



Commission  
on Legal  
Pluralism



## CALL FOR PAPERS

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 Center, co-sponsored by Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

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

**Location:** University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

**Dates:** 22-24 August 2018

The 2018 international conference of the Commission on Legal Pluralism will focus on themes of citizenship, legal pluralism and governance in the age of globalization. The conference will pay particular attention to identity and self-governance, the emergence of non-state actors and the relationship between states and indigenous populations throughout these times of political upheaval, migration, and violent conflict.

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 globalization and transnationalization 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 papers 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.

**Proposed panels linked to the conference theme can be found in the attachment to this call for papers.** 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 also welcome to send paper proposals that may not appear to be directly or indirectly linked to the listed panels.**

Submissions should include (a) an abstract of no more than 250 words, (b) a title, (c) name(s), institutional affiliations(s), and email address(es) of author(s), and optionally (d) the panel in which authors prefer to present their paper. Please send your abstracts to [jubink@law.uci.edu](mailto:jubink@law.uci.edu) (for the attention of Professor Janine Ubink) no later than **January 31, 2018**.

#### **Young Scholar Best Paper Award**

Scholars who have received their doctoral degrees (or any other degree where relevant) no longer than six years before the conference date are eligible to apply for the Young Scholar Best Paper Award. The prize is awarded at every biannual conference and consists of a present and publication of the winning paper in the international, peer-reviewed journal, *Journal of Legal Pluralism*. For more information on the Young Scholar Best Paper Award please visit the CLP website at <http://commission-on-legal-pluralism.com/nl/young-scholars-award>.