

Legal Pluralism in the Urban Realm

Call for paper proposals for a Special Issue of Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis.

Cities and city life are regulated by a myriad of ideas, norms, rules and directives. The regulation operates at all levels, from micro encounters in everyday settings to the urban governance of mega-cities at the macro level. The regulation not only varies widely in the level on which it operates, it likewise varies in composition and origin. Moreover, often times different regulations are in play simultaneously in the same setting. Understanding regulation as the materialization of a normative order offers the argument of substantive existence of legal pluralism in the urban realm.

Interestingly, within the field of legal pluralism the setting of the urban is not a central theme. Many of the legal pluralism 'classics' looked at the interplay between customary and (colonial)state law, and optionally a measure of religious law mixed in (von Benda-Beckman and Turner, 2020). Empirical research predominantly engaged with communities in rural and regional settings and less with the dynamics of the urban realm. In more recent decades, scholars have expanded the field by focusing on transnational legal orders, and what is sometimes called 'global legal pluralism'. These studies seek connections between the global and the local, but often do not unpack the local, nor do they pay particular attention to 'the urban'. Alternatively, the field of urban studies tends to skirt around the terminology of 'law' and 'legal', and as a consequence does not easily link to the concept legal pluralism. However, looking beyond the used terminology a clear connect on substance can be discerned. The field of legal pluralism engages in vibrant discussions on what is law and thus legal pluralism, but general consensus holds that law can minimally be understood as a normative order (Merry 1988). Appreciating the study of legal pluralism as the study of plural normative orders co-existing in a given social setting offers a clear view of the potential that studying legal pluralism in the urban realm holds.

Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis is preparing a special issue on the theme *Legal Pluralism in the Urban Realm* and is calling for proposals to contribute. Contributions to this special issue do more than empirically conclude a situation of legal pluralism in the urban realm; they theoretically engage with the interplay between multiple normative orders and the urban dynamics in which they operate. Those multiple normative orders vary in terms of legal enforceability. There are normative orders that relate to how actors should behave vis-à-vis each other, which are often less legally enforceable. But there are also normative orders that are deeply embedded in law and are therefore more legally enforceable. The pluralism of normative orders under scrutiny can relate to informal versus formal control, customary law versus state law, pluralism within state law, pluralism in governance level of state law, and so forth (von Benda-Beckman 2002). Migration and urbanization add further complexity to the normative orders that govern the city. Urban dynamics manifest themselves from the participatory right to the city, to property rights (Jacobs et al. 2019) to the production of space (Lefebvre 1968, 1991); from the organization of family life in the private realm (Sonneveld 2009; Madanipour 2003) to social encounters with familiar strangers in the parochial realm (Lofland 1998, Blokland 2017) to access to democratic deliberations in the public realm (Habermas 1991); from communitarian enterprise on neighborhood concerns (Chevalier 2015, Stapper 2020) to the urban managerialism of world cities (Sassen 2018), and so forth.

The overarching theme is the interplay between on the one hand multiple interacting normative orders and on the other hand the social, economic and or political life of an urban setting. Contributions may focus on the Global North or South, or take a comparative perspective.

Proposals of circa 250 words can be submitted to d.a.m.chevalier@law.leidenuniv.nl by 15 September 2022, with 'Special Issue' in the message subject heading. Invitations to contribute will be sent out mid-October, first full drafts are expected mid-January 2023. Articles are in English with a wordcount of 8,000-10,000 words.

In addition, following the new format of the journal, we also invite different types of articles than the 'traditional' full paper. These contributions may be shorter essays in which authors may reflect on aspects of legal pluralism in the city, and their own experiences with this. They may also be interviews/interview articles which report on conversations with people working at the interface of scientific analysis and urban policy, who have concrete experiences in their everyday work with the empirical reality of legal pluralism in the city. To get an impression of what these contributions entail, we suggest having a look at the 40-years anniversary issue of the journal (2021, 53(3)).