

# RCSL NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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

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**FALL  
2010**

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**Secretary:** Germano Schwartz

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

“Sociology on the move” has been the general theme of the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology celebrated in Gothenburg from 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July this year.

Leafing through the titles and contents of the papers presented within the framework of RCSL Sessions, it is clear that the disciplinary fieldwork of Sociology of Law not only is “on the move” as regards the topics of its traditional research areas, but is looking for, and/or is trying to develop, new theoretical approaches and empirical methodological guidelines. In brief, one can say that an increasing number of socio-legal scholars is now professionally concerned and personally involved into a veritable “paradigmatic cultural turn”.

Besides, it is also visible the fact that a significant generational shift is occurring, fostered by either the diffusion of the discipline in many higher education “curricula studiorum”, or the rising multidisciplinary cognitive interest to understand current law-policy making and the complexity of socio-legal dynamics.

If one then adds that the combination of a significant scholarly mobility and an equally significant legal change worldwide foster, at the one time a veritable hybrid dislocation in socio-legal studies well as a need for new institutional socialising structures, it is evident that even a well-established and highly reputed organization-set such the RCSL cannot but take the lead to up-to-date – to re-think and re-frame - the original contours of the discipline and its own social/scientific directions.

Given the above, it seems wise to promote, from now on, a serious and constructive inter/intra-disciplinary dialogue to spread further RCSL activities and assess its credentials at local, national and international level. In this respect, I am pleased to announce the plan of major RCSL scientific events that will be performed in the next years:

(i).- to preserve and reinforce the historical identity of the RCSL, as well as to honour its Father Founder, Adam Podgorecki, and its 1st President, Renato Treves, the Celebration of the RCSL 1962-2012 Jubilee will be held at the University of Warsaw, Poland in 2012,

(ii).- to further promote disciplinary RCSL linkages with already institutionally established or emerging socio-legal scholarships at national level, the following RCSL Annual Meetings will be held jointly with different associations and local committees, respectively: in: 2011 in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, India; 2012 in Honolulu, USA, with L&SA; 2013 in Toulouse, France with IEP- Sciences Politiques; 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. with ABraSD,

(iii).- to comply with its formal-official institutional linkage with ISA, the RCSL will take part at the 2012 ISA World Forum (place to be defined) and 2014 ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan.

Along with and within, but also outside and beyond, the above mentioned socio-legal trends and scientific events, RCSL and its Working Groups are called, therefore, to provide an added value to their basic mission: to deepen and refine their own programmes, lines of enquiry, research projects and thematic proposals though a process of active, mutual, collaboration so that to assess the fieldwork with a more coherent and fruitful open-to-the-future analytical disciplinary discourse.

Yours Sincerely,

Vittorio Olgiati (RCSL President)

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### RCSL GOVERNING BOARD 2010-2014

Elected Members

Vittorio Olgiati, president

David Nelken

Luigi Cominelli

Carlos Lista

Ulrike Schultz

Volkmar Gessner

Angela Melville

Benoit Bastard

Co-opted members

Arvind Agrawal

Madalena Duarte

Hakan Hyden

Germano Schwartz

Flora di Donato (Podgorecki Prize 2010 winner)

Observer members

Sol Picciotto (Onati IISL Scientific Director)

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Pierre Guibentif (in charge of the Website)

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### RCSL WORKING GROUPS

*Comparative Legal Culture:* Marina Kurkchyan  
mkurkchyan@hotmail.com

*Gender and Law*

Chair to be renewed

*Human Rights:* Stephan Parmentier

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*Law and Politics:* María Angélica Cuéllar Vázquez  
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*Urban Problems:* Antonio Azuela de la Cueva:  
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*Social Systems and Legal Systems:* V.Olgjati & G.  
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*Law and Popular Culture:* Guy Osborn  
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*Law and Migration:* Devanayaka Sundaram  
[dsundaram@hotmail.com](mailto:dsundaram@hotmail.com)

*Gender and Law*

*Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution:*

Masayuki Murayama, [aa00092@kisc.meiji.ac.jp](mailto:aa00092@kisc.meiji.ac.jp)

*Legal Professions & Legal Professions Sub-groups*  
Ulrike Schultz ( *Women /Gender in Legal Professions;*  
*Legal Education; International lawyering; Legal Ethics;*  
*Legal aid; Judiciary; Large Law Firms; Professional*  
*values:Comparative deviance and discipline of law-*  
*yers:*

[Ulrike.Schultz.Fern-Uni.Hagen.de](mailto:Ulrike.Schultz.Fern-Uni.Hagen.de)

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### RCSL STATUTE'S REVISION

In 2010 the revision of some RCSL Statutory rules has been officially approved by the RCSL Board 2006-2010. Some of the existing rules required indeed an appropriate tuning with new ISA provisions. Other rules, in turn, have been partially reframed to cope with new RCSL functional issues.

