

Network of Transnational Doctoral Research – 2012 Programme on Gender and Law

Programme aim and philosophy

The UNILU Network of Transnational Doctoral Research is dedicated to the provision of adequate structures and platforms for the mentoring and exchange of views among early-career scholars. It aims to enhance the knowledge and exposure to the academic world of young researchers, with emphasis on the encouragement of innovative and independent research. All activities will be open to the public in order to maximize the potential output of the programme.

The 2012 programme will focus on the timely, complex and challenging topics included in the broader research area of Gender Studies and Law. While the primary aim is to encourage legal scholars to participate, train and exchange views, the conveners will support and promote inter-disciplinary research that is deemed desirable (if not necessary) to grasp the complexities of the selected topics.

The Network has two objectives:

1. It aims to build a global research community of peers which is based on scientific excellence and a broad outlook on the current challenges of academic research in a globalized world
2. It will strive to mobilize scholars within and outside Switzerland to be part of the current and future developments in the area of Transnational Law broadly understood.

The objectives of the Network will be achieved by a joint programme of activities that will prioritize:

- The provision of information on and access to the various outlets of knowledge relevant for the topic
- The organization of research on Gender Studies in Law with an eye for relevance of the problems and solutions proposed
- The dissemination of the state of the art knowledge of the topic through training of young scholars.

Programme Structure

The programme relies on four distinct research groups:

- **Task Group 1** covers activities that relate to the salient questions that arise out of Feminist Legal Theory. We are interested in exploring feminity as legal personhood, the controversies of feminist legal discourse as they arise out of cultural difference, ethnicity or sexuality.
- **Task Group 2** will bring together scholars that look at gender in relation to social change and development. It will more specifically examine how women as subjects of law cope with social change in their role(s), how they emerge as actors and players in legal terms and how they affect and contribute to social development in various geographical contexts. This Task will work on a comparative law basis and will draw expertise and studies from different geographical settings.
- **Task Group 3** aims at looking at the specific interaction of women within the confines of the different areas of public and/or private law. We aim to attract studies that discuss women within employment, women and family law (including the issues of abortion, divorce, domestic violence etc) as well as women in the legal profession.
- **Task Group 4** will focus on the nexus between women, law and religion as a defining element of cultural identity and as a human rights entitlement. Studies on intersectionality are particularly welcome in this cluster.

Programme Events

From January to December 2012, the **2012 Doctoral Program on Gender and Law** will include two different types of activities available to a group of Swiss and international doctoral students.

1. Intensive Doctoral Training Workshop (scheduled for 28-29 June 2012)

This event will be organized on the basis of a mixture of PhD presentations, followed by feedback session from peers and more experienced scholars. Participants of the different research task groups will situate their ongoing projects and share with trainers and group coordinators their achievements and concerns.

2. Transnational Research Colloquium on Gender and Law (scheduled for 16-17 November 2012)

The second event of the doctoral program will be the opportunity to discuss the final findings of the task research groups as well as for stock-taking on the implementation of the entire program. Key-note speakers will be additionally invited in order to enrich the added-value of the event for both the trainers as well as the trained. For this event, additional funding will be sought through the SNF in order to enlarge both the list of speakers and the student audience to the event.

Application Procedure

Please send by May 5th, 2012 the following materials to both Kyriaki.topidi@unilu.ch and lauren.redman@unilu.ch :

-short cv (1-2 pages)

-short summary of PhD project (2-3 pages)

-paper title and proposal (maximum 500 words)

All applicants must be enrolled in a PhD programme in order to become eligible to participate in the programme. UNILU will support selected paper-givers with accommodation and travel expenses to the extent possible.