



LLRN5 POLAND
Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of LLRN Scholarship

Labour Law Research Network (LLRN) Conference
June 27-29, 2021, WARSAW

CALL FOR PAPERS

1. Introduction

The Labour Law Research Network ([LLRN](http://www.labourlawresearch.net)) was established in 2011 by 30 research centres from all over the world. 74 labour law research institutions are now affiliated with the LLRN. One of the objectives of the LLRN is to hold biennial international conferences focusing on academic topics on labour law (broadly conceived), including the presentation and discussion of original papers and to allow cutting-edge topics to surface from the participating scholars to enhance understanding of current thinking in labour law.

The first four such conferences – Barcelona 2013, Amsterdam 2015, Toronto 2017, Valparaiso 2019 – were remarkably successful in drawing together scholars from around the world and, established a tradition of the LLRN Conference as the largest academic labour law conference in the world (attendance at Barcelona was 330, at Amsterdam 460, at Toronto over 350, and at Valparaiso 300), and the most important focal point for global labour law scholarship. Those who missed the previous conferences are invited to consult the LLRN website: <http://www.labourlawresearch.net> to review the topics discussed.

We are pleased to announce that the fifth LLRN conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland on June 27-29, 2021, hosted by the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, and co-organised by University of Lodz.

2. Venue

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference will be held on 27 June 2021 in **Auditorium Maximum hall** (located at the main Campus University of Warsaw; Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28 street) in Warsaw.

The Conference itself (28-29 June 2021) will take place in the **Collegium Iuridicum II building (Faculty of Law and Administration University of Warsaw) at Lipowa 4 street in Warsaw**. Collegium Iuridicum II building is situated in the Powiśle area, located between the Wisła (Vistula) river and the main Campus of the University. The Powiśle area is a pleasant 5-10 minute walk from the Campus and the Royal Route (Krakowskie Przedmieście street).

Warsaw is located in central-eastern Poland in the Mazowiecka Lowland. The longest Polish river, the Vistula, flows through the city. Warsaw is the capital and also the largest city in the country with nearly 1.78 million inhabitants. The most important state offices have their headquarters here, among others The President, Parliament, Council of Ministers, Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and the Supreme Administrative Court. Warsaw is the most important business, economic and cultural centre in Poland, which is still developing dynamically. It is also a very important communication point, to all means of transport including air (two airports - F. Chopin Airport in the city itself and the suburban airport in Modlin), rail and road.

The University of Warsaw is one of the oldest university in Poland, which was founded on November 19, 1816. Interestingly, it was created by merging previously existing schools, including the School of Law of the Duchy of Warsaw, founded in 1808 and whose tradition is followed by the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. It is currently the largest university in the country.

Warsaw is a bustling metropolis that provides many attractions and ways to spend your free time. There are numerous theatres, cinema galleries, and libraries (one of the most interesting is the University of Warsaw Library located almost on the banks of the Vistula, whose attraction is, among others, roof gardens providing beautiful views of the city). The capital also offers an extremely wide range of culinary venues with varied cuisine, thanks to which every visitor will find something interesting for themselves. Recently, Warsaw has been opening up to its Vistula areas, which are becoming one of the favourite meeting places for residents.

3. The ambition

The LLRN5 Poland conference will be the LLRN's first conference held in the Central/Eastern Europe. We do believe that joining in this fine tradition this time by the members of this part of the global labour law scholarship, would constitute an invaluable opportunity to instil and consolidate the idea of a 'boundaryless' scientific cooperation and exchange among leading labour law scholars from all around the globe.

The ambition of LLRN5 Poland is then to provide the intellectual space and opportunity to explore the new institutional and methodological frontiers of labour/employment law, broadly conceived, as well as the desirable intradisciplinary synergies. To this end, we aim to promote discussion particularly on the themes and issues listed in section 4, and to pursue our discussion in a variety of novel and innovative formats, including those set out in section 5. However, these should not be treated as exhaustive or exclusionary, therefore, the organising committee also welcomes proposals on alternative topics and themes which will be accommodated in the general conference track.

4. Substance/Main tracks

We are confident that the conference will attract a diverse array of scholars and exciting scholarship on a wide range of issues. We expect to structure panels and presentations on a wide variety of topics related to the law of work, in keeping with previous LLRN conferences. LLRN5 Poland is thus open to any other contribution on labour law (as always, broadly conceived) on a subject that can be shown to be globally relevant. In this context, please note that descriptive submissions focusing on one legal system will not usually be accepted unless they appear to be of particular interest to scholars from other jurisdictions.