In both cases, however, the first exercise of their enforcement proved to be somehow difficult or problematic, due to the particular revisionist strategy that has been adopted. For example, the new democratic model envisaged for the electoral procedure of WGs Chairs has been surely appreciated by the whole RCSL community, but it has shown the lacking of more appropriate standards about active and passive electorate procedures. Similarly, the new rule about RCSL Governing Board's Secretary nomination proved to be substantially incoherent with RCSL previous customary rule and current experience.

Given these evidences, some colleagues have already claimed for a further RCSL Statute's revision. Accordingly an "ad hoc" Commission will be established.

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### DONATIONS

The Research Committee is grateful to Maria Los and David Trubek for their donations

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### ONATI - IISL PRESIDENT- IN MEMORIAM

On 15 October 2010 with a deep regret and sadness the whole socio-legal community learned of the untimely death of José Manuel Finez Raton, the President of the Governing Board of the Onati International Institute of Sociology of Law,

José Manuel Finez Raton took on this role in September 2009, after being named Vice-Minister of Justice of the Basque Government. As a career Judge he was well aware of the importance of socio-legal studies and research as a way to deal with the many problems of current legal systems and law-policy making. Undoubtedly, he chaired the IISL Governing Board with a fair attitude and a prudential skill, sharply distinguishing between scientific rules and political options.

Since the very beginning of his mandate Finez Raton had a clear perception not only of the scientific and institutional potentials the IISL, but also of widespread social expectations and normative needs of the Basque Country. Both RCSL and the IISL owe to him the proposal to promote a "Local Justice Project" , i.e. a systematic socio-legal survey of the Basque Country's Justice system: a proposal that RCSL and IISL wish to honour.

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**RC SL ANNUAL CONGRESS  
CALL  
“Justice, Peace and Development”  
DHARAMSHALA, India  
Sept.10-12, 2011**

The RC SL is pleased to announce, together with Arvind Agrawal, Devanayk Sundaram and other Indian colleagues who firstly suggested their Country as the host place of the event, that the next Annual RC SL Congress will be held in Dharamshala, in the Himachal Pradesh State, India, from 10th to 12th September 2011.

In full agreement with the hosting partners, “JUSTICE, PEACE and DEVELOPMENT” has been officially selected as the general theme of the Congress.

The idea to raise the attention of the international community of socio-legal scholars on a general theme such as “Justice, Peace and Development” at present, and, more particularly, on the complex theoretical and empirical variables that it entails, in a Country such as India and, even more so, in a place such as Dharamshala, stems from a number of empirical evidences and theoretical considerations.

First of all, the explicit recognition of the fact that Asian countries are now pivotal actors in current and prospective worldwide historical mainstreams.

Secondarily, the concern about the rising quest for any measure able to provide a solution to the many problems occurring in contemporary socio-institutional and economic dynamics.

Thirdly, the need to handle in a much more appropriate and positive way the impact of rising social and political expectations about socio-legal governmentality at local, national and international level

In short, the quest for a deeper introspection and problem-solving disposition about individual reasons and collective cultural values that normatively shape the broader human and natural environment are among the reasons that suggest the RC SL President to invite His Honorable Holiness Dalai Lama at the inaugural congress ceremony and the Nobel Prize Amartya Sen as a Key-note speaker.

**Congress Location: Dharamshala**

Set against the backdrop of the highly impressive Dhauladhar Mountains of Himalayan Range Dharamshala is perched on the slopes in the upper reaches of Kangra Valley in the north Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. The town is divided into two districts and widely separated sections, Upper and Lower Dharamshala, which differ almost a thousand metres in height.

