



# Legal Pluralism as Legal Culture

A Symposium Organized  
by  
The Doctoral Programme  
**Legal Cultures in Transnational World & Understanding Legal and Institutional  
Pluralism Research Project**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
University of Lapland  
Rovaniemi, Finland

Different legal systems interact and also overlap with each other, thus imperatively causing a state of legal plurality. This phenomenon has become so common that legal pluralism is an integral part of our legal culture. Here, *legal culture* is understood as temporary paradigms in law and legal systems as opposed to the comparative usage of the term referring to differences between legal families or traditions. In this sense *legal pluralism* is an inherent feature of all legal systems and therefore also legal culture.

Legal scholars have started to observe expressions of legal pluralism within their respective fields of study: legal pluralism has been acknowledged both as a problem as well as a possible solution to current problems in private law regulation; post-national constitutional study recognises legal pluralism as a prevailing fact, but also draws from it as source for theory building; our legal language in itself and also the situations in which we operate it has become diversified because of legal pluralism; political scientists use concepts such as multi-level governance to theorise inter-state relations, that from a legal scholars normative perspective seem as expressions of legal pluralism.

The purpose of this symposium is to explore various manifestations of legal pluralism as a specifically cultural element of law. Law is to be taken in its broadest meaning to encompass the content and form of norms (written or unwritten), adjudication of law or other effects the law might have, and also the creation of law and the institutions involved in this process (official or unofficial). Our hypothesis of legal culture as temporary paradigms in law is built around the understanding that all legal systems contain intrinsic elements that can be used to define them, either self-referentially or in comparison to others. Legal pluralism is one such element.

## **Programme:**

Lecture hall 12 and 13

### Opening

9:00-9:15     *Introduction: Legal Pluralism as Legal Culture?*  
Prof. JAAKKO HUSA (University of Lapland)

### Session 1

9:15-10:00     *Internationalization and Europeanization: monism, dualism, pluralism?*  
Prof. LEONARD BESSELINK (University of Amsterdam)

10:00-10:45     *Linguistic Diversity as an Element of Legal Pluralism*  
Prof. BARBARA POZZO (University of Insubria)

10:45-11:15     Comments & Discussion

11:15-12:15     Lunch Break

### Session 2

12:15-13:00     *Legal pluralism as a question of traditional, postmodern and/or socio-legal comparative law?*  
Prof. MATHIAS SIEMS (Durham University)

13:00-13:45     *Comparing Legal Pluralism: Methodological Challenges*  
Ass. Prof. MARIEKE ODERKERK (University of Amsterdam)

13:45-14:15     Comments & Discussion

14:15-14:45     Coffee Break

### Session 3

14:45-16:45     *Ph.D. Students' Presentations*  
Presentations, comments and feedback

### Closing

16:45-17:00     *Legal Pluralism – Neogenesis or Apocalypse?*  
Dean, Professor JUHA KARHU (Lapland)

## **Contacts & Further Information:**

Academic dimensions: Prof. Jaakko Husa ([jaakko.husa@ulapland.fi](mailto:jaakko.husa@ulapland.fi))

Practical dimensions: LL.M. Tomi Tuominen ([tomi.tuominen@ulapland.fi](mailto:tomi.tuominen@ulapland.fi))