Special Issue

Cultural Expertise: An Emergent Concept and Evolving Practices

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue focuses on the contemporary evolution and variation of cultural expertise as an emergent concept providing a conceptual umbrella to a variety of evolving practices, which all include the use of the special knowledge of social sciences for the resolution of conflicts. It surveys the application of cultural expertise in the legal process with an unprecedented span of fields going from ethnopsychiatry to the recognition of the rights of autochthone minorities including linguistic expertise, historical expertise in situations of transitional justice, and post-colonial reformulation of cultural rights. This Issue offers descriptions of judicial practices involving experts of local laws and customs and surveys of the most frequent fields of expert witnessing that are related with culture; interrogates who the experts are; their links with local communities and also with the courts and the state power and politics; how cultural expert witnessing has been received by judges; how cultural expertise has developed across the sister disciplines of history and psychiatry; and eventually, it asks whether academic truth and legal truth are commensurable across time and space.

Guest Editor

Dr. Livia Holden
The Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 2JD, UK

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 April 2019)

Laws

mdpi.com/journal/
laws

About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Patricia Easteal
1. School of Law and Justice, University of Canberra, Bruce, ACT 2617, Australia
2. Legal Light Bulbs, Flynn, ACT 2615, Australia

Author Benefits

High Visibility:
indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), RePEc, vLex Justis, CanLII, Law Journal Library, and other databases.

Journal Rank:
JCR - Q2 (Law) / CiteScore - Q1 (Law)

Rapid Publication:
manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 40 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.7 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).