

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

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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.

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