There is no strict category of tracks or themes to which papers must be aligned. Nonetheless, we encourage and particularly invite contributions that address the following themes, to stimulate an enriching global conversation.

1. Labour law norms and institutions

The socio-economic status of many countries is going through dramatic changes and countries have to adapt to these changes through reforms. Many changes and reforms are translated into new policy objectives and regulations. Appropriate legal and institutional frameworks are of paramount importance to the realization of labour norms, as well as for establishing the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in designing, administering, delivering, and enforcing labour norms.

The focus of this track lies with regulatory and institutional developments, including the introduction of new procedures to support the implementation of labour norms and regulatory changes in systems to enforce compliance with labour norms. What tendencies can be identified in these developments and what is the effect thereof on labour law?

2. New synergies

2.1. Labour law and environmental law

The relationship between labour law and environmental law still remains underexplored. Different in their aims, techniques and history, labour law and environmental law cannot continue to operate separately, since more and more often they do intersect: both concern the company and its operations. Climate change has been considerably affecting labour markets, yet neither labour law scholars nor environmental law scholars seem to be adequately equipped to address the complex challenges related to transitioning to a lower carbon economy and most importantly the effects of that transition on labour policy and regulation. The impact of labour law on the environment and of environmental law on labour law should thus be at the heart of the relevant track.

2.2. Labour law and migration policies

International migration has a number of consequences for the host country, and one of the areas considerably affected by the influx of foreigners is the labour market. What impact does immigration have on the wages of the national workforce? Does the influx of immigrants lead to increased unemployment among national labour resources? Is immigration an effective tool to address the problem of meeting labour demand from the national labour force?

2.3. Labour law and artificial intelligence

Digital technology has already changed working patterns. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we are only at the beginning of an unparalleled transformation, not only of the labour market, but also of the employment relationship. What exactly is meant by the impact of AI on labour relations? How labour law should be used as a legal tool to accompany the obvious transformations generated by the presence of AI in the modern world. What are the ways of adapting labour law in order to anticipate and enable a smooth transition to the new world of work. How far can AI be used to safeguard the marginalization on labour market of people with disabilities?

2.4. Transition economies and labour law

‘Transition economy’ normally refers to China, the former Soviet Union, Eastern bloc countries of Europe, some third world countries and is marked by the process of changing from central planning to free market. Most of these transition economies have faced severe short-term and long-term difficulties and have undergone (or still are undergoing) one of the most radical institutional transformations in recent history and experienced a remarkable reallocation of ownership from the state to the private sector. In contrast to highly developed capitalist countries with liberal market economies, transition economies – sometimes described as dependent market economies – are characterized by a comparative advantage of low labour costs, specialization in the production of semi-standardized goods, middle positions in the global value chain, responsiveness to the needs of foreign investors, weak trade unions, various forms on non-standard employment etc. These elements have strongly influenced the position of workers in the transition period and afterwards. Negative effects of changing from central planning to free market have contributed to an increase of populism and eventually fuelled some current political movements (new authoritarianism, new nationalism). This track invites to comment on workers’ demands for a greater share of the wealth in transition economies. In this context, labour law is always significant.

3. The values of contemporary labour law

The track aims to systematize and categorize various forms of argumentation for the value of labour law and concentrates on normative features (*propria*) of modern labour law. Despite the common opinion that labour law faces an identity crisis (empirical, conceptual and normative) and the fact that work has changed considerably by technological and innovative advances, the regulation of work is firmly anchored in human dignity. The very first and basic feature of labour law is expressed in its ‘humanism’, which is more consistent and radical than in other branches of law. This humanistic element present in Western legal culture derives from the general assumptions of the Mediterranean civilization shaped under the influence of two basic ideas of humanism: individualism and rationalism. However, theoretical explorations and methodical discussions on the valuation of work need to be supplemented by representatives of other legal cultures. Legal cross-cultural dialogue on values of labour law provides new and exciting research opportunities for scholars to address various aspects of this complex challenge and results in discovering valuable and novel insights for the relevant stakeholders.

4. Labour Law's Methodologies

Labour law institutions and methodology are undergoing a transformation, as the international labour rights regime founded in the industrial era adapts to a changed and changing world. As a result, methods of labour law research are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, influenced by diverse fields, such as economy, sociology, political sciences etc. At the same time, the rapid growth in communication and information technologies have opened up new frontiers for data collection, analysis, and exchange that have the potential to revolutionize approaches to labour law work. The track encourages contributions that push the methodological boundaries by enlisting insights from other disciplines that are yet to be explored by labour law scholars.

