Call for participation

Research workshops and conference

Comparative Public Law and European Legal Identity

Brexit, Greek crisis, financial crisis, immigrant crisis... The current development of the relationships between the European Union and its Member States triggers a range of questions on the ways in which public bodies, economic actors and non-economic actors cooperate to provide European citizens with key public services and to deliver welfare policies according to suitable standards. European Member States seek to reorganise the ways in which traditional public missions are performed. How do they go about this endeavour? How much do they try to borrow, imitate, avoid, develop practices developed in other Member States? What kind of foreign processes or professional expertise do they rely on? do they innovate or replicate models previously tested elsewhere in Europe? Are there general trends that could be pinpointed?

Programme

Selected participants will take part in a programme of activities providing a forum for discussion with senior academics with expertise in EU law and comparative law as well as feedback, networking and practical guidance about how to carry out comparative public law research in dialogue with non-academics (policy makers, judges and law practitioners). Confirmed participants include: Pr. Chris Backes (Utrecht), Pr. John Bell (Cambridge), Pr. Patrick Birkinshaw (Hull), Dr Carlo Panara (John Moores Liverpool) and Pr. Thomas Perroud (Paris 2). Invited speakers include members of the French Conseil d’Etat. The programme includes

- two workshops for presenting on-going work: one on 29-30 September 2016 at the University of Essex (United Kingdom), one mid-December 2016 in Brussels (Belgium).
- one conference in March 2017 in London (United Kingdom).

Topics

Papers that address one or more of the following questions will be considered:

• How do public authorities (national, sub-national and local) relate to (non)-economic actors in the provision of public services (eg media, energy, transportation, health care (etc.) in Europe? what does comparison between different legal systems tell us about a shared understanding of the common good in Europe?
• How do administrative structures and professional groups influence the dynamics and outcomes of the relationships between public authorities and (non-) economic actors?
• Which role(s) does the law (European or national) play in shaping the respective functions of public authorities and (non)-economic actors, the evolution of these administrative structures and professional groups?
• Do citizens enjoy right to minimum standards/guarantees in public services across (most of) Europe? How are these rights organised? How do these rights evolve over time?
• How do Member States contribute to the development of shared ideas, practices and principles in the provision of public services and citizens’ wellbeing across Europe? How do they react when they face the development of these ideas, practices and principles developed elsewhere and foreign to them?
• Can we map the convergence, harmonisation, cross-fertilisation, learning from other legal systems in the ways in which citizens’ welfare is provided in Europe and its Member States?

Eligibility

• You are a Early Career Researcher (i.e. a young academic completing your PhD or within five years of the PhD award) based in an academic institution of a EU Member State
• You are a researcher in social sciences seeking to engage with policy-makers, judges and/or law practitioners
• You are developing a research in comparative public law contributing to understand Europe and its legal identity

Application

Please send a 1.000 words summary of your research and potential contribution to the project, together with a CV to ymarique@essex.ac.uk by noon on July 4, 2016.
Up to 10 early career researchers will be selected to participate in this project. You will notified by July 20 at the latest of the outcome of the selection process.
Please note that your participation will be required at all three events (the two workshops and the conference).
The event is free, applicants must cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

For further information, please contact ymarique@essex.ac.uk

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