

# International Journal for the Semiotics of Law

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# **International Journal for the Semiotics of Law**

## **Revue Internationale de Sémiotique Juridique**

**Volume 31 · Number 3 · September 2018**

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**Guest Editors: Alice Giannitrapani · Francesco Mangiapane**

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**Indexed/Abstracted** in *SCOPUS, Google Scholar, EBSCO, CSA, Academic OneFile, Bibliography of Linguistic Literature, CSA Environmental Sciences, Gale, International Bibliography of Book Reviews (IBR), International Bibliography of Periodical Literature (IBZ), Legal Journals Index, Linguistics Abstracts, OCLC, SCImago, Summon by ProQuest*

**Instructions for Authors** for *Int J Semiot Law* are available at [www.springer.com/11196](http://www.springer.com/11196)

The 20th International Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law (IRSL 2019)

23rd–25th May, 2019

Hosted by Instituto Jurídico da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Coimbra (UCILeR - University of Coimbra Institute for Legal Research) / Portugal

Theme: *The Limits of Law*

In a time of plurality and difference which is also, significantly, a time of ap problematic (if not *naïf*) *panjuridism*, the discussion of the limits of law is not a frequent or obvious explicit *topos*. On the one hand, the diagnosis of plurality and difference favours the conclusion-claim that «the sense of the expression the “law” is constructed internally, and separately, within the system of semantic values of each [semiotic] group» (B.F. Jackson) – which means arguing that only «the signifier» is common, not the «signified», as well as admitting an implacable diversity of interpretative communities (involving incommensurable cultural-civilizational, political, ethical and professional codes or canons). On the other hand, the celebration of *panjuridism*, successfully corroborated by the relentless emergence of ultra-specialized dogmatic fields (from health law to biolaw, from robotics law to geo-law), justifies a passive assimilation of hetero-referentially constructed interpretations of *social need*, reducing law to a mere conventional order (with contingently settled frontiers) or even to an ensemble of institutionally effective coercive resources — which in any case means depriving *juridicity* or *juridicalness* of any practical-cultural specific or intrinsic (non-contingent) sense claim. However, do our present circumstances condemn us to this complacent nominalism, preventing us from attributing any effective relevance to the problem of the limits of law? Even without departing from the “semio-narrative” ground (and its *external point of view*), it may be said that plurality and difference do not exclude a productive exploration of *inter-semiotic aspirations* (if not *inter-semiocity*) — relating differently contextualized claims of *juridicity* and paving the way for the reconstruction of plausible *arguments of continuity*. These arguments may, in turn, justify a return to the well-known questions on the *concept* and/or the *nature* of law (in the sense in which, in an *all or nothing approach*, Hart and Raz have taught us to understand this), and may also, conversely, lead to the reinvention of an *archetypal* or *aspirational* perspective (Fuller, Simmonds), in relation to which the reconstituted *features* of the autonomy and the limits of law do not represent characteristics but rather *guiding intentions* or constitutive *aspirations* or *promises* (if not *desiderata*), with reference to which past or present expressions and their institutional

instances should permanently be judged. Following this path in fact means acknowledging how the problem of *limits* becomes an indispensable thematic core whenever the reflexive agenda involves rethinking law's *autonomy* (or rethinking this autonomy beyond the possibilities of *legal formalism*), as an autonomy or claim to autonomy which should be seriously considered in terms of its cultural-civilizational specific (non-universal) base, as a decisive manifestation of European identity and European heritage (Castanheira Neves). It is precisely this critical-reflexive connection between issues of *sense* and *limits* (*aspirations and borders*) which, in terms of law, as well as considering the challenges of a *société post-juridique* (F. Ost), our roundtable aims to explore. This means discussing the growing weight of hetero-referential elements (invoking philosophy and economics, literary criticism and sociology, epistemology and ethics, politics, political morality and social engineering as plausible key arenas), which not only interfere (as contextual conditions) with juridical discursive practices but also *wound* these practices (and their autonomous intelligibility) by functionalizing them (diluting their specificity in a new practical holism), or at least condemning them to permanent «boundary disputes» (David Howarth). However, this discussion also leads directly to the consideration of specific (real, hypothetical and even fictionalized) case-exempla, including the so-called «tragic cases» (Atienza), which enable us to experience the limits of law's responsivity or even the impossibility of obtaining plausible correct legal answers. The roundtable will, as usual, favour a practical-cultural context open to multiple perspectives and involving the productive intertwining of juridical and non-juridical approaches.

