



CALL FOR PAPERS

Changing Faces in Legal Thinking: Revisiting Legal Methodologies

In his seminal article, "The Path of Law," Oliver Wendell Holmes appealed to legal scholars to move beyond classical doctrinal legal analysis. As the current landscape reflects, Holmes' call for empirical, inductive and statistical modes of analysis has been answered enthusiastically by scholars in and outside of legal academia. A multidisciplinary approach to law is now the norm. Legal scholars regularly incorporate the analytical insights and methodological tools of anthropologists, political scientists, economists, philosophers, linguists, sociologists, and the list goes on.

Legal scholarship has benefited from this methodological richness. This conference aims to further a more refined and sophisticated understanding of the use of interdisciplinary methodological tools. We can now critically reflect on the limitations, shortcomings, and challenges of employing interdisciplinary methodologies in the analysis of law. To that end, this conference hopes to stimulate a discussion that will reevaluate and refine our methodological techniques, addressing questions such as are there certain research methods that are privileged, and if so why? What sources do we rely on for our data? Are there sources and voices that are being excluded? How do our methods impact on and shape our research agendas?

We seek papers that combine substantive legal scholarship with a clear use of methodological tools. To be clear, we are not exclusively seeking papers that directly or explicitly analyze methodology, but we expect authors to be able to explain the methodological approach used in their papers, critically reflect on the choices made, and elaborate on how such methodological commitments have influenced some of the substantive points made.

We invite graduate students, particularly from JSD, SJD, and PhD programs, to submit papers in all areas of legal scholarship, but are most interested in research in the following broad topics:

- **Law and Economy:** monetary politics, debt, finance, international financial institutions, and the borders of sovereignty.
- **Law, Science and Technology:** intellectual property, Internet regulation, and bio-ethics.
- **Law and the Natural Environment:** land policies, natural resources, sustainability, and environmental law.
- **Law and the Person:** citizenship, borders, human mobility, migration, and human rights.
- **Law and Development:** Arab Spring, law and social change, rule of law promotion, NGOs, and development assistance.
- **Law and ADR:** dispute resolution institutions, international adjudication and legal reform.

Please send a 250-500 word abstract describing the paper you would like to present. Submissions should be sent electronically to:

gradconference@lawschool.cornell.edu

The deadline for submissions is January 6, 2012. Papers selected for presentation will be announced in mid-February.

Final papers will be due no later than March 12, 2012.

Cornell Law School is a major research center and leader in legal education, encouraging collaboration and achievement in international and multidisciplinary studies. Conference papers may be published electronically through Cornell Law School's digital repository, *Scholarship@Cornell Law*. A service of the Cornell Law Library, *Scholarship@Cornell Law* provides open, global access to the scholarship of Cornell Law School faculty, students, and visiting scholars.

Visit: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu>

We look forward to your submissions and participation in the conference,

The Cornell Law School Inter-University Graduate Conference Organizing Committee

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