During summers the weather is mild, days are bright sunny and light woollens suffice. In the month of September the temperature ranges between 19-27 degrees Celsius. However, sometimes Monsoon extend beyond the end of August. Therefore a light raincoat or umbrella and a light wollen pullover or jacket is recommended.

Dharamshala is home of Tibetan leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Overlooking the plains and surrounded by dense pine trees and Deodar forests, Dharamshala has established itself as base camp for travellers who come to explore the mountains. A nearby snowline with numerous streams and cool healthy atmosphere makes the surroundings very attractive. Colorful Temples and Gompas, which reflect the unique culture of Tibet, add attraction to the visitors. Kangra Museum, as well as newly established Institutions offer a significant overview of the rich past of the region and preserve Tibetan artistic traditions.

**How to reach Dharamshala**

Congress delegates are advised to plan and reach Dharamshala one or two days in advance to avoid last minute no seat on Airlines or Trains or Buses. India is a populous country and in September Dharamshala is a very popular destination for Indian and Foreign Tourists.

Dharamshala can be reached:

**By Air**- From Delhi to Gaggal. Gaggal is the nearest airport, just 13 Km away from Dharamshala. There is a daily flight KINGFISHER AIRLINES: it takes off at 11.00 AM from Delhi to reach Dharamshala at 12.20 PM.

**By Rail** - Trains from all over the Country stop at Pathankot. Pathankot's station is the nearest railhead for Dharamshala and it is a three-hours journey. From Pathankot one can also take a train (Toy Train) for Kangra.

**By Car** - By car one can drive from Delhi via Chandigarh, Kiratpur, Bilaspur to Dharamshala. It is a 9 hours journey

**By Bus** - From Delhi and Shimla luxury buses ply to Dharamshala

**Tourist Coaches** - a number of Government and Private luxury coaches operate from Delhi to Dharamshala

**Chartered Bus and Taxi** - The Congress Local Committee can arrange chartered buses and taxis for delegates if required, which may be more expensive than ordinary transport systems

**Congress Registration**

Dead-lines for the Congress Registration Form will be available on the Congress website in a very short while.

Registration Fees are fixed with reference to ISA A, B, C Category citizenship criteria as follows:

A Category Countries: 300 Euros

B Category Countries: 200 Euros

C Category Countries: 100 Euros

Accommodation would be extra. A list of Hotels will be provided with rates details on the Congress website. Lunch and Dinner on the Inaugural Day will be provided by the Congress Organizers

## RCSL POGORECKI PRIZE

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Law established the Podgorecki Prize in 2005, to honour the memory of Adam Podgorecki, the founding father of RCSL and a leading figure within the international sociological community.

A Jury of RCSL members, chosen by the President of the RCSL, awards the Prize annually to socio-legal scholars, in recognition of his or her contributions to the development of the discipline. In alternate years, the Prize is awarded to talented, emerging researchers or to reputed, internationally re-known, masters for their outstanding works, which may be in the form of a book, an article or a series of articles. In the case of young scholars, candidates are eligible if they have published one or more significant works within 10 years of having completed their doctorate. Nominations require the support from at least two members of the RCSL. 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 Jury Prize can co-opt further members and consult other members of the RCSL. For more information, Podgórecki Prize rules can be downloaded at: [http://rctl.iscte.pt/rctl\\_apodgpr.htm](http://rctl.iscte.pt/rctl_apodgpr.htm)

### PODGORECKI PRIZE AWARD 2010

In 2010 the Podgórecki Prize has been awarded to an emerging socio-legal scholar.

The selected Jury included Stephan Parmentier, chairman, Professor of Sociology of Crime, Law and Human Rights at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium; Marina Kurkchyan, Professor of Socio-legal Studies at the University of Oxford, UK, and. Luigi Cominelli, Professor of Sociology of Law at the University of Milan, Italy.

Despite the number excellent young scholars now devoted to socio-legal studies and the fact that the Prize was widely announced, two nominations only were received in due time. The Jury therefore recommended to the RCSL Board to undertake any extra effort to increase the attractiveness of this important Prize, such as more widely advertising, but also by simplifying the procedure and allowing self-nominations in a variety of languages from scholars who are eligible under the terms of the Prize. Notwithstanding the limited number of candidates, their quality was very high and the Jury carefully deliberated about the question whom to award the prize to.