Confirmed plenary speakers: François Ost (Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles), Manuel Atienza (Universidad de Alicante)

Abstracts of 300 words (max.) should be submitted by January 15th, 2019 to José Manuel Aroso Linhares (Organizer) ([jmarolinh@gmail.com](mailto:jmarolinh@gmail.com)) and Anne Wagner ([valwagnerfr@yahoo.com](mailto:valwagnerfr@yahoo.com)) with participation decisions made by January 30th, 2019. Selected papers will be invited for publication in a special issue of the International Journal for the Semiotics of Law (Springer: <http://www.springer.com/lawjournal11196>) or for inclusion in an edited volume.

<http://www.springer.com/law/journal/11196/PSE?detailsPage=societies>

# CALL FOR PAPERS

21<sup>st</sup> International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law & 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on Legal Translation and Interpreting and Comparative Legilinguistics (Legal Linguistics)

## GENOCIDE AND LAW – COMMUNICATING THROUGH VISUAL ARTS AND LANGUAGE

*Conference venue: 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June (Friday-Sunday) 2020 in Poznan, Poland*

*Conference website: [www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl](http://www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl)*

*Languages: Polish, English, French, Spanish, Russian and German*

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jerzy Bańczerowski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

Aleksandra Matulewska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

Anne Wagner, International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law, CRDP  
équipe René Demogue, Lille University, France.

The *Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University* together with the *International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law, CRDP – équipe René Demogue, Lille University (France)* will hold an international conference devoted to language and the law. Our aim is to provide a forum for discussion in these scientific fields where linguistic and legal interests converge, and to facilitate integration between linguists, computer scientists and lawyers from all around the world.

The main topic of the Conference will be

### GENOCIDE AND LAW – COMMUNICATING THROUGH VISUAL ARTS AND LANGUAGE

- Genocide and Music, Photography, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Movies and Documentaries
- Genocide and Flags, Badges, Markings, Colours
- Genocide and Literature
- Genocide and Commemorative stamps
- Narratives of Genocide: Pre-Genocide Language, Language of Genocide, After-Genocide Language, Propaganda and Ideology
- Genocide and Human Rights, Human Rights Organizations, International Tribunals, Other Genocide-related Organizations



- Genocide and Law, Discrimination, Misappropriation / Disappropriation, Private and National Property and Heritage, Evidence (Verbal and Visual),
- Genocide and Torture
- Genocide and Translation / Interpretation
- Genocide and National Remembrance
- Remembrance and Persecution
- Genocide, victimization and stereotypes and prejudice
- Genocide – forgiveness, remembrance, apology, shame and revenge
- Genocide in Social Media
- New territories, new geopolitical and geo-social issues and conflicts
- Genocide – forced migration, deportation, stateless people, small motherlands, identity deprivation
- Genocide and National Resistance, Demonstrations, Freedom, Personal Testimony, Fate of Children
- Justifying Genocide – Religion, Wealth, Exploitation, Social Gaps, Threat, Crime, Otherness, Exclusiveness – Inclusiveness, Foreignness, Philosophical Viewpoints, Political Viewpoints, Xenophobia.

But we also invite papers on the following topics:

#### **LEGAL TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING**

- (i) legal translation;
- (ii) legal interpreting;
- (iii) teaching legal translation and interpreting
- (iv) certified translators and interpreters in legal proceedings
- (v) mistranslation and misinterpreting in legal context

#### **LEGAL LANGUAGES AND LEGAL DISCOURSE**

- (i) legal linguistics
- (ii) history of legal language
- (iii) legal terminology
- (iv) legal genres
- (v) EU legal language
- (vi) analysis of legal discourse
- (vii) structure and semantics of statutes and other legal instruments;
- (viii) development of legal languages
- (ix) legal and linguistic interpretation of texts formulated in legal language
- (x) teaching legal language
- (xi) speech style in the courtroom
- (xii) comprehensibility of legal instruments
- (xiii) Plain Language Campaigns

- (xiv) linguistic aspects of cross-examination
- (xv) technicality in legal language

## **LAWS ON LANGUAGES**

- (i) language rights
- (ii) linguistic minorities and linguistic human rights
- (iii) language and disadvantage before the law

Abstracts should be sent by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2020** to ([lingua.legis@gmail.com](mailto:lingua.legis@gmail.com)) and Anne Wagner ([valwagnerfr@yahoo.com](mailto:valwagnerfr@yahoo.com))

Abstract acceptance notification: **10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

Submission of full papers: **30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

Presentation slots should not exceed 30 minutes (20 minutes long presentation plus 10 minutes for questions). Power Point presentations are invited. Papers from the conference will be published after positive reviews in a special issue of *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* (Springer: <http://www.springer.com/lawjournal11196>) and in an edited volume.

**Further information is available online:** [www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl](http://www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl)

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## Call for Papers

Journal Website: <http://www.springer.com/law/journal/11196>

Guest editors: Mate Paksy, Edina Vinnai

The guest editors for the International Journal for the Semiotics of Law invite scholars to submit to Special Issue: *Hungarian Language and Law: Developing a Grammar for Social Inclusion, a Vocabulary for Political Emancipation*.

