGLUS in 2012, global co-ordinators Marius Pieterse and Thomas Coggin have thus far organised one conference – the Workshop on Law, Urban Space and Social Justice hosted by the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Oñati, Spain.

The workshop consisted of 15 participants, and one participant via Skype. The workshop was held over the 5th to the 6th of June 2014, and included the presentation of papers across a broad range of thematic areas. It also included a discussion session on the future of IRGLUS.

Habitat III

IRGLUS has been approached by UN Habitat to provide input in the preparatory process aimed at framing the agenda for the event, which will aim to re-energise and heighten the global commitment to sustainable development through the implementation of a 'New Urban Agenda'.

Habitat III is expected to take place in Johannesburg in 2016, and it is hoped that we can organise an event either immediately before or immediately after that is similar in nature to the Oñati workshop – i.e. that aims to unpack and explore research in the field of urban law.

Urban Law Day

In March 2014, UN Habitat organised an urban law day in conjunction with the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in London. Although IRGLUS was not directly involved with the organisation of the event, a number of IRGLUS

members were present. The aim of the day was to look at how participants could work together in advancing urban law as a field of academic study.

Judges and Cities in Latin America

The Latin American Initiative, under the coordination of Antonio Azuela, started the project called "Jueces y ciudades" (of "Judges and Cities"). In August 2013, the Environmental Ombudsman of Mexico City sponsored a meeting in Mexico City in which six scholars from South America and eight Mexican scholars discussed their research results during three days. An edited book was produced in this regard, and was published in time for the Oñati workshop in June 2014.

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