



Institut suisse de droit comparé
Schweizerisches Institut für Rechtsvergleichung
Istituto svizzero di diritto comparato
Swiss Institute of Comparative Law

Unil
UNIL | Université de Lausanne

11 & 12 May 2023
Lausanne & Online (Zoom)

Drawing Legal Pictures: The Worldview and its Implication for the Purpose and Method of Comparative Law

Every discipline perceives and constructs the world in its own way: it conceptualizes and structures an aspect or a fragment of (perceived) reality and develops a research program and method(s) that are apt to develop this construction process having in mind a specific vision or mission. One can call such disciplinary perception and construction a “special world picture” of a discipline. Depending on different modes of scientific rationality, this world picture can be seen as the object, subject, or aim of a scientific discipline. In any case, even if not explicitly stated, this construction is a core question of a discipline. In law, various (sub)disciplines such as legal philosophy, legal theory and comparative law have developed different (albeit often mutually influenced) interpretations of the world. One could even argue that there has been competition between the (sub)disciplines for the right or the possibility to define a world picture generally valid for discourse about law.

This symposium intends to create an awareness of the fundamental experience and potential that comparative law possesses when constructing the legal; that is, when conceptualizing the “legal”. Relying on its rich experience, comparative law is well positioned to take into account current developments in the field when (re-)defining its world picture, in order to conceptualize perceptions of law in a truly global perspective. The symposium invites its participants to discuss the dialectics of the Individual/unit (national and/or other legal systems), the Particular/common and the (in)existence of the General/global in the legal world as the material basis of a comparative law world picture.



Koretsky Institute of State and Law,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine



THE JOURNAL OF
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Schweizerische Vereinigung für Internationales Recht
Société suisse de droit international

Thursday, May 11th

09.00

Welcome Adresses

Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law

Oleksiy Kresin, Ukrainian Association of Comparative Law

William Butler, Penn State Dickinson Law

Andrea Bonomi, University of Lausanne

Oleksandr Skrypniuk, Koretskiy Institute of State and Law **(Zoom)**

Andreas Ziegler, The Swiss Society of International Law

9:30

Introductory discussion: The Concept of the World Picture and Alternative Philosophical Concepts. The Origins of Comparative Law and the Evolution of a Comparative Legal World Picture

Chair: Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law

- **The concept of a legal world picture**
Mehman A. Damirli, Near East University (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) **(Zoom)**
- **The concept of a scientific world picture and the genesis of the world picture of comparative law**
Oleksiy Kresin, University of Lausanne / Koretsky Institute of State and Law, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

10:30

Coffee break

11.00

Panel 1: Considering the Individual Unit of Law: National Legal Systems Encounter Old and New Challenges

Chair : Oleksiy Kresin, Ukrainian Association of Comparative Law

- **National legal systems in the context of comparative law**
Akmal Saidov, National Center of Human Rights of Uzbekistan **(Zoom)**
- **The concept of national legal system: genesis, evolution and interaction with non-national legal orders**
Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law
- **(Units of) Comparison beyond National Law**
Alexandra Mercescu, West University of Timisoara
- **National legal systems in conditions of transnationalism**
Alexey Egorov, Belarus State Economics University **(Zoom)**

12:45

Lunch Break

14.00

Panel 2: Constructing the Particular: Legal Families, Cultures, Traditions

Chair: Andrea Bonomi, University of Lausanne

- **'Legal Families' and the Colonial History of 'Comparative Law'**
Helge Dedek, McGill University
- **Impact of Religions on the Particular in Law Formation and Classifications of Legal Systems (with special reference to Islamic law)**
Hashmatulla Behruz, National University "Odessa Law Academy"
- **Politics and the Classification of Religious Legal Systems: The Case of Hindu and Jewish Law in the Early 20th Century**
Assaf Likhovski, Tel Aviv University **(Zoom)**
- **Classifying Legal Families, Cultures and Traditions. An African Perspective**
Salvatore Mancuso, University of Palermo, Xiangtan University, Somali National University

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **Panel 3: Imagining the General while Forming the Common: Ways and Forms of Global Law**

- **Universality and Non-Universality in International Law: Some Comparative Reflections and Implications**
William Butler, *Penn State Dickinson Law*
- **Global Law: Boundaries**
Leone Niglia, *University of Rome Sapienza*

Friday, May 12th
Concluding Discussions

9:00 **Inside Others, on the Margin, in the Centre? Teaching and Doing Comparative Law Round Table Discussion, with Introductory Presentations**

- **Could Comparative Law Become a Starting Point and the Axis of Legal Education (in Romania)?**
Raluca Bercea, *West University of Timisoara*
- **In the Center of the Margin: Teaching and doing Comparative Law in the Caribbean**
Asya Ostroukh, *University of Lausanne/Cave Hill Campus University of the West Indies*
- **Comparative Law and Sociology of Law**
Michelle Cottier, *University of Geneva*
- **'Teaching' vs 'Doing' Comparative Law? Legal Comparison as a 'Single-Track' Enterprise**
Catherine Valcke, *Toronto University*

10:30 **Coffee Break**

11:00 **The Legal World Picture and Methods in Comparative Law. Round Table Discussion, with Introductory Presentations**

Chair: William Butler, Penn State Dickinson Law

- **Jaakko Husa**, *University of Helsinki*
- **Geoffrey Samuel**, *Kent Law School*
- **Franz Werro**, *University of Fribourg / Georgetown University Law Center*

Free event but registration mandatory

Information & Registration: marie.papeil@isdc-dfjp.unil.ch

The Program may be subject to amendments. Updates will be published here: [Next events \(isdc.ch\)](https://www.isdc.ch)