The so-called 'law and language' movement has attracted a great deal of attention from academic lawyers in Hungary since a while ago. In their papers, a good number of scholars have been elaborating literature overviews, assessing arguments known from text books or sketching the putative or real influence of this or that popular social scientist. Studies purported to draw out general conclusions from empirically well-founded case studies are rare. In order to fill this important gap now we are providing interdisciplinary scholars with a unique opportunity to publish their findings gained from the analysis of the Hungarian legal discourse using empirical methodology. We describe 'empirical' any sufficiently coherent fact-based research reflecting the language of legal discourse. This methodological feature may be manifested through a paper classified usually as 'law and language' or legal semiotics, legal history or comparative law, sociology and anthropology of law. Moreover we are convinced that main challenge today in law and language as a critical social science is to assess empirically cases when vulnerable people are participating in legal discourses; they are the ones who are real shortage of a new grammar attempting at a better social inclusion, and a new vocabulary for a more extended political emancipation.

This special issue invites contributions that address some of the questions listed below with a special focus on ethnic, sexual, religious and other minority members belonging to Hungarian linguistic communities, particularly if they don't live in the 'mainland' Hungary but elsewhere in the world. In selecting contributors, priority will be given to those who will fulfil the listed methodological requirements. Independent scholars demonstrating proficiency in Hungarian language but not belonging to the mainland Hungarian academic circles are especially encouraged to send proposals. Submissions on the following topics are particularly welcome:

- **An Early Attempt to Develop a Multicultural Law: Assessing the Statute on Nationalities (1868)**
- **Codification as Socio-linguistic Phenomenon in Hungary: Between Paternalism and Libertarianism**
- **Lost in Transition because Lost in Translation: Transplanting Vague Western Legal Concepts into Hungarian Public Law**
- **Linguistic Representations of Vulnerability: Children, Women, Sexual Minorities, Disabled and Elderly People**
- **Social Inclusion through Law and Language: How to Fight against Discrimination if a Member of the Roma Population Involved in Legal Adjudication?**
- **Legacies in Competition: Turkish, German, Russian and Anglo-Saxon influences on Hungarian Legal Language (in one specific law-field)**
- **Multimodality in Hungarian Law: Transfer between Written and Spoken Media in Legal Contexts**

Submission instructions

Please email a brief, 600-700 word abstract as attached pdf or doc files to [HUNLawLang@uni-miskolc.hu](mailto:HUNLawLang@uni-miskolc.hu). Abstracts should be suitable for anonymous review. The email's body must include the author's name, title of the paper, and contact information. The submission deadline is June 30, 2018. Decisions can be expected by July 31, 2018.



Università degli Studi di Torino



**CIRCe**  
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Interdipartimentale  
di Ricerca  
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Università di Torino

IRSL 2019, University of Torino  
19-20 September 2019

Hosted by the University of Torino, LabOnt, Circe

THE REASONABLE INTERPRETER  
*Perspectives on legal and non legal semiotics*

Legal normativity is nowadays characterized by many forms. Multi-level governance amplifies this attitude: there are different judges, different courts, and many codes (aesthetic, digital, etc) can now be recalled as valid arguments in legal reasoning.

The 2019 Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law addresses this plural and many-sided attitude of legal discourse from the perspective of the interpreter of the legal text. What is the role of reasonableness in legal hermeneutics today?

Against this background, the conference will address issues such as: can algorithms be considered as the *new topoi* of legal science? How are legal semiotics and legal rhetorics interconnected? Is there still room for pathos and ethos within a reasoning that makes reference to big data? Therefore, and, most importantly: how are legal and non-legal semiotics connected today? And can this relationship be traced back to antiquity?

Abstracts of 300 words (max.) should be submitted by March 28th, 2019 to Angela Condello (Organizer) ([angelacondello@gmail.com](mailto:angelacondello@gmail.com)), Paolo Heritier (Organizer) ([paolo.heritier@unito.it](mailto:paolo.heritier@unito.it)), Massimo Leone (Organizer) ([massimo.leone@unito.it](mailto:massimo.leone@unito.it)), Jenny Ponzio (Organizer) ([jenny.cuk@hotmail.it](mailto:jenny.cuk@hotmail.it)), and Anne Wagner (President of IRSL) ([valwagnerfr@yahoo.com](mailto:valwagnerfr@yahoo.com)) with participation decisions made by April 15th, 2019.

Selected papers will be invited for publication in a special issue of the International Journal for the Semiotics of Law (Springer: <http://www.springer.com/lawjournal11196>) or for inclusion in an edited volume.