

9th CORNELL LAW SCHOOL Inter-University Graduate Conference

APRIL 12 - 13, 2013



Cornell University
Law School

Lawyers in the Best Sense

CALL FOR PAPERS

Crossroads: When Public meets [in] Private Circles to Discuss Norms and Processes

Cornell Law School Inter-University Graduate Conference continues from where it left off in 2012. Last year, we investigated the benefits and shortcomings of the tools borrowed from other disciplines to promote a conscious reflection of our academic work. Now, a next step would be to debate whether we have been absorbed by the interdisciplinary approach or rather whether we have assimilated it into legal scholarship.

After Holmes appealed to lawyers to move beyond classical formal analysis, lawyers availed themselves of insights from other disciplines and American legal scholarship took a different path. Arguably, there has been some benefit from this methodological richness. However, Holmes may have had a more subtle point, namely that when lawyers study law they do not study “a mystery but a well known profession”. This well-established epistemology of law teaching and practice, namely the case method at law schools and “what lawyers do in their offices” still looks remarkably similar to the pre-Holmesean landscape. Today, legal researchers might face an identity crisis of sorts - estranged from law as a distinct discipline, many have turned to cognitive sciences in order to explain their home discipline. Thus, “the impoverishment of legal theory”, as some critics have termed it, calls to mind the hunger and thirst of Tantalus, standing in a pool of water beneath a fruit tree in Hades.

Our focus this year will be an introspective look at law in order to discern the already complicated descriptive and prescriptive elements in its formation. Hence we hope to stimulate discussion among graduate students for possible avenues of compromise between law and morals, public and private, research and practice, the center and the edges, and so on. We look for meeting points, or CROSSROADS, where these might come together and resolve the tensions, or otherwise – if so or necessary -- to promote them.

We invite conference papers from graduate students (we particularly welcome submissions from JSDs, SJDs, and PhDs) involved in legal scholarship and we are interested in those papers that have the ambition of resolving certain theoretical or practical conflicts or tensions. Under this rubric, the conference is open to all contributions, but the following broad topics articulate some of the primary themes of interest:

- Law and morals
- Economic analysis of law or Laws of economics?
- Lawyering in “Getting the deal through”
- Legal profession versus legal education
- Theory and practice: A never-ending conflict?
- The public live of private law and vice versa
- Methodology at the service of what?
- From domestic law and international law to global law

Please send a description of the paper you would like to present, including a 250-500 word abstract. Submissions should be sent to the following email address:

law.gradconference@cornell.edu

Submissions must be received by January 18 for consideration by the conference committee. The papers selected for presentation will be announced in early February.

Final papers will be due by no later than March 15 and will be circulated to conference presenters through Dropbox.

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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