Anxieties of Multidisciplinary

Keynote address and discussion panel organized by the Graduate School of VU Law Faculty

Tuesday 29 September, 10.00-12.00

Room: room 2A-36, main building

Please register at: graduateschool.rechten@vu.nl

Topic

Multi- and interdisciplinary research is currently hip and trendy in legal academia. Increasingly, lawyers transgress the boundaries of their discipline to analyze the workings of law. This has led to innovative forms of research and provided fresh insights into the theory and practice of law. At the same time, the engagement with other disciplines has raised questions about the risks and pitfalls of multidisciplinary studies. Is it possible to use insights from empirical studies without losing sight of the specific interpretative and argumentative practice of the law? To what extent are multidisciplinary lawyers bound by academic and methodological standards set by other fields of study? Is it possible to selectively use insights from other disciplines? How does the multidisciplinary encounter affect possibilities and strategies for publication?

This seminar addresses these questions and anxieties that come with multi- or interdisciplinary research. More specifically, it studies the encounter of law with four other fields: anthropology, linguistics, philosophy and economics.

Speakers

The seminar will start off with a keynote address of professor Prue Vines, professor Private Law at the University of New South Wales, and author of numerous books and articles on tort law, succession law, law and religion, legal theory and the relation between Aboriginal and state legal cultures. Professor Vines will discuss the relation between law and anthropology, including her own experiences with ethnographic research in Australia. Professor Vines is currently visiting our faculty. For more information see http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/profile/prue-vines

After the keynote address there will be a panel where three PhD researchers from the law faculty present their encounters with respectively linguistics and gesture studies (Lianne Boer), philosophy (Martijn Stronks) and economics (Robert Hoekstra). The panel discussed will be followed by some general remarks from Lodewijk Smeehuijzen.
Registration

All presenters will send around a brief positioning paper no later than September 22. We will send around the position papers to all who have registered at graduateschool.rechten@vu.nl

Program

10.00-10.20

*Prue Vines, University of New South Wales*

What is authority? Researching common law and customary law in Aboriginal Australian inheritance

10.20-11.10

*Lianne Boer*

Call me again if you’re ever ready to begin answering the questions’ on the construction of authority in the cyberwar debate

*Robert Hoekstra*

living wages: law and economics

*Martijn Stronks*

Being somewhere inside and outside at the same time

Discussant: Lodewijk Smeehuijzen

11.10-12.00

General discussion