



Commission  
on Legal  
Pluralism



Centre  
de recherche  
et d'enseignement  
sur les droits  
de la personne



Human Rights  
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CALL FOR PANELS - deadline extended to 31 October 2017

## **Citizenship, Legal Pluralism and Governance in the Age of Globalization**

International conference of 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 Centre, co-sponsored by Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

**August 22-24, 2018, Ottawa, Canada**

### Theme

Governance and Legal Pluralism, both analytical concepts, have made unprecedented "careers" in their respective discourse universes over the past four or five decades. On the most general level, both notions refer to the social phenomenon of pluralisation that draws (growing) attention to non-state actors in the overlapping fields of politics and law.

Both fields may still be considered as undergoing paradigmatic shifts from a predominant focus on state government and state law to awareness of pluralized modes of social and political ordering. Like governance, the concept of law is not by definition a unique criterion for the state but encompasses a plurality of multiple orders. Some legal orders rely on oral traditions, others on ritual arrangements or on the application of cases, while further orders are limited by (distinct) contracts or they rely on other forms of comprehensive codification. The same applies for governance. Interactive governance involves different public, semi-public and private actors, and should not be equated with "Good Governance" or other misleading discourse universes nourished by distinct political interests. The dissolution of the rule of law, modes of legal or involuntary privatization of state functions ("outsourcing") and the visible erosion of judicial systems may be read as forms of governance fragmentation; and/or as visible signs of the impact of globalisation and transnationalisation driven by powerful interests, that lurk behind such processes and lead to hitherto unknown layers of "new" law, "new" governance, and new forms of identity, belonging and citizenship. We currently witness, for instance, the formation of many extremely narrow containers of identity, expressed by marginalized and sometimes very violent groups and/or political opinion leaders who campaign in their countries by drawing on reminders of their glorified feudalistic past. The question of which people and groups are regarded as "insiders" and "outsiders", and the attribution of politically and legally conflicting roles such as "foreigners", "migrants", "refugees", "immigrants" and "welfare recipients" thus nowadays gain growing importance for local and national communities - and for matters of citizenship. Clientelism, ethnicity, racketeering and violent forms of nation-building return time and again to the political and legal agendas, be they related to access rules, climate change or issues of (violated) human or humanitarian rights. Gender is another burning issue, at the individual, the communal as well as at the national and (supra-)national level, especially when gender matters are collated with issues of biological or physical identity and combined with more or less open forms of racism.

The Commission on Legal Pluralism invites scholars and practitioners to present contemporary work on these and related themes at the 2018 Conference. The conference will also address established themes that continue to cause significant concern, such as conflicts and contestations over property, land and natural resources; governance; religion, culture, custom and ethnicity; state and non-state laws; gender; kinship; patriarchy; human rights; development aid and cooperation; as well as migration, mobility and transnationalism, while exploring how emerging and 'old' themes in the field of legal pluralism relate to each other in theory and practice.

It is hoped that the biannual conference will offer a dynamic and vibrant space for further expansion of perspectives in debating issues and challenges relating to legal pluralism. Hence you are welcome to propose panels and presentations that may not appear to be directly or indirectly linked to the aforementioned themes.

We request interested parties to submit proposals for panels in the 2018 Ottawa conference. The panels may be 'populated' (including names of at least 3-4 presenters and titles of papers per panel) or 'empty' (without names of paper presenters). A proposal should include (a) title, (b) name of panel organizer, (c) email address of panel organizer, and (d) panel description of not more than 250 words. If the panel is populated, the proposal should also have (e) a list of presenters and – preferably the titles of their papers. Please send your paper proposals to [jubink@law.uci.edu](mailto:jubink@law.uci.edu) (for the attention of Janine Ubink) by no later than **October 31, 2017**. This call for PANELS will be followed by a call for individual PAPERS in November.

**People whose panel proposals were accepted for last year's cancelled meeting in Syracuse**, are kindly requested to inform us of their interest to participate with the same or an updated panel in Ottawa.