One of the two candidate was Erika Rackley, who is currently a senior lecturer in law at Durham University, with visiting appointments at various universities in North America and the role coordinator in several international research networks. Erika nomination concerned her extensive work on judicial diversity and women judges, mostly in anglo-saxon countries. On the basis of an outstanding series of articles in reputable journals, she has been able to establish herself as an international expert in this field. Her

work reflects several strands of thought, including examinations of imaginative representations of judges and judging, pioneering analyses of the UK's first woman Law Lord, and the creative use of literary images to analyse the work of judges and lawyers.

By using metaphorical references, Erika not only prompted a rethinking of professional roles and possibilities through the lenses of gender, but also embarked upon the road of judicial activism in favour of a more balanced diversity in modern-day judiciaries.

The other candidate nomination was Flora Di Donato, currently a post-doctoral researcher in sociology of law and philosophy of law at the Open University Pegaso in Naples. Over the years she has built up an extensive research agenda on judicial proceedings as a matter of narratives. In her book *La costruzione giudiziaria del fatto*, the author made use of the most advanced developments in sociology, such as social constructionism, as evidenced by the work of Berger and Luckmann, Searle and Bruner. Through careful participant observation of court cases Di Donato has shown how 'facts' are artificially built up in view of a final judicial decision. In this process, the client is becoming increasingly active in the construction of his or her case, while the judge continues to decide cases by selecting the story with the highest social and cultural credibility. Interestingly, her interdisciplinary work included insights from sociology, psychology, jurisprudence and literature, as well as intercultural and interlinguistic (due to extensive research stays in Naples and Neuchâtel).

The Jury was particularly impressed by two aspects of Flora di Donato's work. First, the transparent way of demonstrating fundamental changes in the complex relationship between clients-lawyers-judges and the redistribution of roles according to "competences", whereby individual clients (mostly lay people) have gained in social and cultural emancipation while judges continue to operate under a regime of communicative simplification that conforms their own arguments. Second, the extensive qualitative empirical work conducted in courts and during court proceedings, which has allowed the author to painstakingly reconstruct these relationships from the bottom up.

For these reasons, the Jury decided to award the Podgorecki Prize 2010 to Flora Di Donato. The official act occurred in Gothemburg, on the occasion of the ISA World Congress, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### PODGORECKI PRIZE AWARD 2011

In 2011 the Podgorecki Prize will be awarded to socio-legal scholars whose outstanding academic and scientific work spans the course of decades. It will occur in Dharamshala on the occasion of the 2011 RCSL congress. Nominations are expected from all RCSL members.

The Prize Jury will be composed by Prof. Devanayk Sundaram from India, Prof. Hanne Petersen from Denmark and Prof. Harriet Silius from Finland

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**25th Anniversary of the Chair  
in Sociology and Anthropology of Law  
at the University of Warsaw**

### **“Future of Sociology of Law (if any)” Warsaw, May 6-7, 2010**

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the institution of the Chair of Sociology and Anthropology of Law at the University of Warsaw, a Conference was held on the General Theme “Future of Sociology of Law (if any)”. In spite of travel problems caused by the dark clouds moving all over Europe from the Icelandic volcano, the Conference was successful, fruitful and pleasant indeed.

Among other socio-legal scholars, J. Kurcewski, M. Fuszara, J. Van Houtte, M. MacLean, L. Friedman, H. Hyden, V. Olgiati, and T. Piconto, took the floor and offered interesting views about socio-legal prospective trends and future scenarios.

### **Working Group for Comparative Studies of Legal Professions**

#### **Gif-sur-Yvette (Paris), July 8-10, 2010**

As scheduled, the Working Group for Comparative Studies of Legal Profession took place in Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, under the premises of French CNRS Conference Centre. The participation has been extraordinary indeed: about 80 socio-legal scholars from all over the world delivered papers and took part in the discussions about the whole range of issues concerning the legal professions in contemporary society.

The dates of the WG were chosen to facilitate colleagues intending to attend the 2010 ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, which started, in fact, one day later. This resolution has been, however, two fold.

