

PROGRAMME

Challenging the limits of legal research

The discussions during both days will be guided by the participants' project descriptions. Participants should be prepared to briefly introduce their own project and actively engage in constructive discussion about their peers' projects. (Each participant will serve as a discussant for one project description.)

DAY 1

Morning session (starting at 10:30) - "Limits of legal research"

This session will address what is commonly understood by traditional legal research. We will touch upon traditional legal research topics, traditional legal methods, and traditional legal sources.

We will discuss if we can discern purely legal research from other disciplines and what are the distinguishing features.

Afternoon session - "Challenging the limits of legal research through research questions"

The afternoon session will be devoted to research topics and questions on and beyond the limits of legal research. Such research topics may for example deal with corporate social responsibility, topics on the border of law and economics, psychological and behavioral aspects of law, or the intersection between law and policy. The specific topics will be derived from the participants' projects.

We will discuss how to assure that the research questions do stay within the realm of legal research and how these topics may be approached through legal methods.

Networking dinner with the lecturers and other participants

DAY 2

Morning session - "Challenging the limits of legal research through less common methods"

During this session, participants will be introduced to some less common research methods, such as interviews, empirical inquiry into publicly available information (reports, website), quantitative methods, behavioral experiments, and functional comparisons. We will also discuss when the application of such a method is necessary, when it improves the project, and when it may actually weaken the project.

Afternoon session - "Challenging the limits of legal research through sources"

The last session will focus on the definition of law and legal sources, and on the possibility and value in using other than legal sources, such as policy reports, survey reports and online sources. In this respect, we will discuss how far participants can deviate from legal sources, official publications, and traditional legal scholarly writings to answer their research questions and whether they can apply traditional legal methods on 'new' sources of law.