5. Format

LLRN5 Poland aims to maintain the diversity in formats of workshop presentation and discussion introduced at all previous LLRN conferences. To this end, although we very much encourage the submission of papers for presentation in panels/sessions, as well as proposals for full panels/sessions or book presentations, we also encourage proposals for innovative modes of participation that depart from these models of interaction. **The noticeable change according to previous LLRN conferences is that each speaker can have no more than one active participation, which does not exclude connecting roles of speaker/chair/discussant etc.** We invite submissions as follows, noting that all proposals will be subject to peer-review by the organising committees:

PAPER ABSTRACT: scholars interested in presenting papers at the conference are invited to submit an abstract of up to 500 words. Please include a title, your name and affiliation, and contact information. Also, include a “key words” line.

PANEL SESSION: scholars are also welcome to submit proposals for full panel sessions, which include 4 papers; or 3 papers and a discussant. Please try to avoid panels in which all the participants come from the same country. Proposals for full panel sessions should include (in one document) abstracts of all presentations, which have to meet the requirements of the paper abstract submission and a short description (up to 100 words) of the panel.

Book presentation: scholars who recently published a book around an important labour law issue, or otherwise wish to raise a discussion around a recent book, are invited to propose a panel with 4 speakers (authors, discussants or any combination thereof). Proposals for a book presentation do not require abstracts, just a short explanation of the book's importance and brief biographies of the participants. Please note that these sessions (if accepted) might be allocated less time than regular panel/sessions.

Young scholars format: we are looking forward to receiving proposals from young researchers (young post-docs; i.e. 5 years from the Ph.D. award, Ph.D. candidates). Young scholars' participation will promote scientific discussion and cooperation with senior colleagues working in the field of labour law.

Alternative formats: We also invite people to signal their interest in other forms of presentation and participation. Here are a number of formats that might be considered: roundtables, ‘fishbowls’ or ‘labour law labs’ in which people make short interventions addressing themes or issues from the standpoint of their research, designed to help resolve troubling labour law policy challenges; ‘TED’-style short talks on specific topics of interest,

both inside and at the edges of the law of work; moderated or ‘hot seat’ encounters with an invited guest; films – plus discussion; art exhibits and music. Presenters who wish to innovate in these or other formats need not worry that their written work will not be available or disseminated; the conference organizers will ensure that papers of presenters in alternative formats are available on the conference website.

Forms for application are available at the [conference website](#).

6. Logistics

Participants are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodation; however, as at previous conferences there will be no conference fees (other than for costs for coffee/tea breaks, lunches and dinner). The fee will be announced in due course but we anticipate it to be not remarkably higher than the level at LLRN4 Valparaiso. Information about recommended hotels and other lodging options, as well a special rates for conference participants, will also be provided later on.

7. Scholars from developing countries

As with previous LLRN conferences, the organisers of LLRN5 Poland intend to raise funds to provide financial assistance to as many participants as possible from developing countries who cannot otherwise attend the conference. While we are not now in a position to guarantee such funding, it is vital to the LLRN’s ambitions for this conference, and scholars from developing countries are encouraged to submit abstracts or panel proposals, and clearly note their need of financial support.

8. Key dates

15 November 2020	Last day to submit abstracts/panel proposals
15 January 2021	Decisions on acceptance of papers/panel proposals
27 May 2021	Last day to submit full papers
27-29 June 2021	Conference

9. Organising Committee

9.1. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Tonia Novitz - Chair
Pablo Arellano Ortiz
Avinash Govindjee
Jeff Hirsch
John Howe
Sophie Robin Olivier

9.2. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Ruth Dukes
Tamás Gyulavári
Beryl ter Haar
Monika Schlachter

9.3. LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

9.3.1. STEERING COMMITTEE

Łukasz Pisarczyk – Chair
Izabela Florczak
Piotr Grzebyk
Marta Otto

9.3.2. ADVISORY BOARD

Małgorzata Gersdorf
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9.3.3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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9.3.4. TEAM

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Małgorzata Mędrala
Kamila Naumowicz
Magdalena Paluszkiewicz
Ariel Przybyłowicz
Michał Raczkowski
Barbara Surdykowska
Joanna Unterschütz
Katarzyna Wieczorek
Marcin Wujczyk
Agnieszka Zwolińska

10. Contact

All questions and suggestions should be addressed to llrn5poland@wpia.uni.lodz.pl
If you prefer, you can also feel free to contact any of the organizing committee members. The website for the conference is under construction at www.llrn5poland.uni.lodz.pl