Surely, it would have been impossible for many Gif-sur-Yvette WGs attendants to join the RC SL Sessions on the same WG topic run at the ISA World Congress, due - among other items - the limited number of ISA WG Sessions available. On the other hand, however, it compelled some scholars to make three selective choices: as regards their budgets; as regards their subject-matter, as regards their scientific affiliation.

The above considerations suggests, therefore, the necessity to co-ordinate from now on the programming of local, national and international scientific initiatives well in advance

### **Concepts of Justice in Legal Research” International Conference and PhD Workshop**

#### **Univ. of South Denmark, Sept. 16-17, 2010**

Retfærd: Nordic Journal of Law and Justice organised a two-day international workshop, and a recognized PhD course, for senior researchers and postgraduate students, at the University of Southern Denmark in Sept. 16-17, 2010 to reflect according to a multidisciplinary approach upon the role of justice in legal research, in general, and the relationship between positive law and justice, In particular, the focus of this

workshop has been motivated by the increasing marginalization of the concept of justice in legal research. The workshop aimed at critically exploring and discussing the possibility of applying the empirical tools of social sciences to the study of justice, as well as to encourage debate and reflection on the relationship between jurisprudence and legal sociology, on the one hand, and law and social sciences, on the other.

Gunther Teubner, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main and Melanie Williams, University of Exeter, acted as key-note speakers.

### **Brazilian Association of Researchers in Sociology of Law (ABraSD) Niterioi (Rio de Janeiro), Nov. 16-17, 2010**

The First Meeting of the Brazilian Association of Researchers in Sociology of Law (ABraSD: Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores em Sociologia do Direito) has been held in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 16-17, 2010. Basic aim of the Meeting was the official establishment of the Brazilian Association of Researchers in Sociology of Law in order to promote high level education, studies and researches in the field of Sociology of Law in Brazil. Plenary sessions, speeches and statutory acts took place in the Faculty of Law of the University Federal Fluminense. For the purpose, socio-legal scholars from all over the Country gathered in Niterói and discuss how to fulfill the tasks not only in relation to the disciplinary “state of the art” in Brazil, but also in connection to exemplary international academic experiences.

ABraSD invited to the floor, together with a number of Brazilian speakers, socio-legal scholars such as Pierre Guibentif, Vittorio Olgiati, David Nelken, Mario Gerlero and Marta Díaz de Landa from Argentina. Germano Schwartz was elected President.

The II ABraSD meeting will be held at Porto Alegre in 2011. ABraSD will also support the II Latin American Sociology of Law Meeting to be held in Niterói. A Brazilian Sociology of Law Magazine and a website are planned for the near future,

### **IISL “JUAN CELAYA” GRANT for 2011**

The international IISL Jury of the “JUAN CELAYA” Grant on Globalization and Law, composed by Carlos Lista, Sol Picciotto and Luigi Cominelli, announces that the winner of the Grant for the year 2011 is Fabio da Sa e Silva, from Brazil, for the work “The World of Public Interest: How Globalization Works in the Everyday Lives of Advocates”.

### **RC SL AT ISA WORLD CONGRESS 2010**

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The International Sociological Association celebrated its XVII World Congress of Sociology on "Sociology on the Move" in Gothenburg, Sweden in July 11-17, 2010. The expectations for participation of RCSL members have been extraordinary indeed.

All RCSL WG Chairs were overwhelmed with interest from would-be attendants. Unfortunately, ISA assigned to RCSL 14 Sessions on the basis of the total of not just RCSL but also RCSL-ISA numbers of "good standing" members. Given the level of interest of many other scholars, it was quite disappointing to realise, therefore, that the ISA Committee was unable to accede to any request to additional Sessions made either by RCSL WG Chairs or the RCSL Coordinator, Peter Robson.

The Sessions were articulated according to WGs thematic issues and in relation to progression of the papers' submissions. Altogether this meant that between one to three Sessions were available to WGs. They were: Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution, Legal Professions, Law and Politics, Sociology of Human Rights, Social Systems & Legal Systems, Law and Popular Culture.

Apart from the interest and the number of participants as well as the well-equipped Sessions' room allocated, it is worth stressing here a critical point about ISA organizational criteria. In most cases, WG Chairs were not able to check in advance the regular application of expected attendants, and therefore their actual absence or appearance in the corresponding WG Sessions. In turn, it is fair to say that not all WG Chairs perfectly knew how to arrange their Sessions according to ISA guidelines.

