

CALL FOR PAPERS

Law and Development Research Conference

A View from the Global South

University of Antwerp, 20 - 22 September 2017

The [*Law and Development Research Conference: A View from the Global South*](#), will serve as a follow-up to the European Law and Development Conference held in 2016 in Ostend. The 2016 conference was organized as a meeting of mainly European scholars in order to gather Western perspectives on the field of Law and Development. In 2017, the Law and Development Research Conference will focus on perspectives from the Global South, and thus actively promote the participation of scholars from the Global South. It will seek to create synergies with the Law and Development Research Group from the University of Antwerp, the University of Warwick, the Van Vollenhoven Institute of the University of Leiden, the Institute for Human Rights at the Åbo Akademi University, the Freie Universität Berlin and the Flemish Interuniversity Research Network on Law and Development. This will be the first in a series of three conferences on law and development, organized by the consortium of European universities: in Antwerp (2017), Leiden (2018) and Berlin (2019).

Recent economic and financial crises, the emergence of powerful “developing” economies, as well as massive migration waves, have changed the traditional paradigms of Law and Development. As a result, the traditional focus – which has been geographically circumscribed – should be re-formulated to prioritize the study of the needs of vulnerable groups. This conference is a first attempt to establish a dialogue between the North and the South around three topics: sustainable development, gender/empowerment of vulnerable groups, and the need to use innovation and technology transfer for the benefit of vulnerable groups.

The conference will pursue three main objectives:

- First, to create synergies and assess undetected thematic connections between research done in different disciplines and regions about marginalized communities from a Law and Development perspective;
- Second, to organize an exchange of expertise between the South and the North, as well as among scholars from the global South, and to identify comparative and useful cases to advance in the formulation of rules that will promote the protection and development of vulnerable groups;
- Third, in the long term, this conference seeks to establish a shared research agenda and common objectives amongst the different partner institutions.

Methodology

In order to promote active participation and to advance the establishment of a new common agenda, the conference will be organized around three workshops. In each workshop, we will appoint one coordinator/rapporteur, and one chair, who will be in charge of addressing and summarizing the key questions of the sessions.

Invited/accepted participants will be asked to send a short paper (maximum 3500 words) on some of the proposed topics, and each of them will have 5 minutes to present the main points of his/her position. This will be followed by an open discussion, which will serve as a first step to building a common agenda over the coming years.

The maximum number of active participants (paper presenters) per workshop is 12, of which 4 should be from the Global South.

Workshops

Considering that our main concerns are sustainable development and vulnerable groups, the Sustainable Development Goals will be used as a thematic framework for the workshops. The proposed topics, to be analysed from a Law and Development perspective, and preferably adopting an interdisciplinary approach, are as follows:

Workshop 1: Sustainable development

This concept includes a variety of issues and concerns. We welcome papers focused on the following topics:

- Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, with a focus on vulnerable groups.
- Accountability of industries in relation to the right to water and to a healthy environment: the role of international cooperation and of local community participation.
- Water-related disasters and the protection of vulnerable groups from a law and development perspective.
- Urban sustainable development: universal access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services; upgrading of slums; strengthening national and regional development planning; climate change and resilience to disasters: focus on women and on local and marginalized communities.

Workshop 2: Regulation of Innovation and empowerment of local communities through digitalization

- Technology transfer: From North-South to South-South trade, investment and cooperation with special reference to ICT (cell phones, computers).
- Intellectual property rights and new trade and investment arrangements; institutions and partnerships among countries in the South (e.g. supply of generics; infrastructure and clean energy technology).
- Inclusive, responsible and sustainable industrialization (global value chains with a high component of technology transfer).
- (Right to) access to information and communications technology: Universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries.
- Digitalization benefits and human rights: social inclusion (by connecting people), and territorial control (conflict mapping).

- Digitalization risks for human rights: control, inequality, concentration and transnational crime.

Workshop 3: Gender/empowerment of vulnerable groups

- Discriminatory laws, policies and practices (e.g. unpaid care and domestic work; responsibility within the household and the family)
- Harmful practices: child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making (e.g. ensure enhanced representation and voice).
- Equal rights to economic resources, access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources
- (Right to) access to information and communications technology
- Policies and legislation for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship from a law and development perspective
- Intergenerational responsibility: greater control over household resources by women and improvement of the right to education of women

Submission information

You are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 400 words to hrdevdays@uantwerpen.be

Deadline for abstracts	30 April 2017
Abstracts will be selected by:	31 May 2017
Papers to be submitted by:	30 August 2017

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available for participants **who are nationals of - and reside in** - the following countries:

- **Africa:** *Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe.*
- **Asia:** *Cambodia, Indonesia, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Vietnam.*
- **Latin America:** *Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru*

Please specify whether you want to apply for a scholarship at the time of submitting your abstract.

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