

Sciences Po Law School 6th Graduate Conference

Conflicts in Law: Rethinking the Legal Order

Sciences Po Law School, Paris – 20 & 21 June 2017

Call for Submissions

The doctoral students of Sciences Po Law School welcome submissions from all disciplines for the Law School 6th Graduate Conference on the theme of Conflicts in Law, which will be held in Paris at Sciences Po Paris on 20 and 21 June 2017. This event will take place within and in coordination with the Sciences Po Law School *Intensive Doctoral Week*.

Law has long been associated with the ideas of order, coherence and social justice. Yet, legal experience is marked by various levels of repugnancy. This Conference aspires to build upon a critical reflection on the meanings, roles and purposes of conflicts in law. This topic is as diverse as the understanding of what law is and as complex as the circumstances in which law operates.

In France and in many other countries in the world, law is defined as a set of rules that aim at organising the society and thus at establishing and maintaining order. A legal order is further considered as an 'ordering' of law, which includes legal norms that exist for the sole purpose of avoiding or resolving conflicts of other legal norms. The former legal norms shall state the hierarchy of norms, rule the applicability of law in time and space, and manage conflict of laws and conflicts of jurisdiction.

However, the law-making process is riddled with conflicts. For lawyers, legal argument consists of conflicts and similarly the interpretation of law by judges is developed through conflicts and the description of law by legal scholars is compiled from conflicts. In sum, the conflicts at stake in law are not only conflicts of legal norms, but also of values, political stands, institutions, cultures, interests, perceptions, emotions, moralities, conflicts of egos, generations, and a plethora of other types of conflicts.

In addition, the globalisation of society has brought new conflicts into law since, notably,

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the definition of law can be seen as having changed with the former. In an era of globalisation, not only States and international institutions, but also private actors such as transnational corporations, international arbitrators, non-governmental organisations and domestic courts make rules. Hence, the world seems to be characterized by legal pluralism rather than by legal order(s), which makes global governance a whole new ordering to imagine and manage. Moreover, facts are considered to be informed and qualified by a variety of sectoral, transnational, legal rationalities. Thus, there is a competition among inter-state, intra-state and non-state normative regimes, which calls for a reflection upon the overlaps and collisions that may follow.

As such, the Graduate Conference falls within the ongoing various researches on whether and how law could be able to catch up with realities, thereby aligning with the *Law and Boundaries Project* of Sciences Po Law School. This project holds two dimensions that we wish to embrace. Firstly, the Conference is to reflect upon the themes of the project, i.e. questions pertaining to global governance, and the role of law in perpetuating, condoning, and creating inequalities on the global or transnational scale. Secondly, it is part of the great operation that consists of creating a transnational community of young scholars who would develop alternative ways of thinking and writing about law and who would help destabilizing the artificially constructed boundaries between disciplines and within the legal field.

Moreover, the conference will draw audiences of law, economics and philosophy, legal practitioners and policy makers. As a result, creating a cross-cultural cross-disciplinary, and critical approach to such issues.

In this context, submission proposals are welcome, which cover - but are not limited to - the following topics:

Generalities

- Conceptual Definitions about the Notion of Conflicts in Law
- Law and Interpretation
- Law and Globalization
- Law and Dispute Resolution
- Law and the Notion of (I)legality

Interdisciplinary

- Law and Linguistics
- Law and History, Anthropology, and Sociology

Legal Theories

- Law and Societal Constitutionalism
- Law and Transnational Legal Theory
- Law and Critical Legal Studies (Socio-political influences of adjudication and conflict resolution; Critical approach to legal resolution).
- Law and Decoloniality and Universalism

Fields of Law

- Law and Private International Law (Conflict of laws)
- Law and International Arbitration
- Law and Intellectual Property

Practicalities

The paper proposal (300-500 words) and a CV should be submitted to gradconf.law@sciencespo.fr by 28th February 2017. The submission may be in either English or French. Successful applicant will be notified via email by 20 March 2017.

Successful applicants will have to provide their paper by 28 April 2017.

The four best papers will be presented by their authors during panel discussions, whose accommodation expenses will be covered. Other Attendees are responsible for their own travel expenses and accommodation and should seek funding from their home institution or other bodies. There will be no registration fee. The School of Law will provide complimentary refreshment and lunch during the conference.

Panels will be held both in French and in English. The panels themes and definite programme of the Conference will be communicated after the selection of submissions.

Should you have any queries, feel free to reach us by gradconf.law@sciencespo.fr