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### SOCIOPEDIA.ISA "SOCIOLOGY OF LAW" ENTRY

During the 2010 ISA World Congress held in Gothenburg, a new ISA strategic initiative has been announced: the birth of SOCIOPEDIA-ISA.

Sociopedia.isa is a new, relevant, initiative taken by the International Sociological Association to create an online database with "state-of-the-art" review articles in the social sciences. All entries in Sociopedia.isa are subjected to a rigorous double blind peer review procedure. Entries can be submitted by the author or commissioned by the Editors.

The former and the new RCSL Presidents asked Reza Banakar to write the first Sociopedia.isa entry on "Sociology of Law" on behalf of the RCSL.

Reza's entry emphasises the interplay of socio-legal method and theory and accounts for the development of socio-legal research from early industrialisation to contemporary post- or late moderne conditions.

Detailed informations regarding Sociopedia.isa can be obtained at: : <http://www.isa-sociology.org/contr-sociopedia-isa.htm>

## MASTER IN SOCIOLOGY OF LAW AT ONATI- IISL CALL 2011/12 and 2012/13

As is well-known, the Onati International Institute for the Sociology runs a Sociology of Law Master of Arts degree (60 ECTS) accredited by the Università degli Studi di Milano and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). This MA conforms to the standards agreed in the EU Bologna Process and the Onati IISL is recognised as a foundation for higher research degrees (PhD) by universities all over the world. The degree awards 60 ECTS postgraduate credits.

The courses are taught in Oñati from September to March by visiting professors who are leading specialists on each topic (40 ECTS credits). The degree is completed by an independent research project supervised by a specialist in socio-legal studies, culminating in the writing of a dissertation submitted in September (20 ECTS credits).

The Master is now entering in its 22<sup>st</sup> year of activity. Significantly, previous graduates are now among leading scholars or practitioners in their field.

### Master 2010/11:

The Master 2010/11 gathered about 20 students from 14 countries (Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Italia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Sierra Leone, Spain), who will stay in Oñati till the beginning of April 2011.

### Master 2011/12:

The courses for the 2011/12 Master's Programme will be:

Theories and Approaches to the Sociology of Law  
Socio-Legal Research Theory and Practice: Qualitative Methods  
Socio-Legal Research Theory and Practice: Quantitative Methods  
Comparative Legal Cultures & Non-Western Law in a Comparative Framework  
Socio-Legal Approaches to Rights  
The Sociology of Litigation and Adjudication  
Comparative & International Criminology  
Law in Global Governance  
Legal Professions  
Law and Economic Regulation  
New Issues in Socio-Legal Studies  
Anthropology of Law & Legal Pluralism

The Deadline to receive applications for the 2012/13 Master's Programme is February 2012.

### Information & Application Forms

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**ICSSR ROUND TABLE  
SOCIO-LEGAL DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION  
AND MODERNITY**

**(Governmentality and Law)**

**ICSSR, New Delhi, India, January 5-6, 2011**

The Round Table on "Socio-legal dimensions of migration and modernity", organised by our RC SL colleague Devanayk Sundaram at ICSSR in New Delhi, aims to enlighten the many ways in which socio-legal and governmental construction of migration in current societies not only implies a rising "subjectivation" of both individual and groups, but reflects the diverse "modernity" of social, legal and economic structures also. As these trends occur at local, national and international interconnected levels by either restricting or facilitating certain claims, interests and living conditions, the need for a scientific understanding of the issues involved is now driving towards a critical appraisal of official law-policy-making and traditional conceptualizations.

The participation of a number of re-known Indian scholars from different Indian Universities and the attendance of Susana Novik from UBA, Argentina, are confirmed.

**JOINT RC SL-IISL LOCAL JUSTICE PROJECT**

**IISL Board Meeting, March 2011**

During the last two IISL Governing Board Meetings, the President of the IISL, Josè Manuel Finez Raton, who sadly died last October, officially proposed to both RC SL and IISL to jointly promote a research project on the Basque Country Justice system. The aim that Josè Manuel Finez Raton envisaged was two-fold: on the one hand, to gather analytical insights and empirical evidences about the actual functioning of the Basque Justice system in order to help the Basque Government in its law-policy making about the matters involved; on the other hand, to reinforce accordingly the social image, the institutional performance and the scientific concern of the IISL within the Basque community. The proposal was warmly welcome by all Board members. So much it has been so that a short, preliminary, grid for a prospective research agenda was made last April by Vittorio Olgiati and then sent via mail by Ulrike Shultz to other colleagues. Both the RC SL and the IISL sincerely hope to be able to honour the memory of the IISL President, Josè Manuel Finez Raton, by heralding their commitment to comply with his presidential will.

