

Socio-legal studies/sociologie du droit: methods, traditions, theories in France and the UK

16th April 2018, University of Kent in Paris, 4 Rue de Chevreuse, 75006 Paris

Co-organisers:

Emilie Cloatre (Kent Law School)

Olivier Leclerc (CNRS/Centre de Recherches Critiques sur le Droit)

Call for contributions/registration

Context and purpose

This workshop stems from several observations: first, that socio-legal scholarship as a whole is strongly influenced by both institutional contexts and local scholarly traditions, which has led it to adopt very varied forms across jurisdictions. Second, that this diversity is both an interesting object of study to understand the possibilities and forms of socio-legal research and critique, and an obstacle to some cross-jurisdictional conversations. Third, that this is particularly noticeable and interesting in the context of France and the UK. While socio-legal studies have significantly developed over the past few decades, both in the UK and (though arguably to a lesser extent) in France, cross-channel conversations across relevant communities have remained limited. In addition, the forms that socio-legal scholarship has adopted in those two contexts are strikingly different (see: Renaud Colson, Stewart Field, "Socio-legal Studies in France: Beyond the Law Faculty", *Journal of Law and Society*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2016, p. 285-311).

Although various bridges and connections have been made – through common projects, borrowing of ideas, methods or theories, or occasional encounters at conferences or within topic-specific contexts – there has historically been limited efforts to engage more broadly the growing socio-legal communities in France and the UK. Such conversations on a broader scale, however, could be highly interesting at several levels. In spite of shared aspirations, UK socio-legal studies and its French equivalents have developed in very different ways, sharing some theoretical and methodological traditions, while differing in many others. In addition, the institutional settings in which each movement has developed are in stark contrast, which in turn has certainly influenced the shape of scholarship itself. Reflecting on those different contexts, and their influences is useful in a context of continuous pressure on the development and maintenance of interdisciplinary legal scholarship, both in research and teaching.

In this workshop, we want to reflect on those different trajectories, and what they have to tell us about 'socio-legal studies in context', but also aim to bring together this scholarly diversity in order to explore ways forward, in terms of collaborations, and in terms of methodological and conceptual explorations.

Therefore, this workshop positions itself both as a first step towards a broader set of discussions and as a significant opportunity to reflect on the impact on our own traditions on the forms of knowledge produced.

The workshop has three key aims:

- 1) To reflect on how different institutional contexts and traditions have shaped socio-legal thought and scholarship in France and the UK
- 2) To bring together contrasting approaches developed by those traditions
- 3) To foster future exchange and research across communities in France and the UK and facilitate new collaborations

The workshop will be held in English.



Format/call for contributions

The workshop will to be based around four sessions. In the first three sessions, short papers will be given by keynote speakers, followed by longer questions, discussions and exchange.

For the final session, we would like to invite contributions from early career scholars (including PhD students), in the form of very brief presentations of 8-10 mins, offering an overview of a project, with particular attention the methodological/conceptual approach adopted. An abstract of 200 words should be submitted by email to e.cloatre@kent.ac.uk by the 8th December 2017. We will endeavour to respond by the 15th December.

Registration

To register for the conference, please visit: <http://store.kent.ac.uk/product-catalogue/faculty-of-social-sciences/kent-law-school/sociolegal-studiessociologie-du-droit-methods-traditions-theories-in-france-and-the-uk>.

A small fee of £50 will be requested for registration for participants other than speakers.

We may be able to offer limited financial support for ECRs for travels or accommodation. If you would need such support in order to attend the conference, please let us know as soon as possible.

Draft Programme

10.00-10.15 Welcome and introductions

Emilie Cloatre and Olivier Leclerc

10.15-11.30 Socio-legal studies: trends, histories and institutional challenges/opportunities

Professor Rosie Harding (University of Birmingham)

Dr Renaud Colson (Université de Nantes)

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-1.00 Social critiques and socio-legal studies: exploring the 'socio' of socio-legal studies/Penser la sociologie dans la sociologie du droit

Professor Emily Grabham (University of Kent)

Dr Rachel Vanneuville (CNRS/Laboratoire Triangle)

1.00-1.45 Lunch

1.45-3.00 Approaching the 'legal' in socio-legal studies/Penser le droit dans la sociologie du droit

Professor John Harrington (Cardiff University)

Professor Pierre Brunet (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

3.00-3.15 Coffee break

3.15-5.00 Sampling socio-legal studies: examples and new directions in contemporary scholarship

Short presentations by ECRs – please see call for contribution

5.00-5.30 Wrap-up and discussion

Emilie Cloatre/Olivier Leclerc

5.30-7.00 Drinks

7.30 Workshop dinner

This workshop is supported by the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA), the Social Critiques of Law Research Group (SoCriL, Kent Law School) and the Centre de Recherches Critiques sur le Droit (CERCRID, UMR CNRS 5137, Université Jean Monnet, Saint-Etienne).