

**AN INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON LEGAL PLURALISM**  
**17-20 August 2018**  
**Ottawa, Canada**

**Overview**

From 17-20 August 2018 the Commission on Legal Pluralism in collaboration with the University of Ottawa Chair on Legal Diversity and Indigenous Peoples and the Human Rights Research and Education Center, co-sponsored by Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, will organize a course on Legal Pluralism in Ottawa, Canada about theories, knowledge and methodologies of legal pluralism. The purpose of the 4-day course is to familiarize the participants with the current international debates and insights in socio-legal studies and legal pluralism and to offer a comparative perspective that allows them to rethink their own research and practical work.

Participation is limited to 25 persons to allow for maximum discussion. The participants will include academics and practitioners, e.g., NGO activists or government officials, who deal with issues related to legal pluralism, informal justice systems and social justice in their academic or professional work. As in past courses (held amongst others in Wellington (New Zealand), Accra (Ghana), Williamsburg (USA), Moscow (Russia), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Fredericton (Canada), Jakarta (Indonesia), Zurich (Switzerland), Cape Town (South Africa), Manchester (UK) and Mumbai (India)), during this intensive training, the participants will be given an opportunity to discuss their work and to build long-lasting intellectual connections with both other participants and the teachers consisting of leading scholars and practitioners in their fields, allowing participants to become part of a growing international network.

**Topics to be covered in the course include:**

- Theoretical and conceptual aspects of legal pluralism
- Dispute management and resolution
- Natural resources management
- Tribal / customary law
- Peace and conflict
- Gender
- The role of international development agencies in rule of law and peacebuilding
- Access to justice and legal reform
- Fieldwork methodology
- Emerging issues in legal pluralism

The course will include a half-day field trip and will be concluded with a participants' research forum.

## **Selection, Tuition, and Funding**

Prospective students should either be young scholars studying for a PhD or having just finished one, or more senior scholars who are relatively new to the field of legal pluralism, or practitioners whose work is directly related to one or more of the topics that will be covered in the course. Participants must demonstrate a level of proficiency in English that allows them to read and actively discuss relevant academic literature. Students will be selected based on their motivation to join the course.

The course fee is 250 CAD (200 USD). The participants will be responsible for the cost of their airfare, accommodation (affordable rooms are available in the student dorms, meals and local transportation. A limited number of tuition waivers will be awarded to participants who demonstrate extreme financial need. In allocation of tuition waivers, the priority will be given to students coming from low- and middle-income countries. Depending on pending grant applications, some of the participants may be provided free accommodation, local transportation and hospitality during the course.

## **Application, Contact and More Information**

Individuals interested in participating in the course are invited to apply **by November 1, 2017**. The application should include a cover letter, brief curriculum vitae and evidence of English proficiency. Applications should be emailed to Janine Ubink at [jubink@law.uci.edu](mailto:jubink@law.uci.edu). Decisions will be made by December 30, 2017.

The course will precede the International Conference of the Commission on Legal Pluralism organized in collaboration with the University of Ottawa on 22-24 August 2018. Course participants are in principle expected to also present a paper at the conference.

For more information on the Commission on Legal Pluralism and its past courses and conferences please visit: <http://www.commission-on-legal-pluralism.com>.