For the purpose a meeting will be scheduled on the occasion of the IISL Governing Board in March 2011.

**International Conference on  
New Corporate Responsibility & Private  
Property  
Workers' Rights & Cooperative Ownership  
Oñati IISL 6-8 July 2011**

The Conference is jointly organised by the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, the University of Mondragón Faculty of Business and the University of the Basque Country.

A full description of the themes is available at [www.iisj.es](http://www.iisj.es). Topics could include

- **Economy, Corporations and Labour:**
- **Corporate Governance and Accountability:**
- **Cooperatives and the Social Economy:**
- **Public-Private Partnerships**
- **Remutualisation of Banking and Finance**
- **Moral Economy and Entrepreneurship**

Proposals and/or requests about participation should be sent to [malen@iisj.es](mailto:malen@iisj.es) (in charge of the website) and Luigi Cominelli: [Luigi.Cominelli@unimi.it](mailto:Luigi.Cominelli@unimi.it)

**World Consortium on Law and Society  
in progress**

The idea to set up a Consortium on Law and Society gathering any sort of socio-legal associations or organizations in the World was firstly expressed in Berlin in 2007. In the course the years, a WCLS Steering Committee had various meetings. The last one was held in May 2010 in Chicago on the occasion of the LSA Association meeting. These meetings concerned the practical elements necessary to set up the Consortium, including those regarding the creation of a website, organizational structure, financial matters and a possible country in which to register the organization.

Three working groups created in 2008 offered informative materials for debate about (i) the creation of a website on the part of Onati IISL structures; (ii) the organization and governance of the Consortium, (iii) the drafting of a Statute.

At present the first issue – the development of the website - is in progress in spite of financial burdens. In turn, the second issue – the statutory format – is still under discussion and officially not defined yet.

The problem about the third issue, the Statute, are basically about (i) the nature of the institutional membership, (ii) the type and degree of the financial support required by its members, (iii) the kind and aim of activities and their organizational frameworks.

Contacts are currently running between the WCLS Steering Committees delegates and all local, national and international socio-legal associations and

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institutions potentially interested in the initiative in order to ascertain their interest in the affiliation.

In this respect, one of the most serious point that these association and institutions have to deal with is about the willingness to contribute to the WCSL functioning with part of funds provided to them by the annual fees of their own members.

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### 2012 ISA WORD FORUM

On September 5th-8th, 2008, the International Sociological Association held in Barcelona its first ISA WORLD FORUM, as an Interim congressual event between the ordinary term of four years of traditional ISA WORLD Congresses. In that occasion Vittorio Olgiati was nominated "ad hoc" Coordinator for RCSL participation. The theme that the Coordinator sorted out for the purpose was "Re-thinking Legal Justice": a topic that raised a great interest. Indeed, in spite of the claim, made by a German and an English colleague, that the adjectivation "legal" applied to "Justice" was superflous. a total of 7 Sessions were arranged with 6 paper's presenters each, plus a special speech made by Lawrence Friedman in a general interdisciplinary ISA Session. Interestingly most papers dealt with the clash between "legal" and "social" justice and half of the presenters where not RCSL members yet. Given such a positive experience, the RCSL will certainly take part in next ISA WORLD FORUM that will occur in 2012. The Forum location and the time-table have not been defined yet.

Within 2011 a RCSL Coordinator will be nominated and a new stimulating theme will be sorted out.

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### 2012 RCSL- LSA JOINT CONGRESS HONOLULU, USA

During the Law & Society Association annual Congress held in Chicago in May 2010, a delegation of RCSL members composed by Anne Boigeol, Ulrike Schultz and Vittorio Olgiati were invited, together with a number of other colleagues representing almost all national socio-legal associations in the world, to take part in the first gathering of the Steering Programme Committee for the Joint RCSL - LSA Congress that will be held in 2012 in Honolulu. The work of the Committee, chaired by Barbara Ygnvesson and David Engels, was extremely exciting due to the fact that a basic aim of the Honolulu Congress is to improve scientific contacts and cultural exchanges between East and West along both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

In the course of the forthcoming 2011 LSA Congress that will take place in San Francisco the Honolulu Steering Committee is expected to finalise the keywords system of the Honolulu Programme

### 2012 RCSL JUBILEE CONFERENCE University of Warsaw WARSAW

The year 2012 is an extraordinary date for the international community of socio-legal scholars: the 50th Anniversary of the ISA-RCSL foundation. To celebrate the event a special Conference will be held at the University of Warsaw, thanks to the meritorious support of Chair of Sociology and Anthropology of Law, Jacek Kurczewski who kindly accepted the RCSL proposal to honour the Father Founder of RCSL, Adam Podgorecki, in his own Country and in his own University.

Indeed, Podgorecki's idea to create an international network of socio-legal scholars raised during a conversation held with William M. Evan in Philadelphia in 1960. The idea was then supported by other internationally re-known socio-legal scholars, In 1962, at the ISA World Congress held in Washington DC, the RCSL was officially established and Renato Treves was elected first RCSL President.

Renato Treves died twenty years ago, in 1992. The Celebration of the 2012 RCSL Jubilee will be therefore an homage to his memory also.

The programme of the Conference is still progress. More informations will be provided in a very short while.

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### 2013 RCSL- IEP Sciences. Politiques Joint Congress TOULOUSE, FRANCE

In 2009, during the RCSL-IISL Joint Conference held in Onati to celebrate the XX Anniversary of the Onati IISL, some colleagues talked informally about the possibility to plan a RCSL Meeting in France. This year, thanks to the initiative of André Jean Arnaud and Wanda Cappellier, contacts have been established between the new RCSL President and official representatives of the Institute of Political Sciences of the University of Toulouse, the Director of the Institute, Prof. Philippe Raimbault, and the General Secretary, madam Joelle Stoenesco. As a result, it is now possible to announce the proposal of the IEP-Scieces Politiques to host a Joint RCSL – IEP Congress in Toulouse in 2013, For the purpose an Organising Committee composed by representative of RCSL, IEP and "Droit et Société" will be set up. The general theme will be about the future of socio-legal studies and the event will be around the beginning of September.

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### 2014 ISA XVIII WORLD CONGRESS YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Last July in Gothenburg the International Sociological Association officially announced that the XVIII ISA World Congress will be held in Yokohama, Japan, from 13th to 19th July 2014.

The RCSL as a whole is particularly pleased about this choice not only because of the relevance of Japanese sociological scholarship within the worldwide community, but also because of the long lasting, strict and fruitful, collaboration between the RCSL and the Japanese Socio-legal Association, currently chaired by our colleague Masayuki Murayama. We hope to be able to honour together the legacy of a pioneer of sociology of law such as Masaji Chiba and further develop our common endeavours.

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### **NEXT RCSL NEWSLETTER**

The next issue of the RCSL NEWSLETTER will be edited in Spring 2011. Any relevant news and/or advertises specifically related to relevant socio-legal congressual events, research projects, workshops, academic debates, learning or teaching institutional or.

### **2015 JOINT RCSL- ABraSD CONGRESS PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL**

activity, publications, scientific awards, etc. are welcome. The deadline to submit informations is March 1st, 2011.

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As one can read in this Newsletter, on November 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the First National Congress of the Brazilian Association of Researchers in Sociology of Law (Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores em Sociologia do Direito, ABraSD) has been celebrated in Niterói (Rio de Janeiro).

In the course of the Congress Pierre Giubentif, David Nelken and Vittorio Olgiati, as RCSL representatives, established a good mutual understanding with Brazilian colleagues about the opportunity to further promote studies, research projects and even learning in the various disciplinary areas of sociology of law in Latin America. The elected President of ABraSD, Germano Schwartz, has been, therefore, explicit about the willingness and possibility to organize a Joint RCSL-ABraSD Congress in the nearest future in Brazil. Given the official commitments that the RCSL has to comply within the next years (see above) the Joint Congress has been scheduled for 2015,

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