



Labour Law Research Network Conference

University of Amsterdam

25-27 June 2015

Call for Papers

The Labour Law Research Network ([LLRN](#)), established in 2011, is comprised of 46 research centres from all over the world dedicated to the study of labour law. One of the objectives of the LLRN is to hold bi-annual international conferences that will be entirely academic (dedicated to the presentation and discussion of original papers); entirely about labour law (broadly conceived); and will allow cutting-edge topics to surface from the participating scholars themselves, in a non-hierarchical way.

Each conference is organised by a different research centre from among the LLRN members. The inaugural LLRN conference was held on June 2013 at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. We are delighted to announce that the second LLRN Conference, to be held on June 25-27, 2015, will be organised by the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute ([HSI](#)) at the University of Amsterdam.

Venue

[Amsterdam](#) is one of the greatest small cities in the world. It's appeal lies in its rich cultural heritage, its diverse and creative culture, and its commercial dynamism. The [University of Amsterdam](#) and the city of Amsterdam are closely intertwined: 'the city is our campus'. The roots of the University of Amsterdam trace back to 1632, when the Golden Age school [Athenaeum Illustre](#) was established to train students in trade and philosophy. The home of the Amsterdam Law School is the 'Oudemanhuispoort', a 400-year-old building in the city centre, lined by some of the city's most characteristic [canals](#).

Because of Dutch society's relatively tolerant attitude towards dissidents, Amsterdam attracted many migrant scholars and writers who were often forced to leave their home country. One of those scholars was the German (and Jewish) lawyer and humanist [Hugo Sinzheimer](#). Being one of the first academics specialising in labour law, he is sometimes also called 'the father of labour law'. His work on collective labour law in particular has not only had an important impact in Europe, but reaches as far as Japan and Southern Korea. Sinzheimer was a professor of labour law and sociology of law at Frankfurt University and since 1933 at the Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden. The Hugo Sinzheimer Institutes of the [Amsterdam Law School](#) and in [Frankfurt am Main](#) are named after him in his honour.

Conference topics

Proposals are welcome on any topic related to labour/employment law, broadly conceived. To give an impression of the sort of topics especially invited and to assist us in building the program later on, we have defined five specific conference tracks, which are listed below. However, these are not exhaustive or exclusionary, therefore, the organising committee also welcomes proposals on alternative topics and themes which will be accommodated in the general conference track.

General conference track

With this track we want to emphasize that the conference is not limited to the below mentioned track themes, hence it is open to a variety of research in the wider field of labour/employment law.

Track 1 Precarious and atypical work as a challenge for labour law

An ongoing challenge for labour law is the tendency towards increased levels of precarious work, accompanied by labour market fragmentation and social exclusion. An increasing number of workers no longer corresponds to the traditional type of employment, *i.e.* full-time opened contracts with access to social security arrangements and trade union representation. New forms of employment are often accompanied by socio-economic disadvantages, such as low wages, high levels of employment insecurity, working poverty, limited access to training and career options, and poor social security benefits and pensions.

For this track we invite papers dealing with, among others:

- Atypical forms of work (temporary, fixed term and/or part-time)
- Informal work or domestic work
- Genuine, dependent and bogus self-employment
- Equal treatment and non-discrimination in relation to precarious employment
- National and comparative studies dealing with labour law or initiatives of social partners (either domestic, regional or international) addressing the working conditions and social rights of precarious workers

Track 2 Labour law and Industrial relations in (times of) crisis

Labour law and industrial relations are facing significant challenges. These include demographical developments (e.g. and ageing workforce) and a decline in union membership, resulting in questions about the representativeness of trade unions, which affects trade unions' collective bargaining capacities and rights to regulate labour issues (IR in crisis). Another development offering serious challenges for industrial relations is the ongoing economic crisis, in particular the pressure of economic reforms forcing trade unions to accept deterioration of existing standards. Furthermore, trade unions are challenged to walk new paths to promote decent wages and compliance with labour standards in transnational situations, in particular the cross-border outsourcing of production by multinational companies settled in developed countries to low-wage countries.

For this track we invite papers dealing with, among others:

- Modifications of regulations concerning industrial relations
- The legal impact of multi-level collective bargaining on the local work place

- Trade unions in times of crisis, including tensions between economic measures/policies and collective bargaining
- The implications of trade unions in crisis for the regulation of labour issues through collective bargaining
- Alternative forms of collective representation
- Hierarchical issues between different levels of collective bargaining, including clashes with international and national norms
- Tendencies in levels of collective bargaining – decentralization or centralization – and the impact thereof for the regulation of labour issues
- The implications of business reorganisation, corporate supply chains and global production networks for traditional labour regulation

Track 3 Institutional aspects of labour law

Institutional settings are of importance for the effectiveness of labour norms in practice, otherwise the laws may remain merely a paper tiger. The focus of this track lies with institutional developments, including the introduction of new procedures to support the implementation of labour norms and 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? Secondly, domestic labour law is increasingly influenced and affected by regional and international regulations – within Europe the regulations of the European Union, and worldwide by conventions and programmes of the ILO, the OECD and the UN, as well as transnational private initiatives of multinationals and certification schemes of NGOs. The result is an increasingly complex multi-level legal order of labour law with issues about hierarchy, between norms, institutions and courts and tribunals.

For this track we invite papers dealing with, among others:

- Domestic institutional developments and tendencies, in particular new solutions to enforcement problems – theoretical (regulatory techniques, such as new or experimentalist governance) as well as based on particular cases (for instance new laws on whistle blowing, or more or less options for judicial review)
- Studies on ‘the global space of labour law’, dealing with hierarchy issues, as well as case-studies indicating complementarity or symbiosis between systems either on the same level (e.g. international) or between levels (e.g. transnational and national) or sorts of regulations (e.g. public law, private initiatives, collective agreements, etc.)
- New trends in procedures to support/promote the implementation of labour laws.
- Hierarchy issues between different courts or tribunals
- Collaboration and/or coordination between courts, tribunals and regulatory agencies, or between regulatory agencies (eg. wages and hours inspectorates and OHS inspectorates, labour inspectorates and business regulators)

Track 4 Labour related social security law

According to Hugo Sinzheimer, labour related social security law is part and parcel of labour law. A vital precondition for social security (law) is sustainability. This concerns the financial aspects of a scheme as well as the conditions for reliability and accountability. The issue of financial sustainability is most pressing in countries with more advanced social security regimes, due to the

intergenerational solidarity which is embedded in many schemes. In countries with younger, less developed regimes, the challenge may be whether the law is an adequate instrument to safeguard organisational reliability, for instance by formulating conditions of transparency and good administration. More generally, social security schemes are challenged by the fragmentation of labour contracts, as well as with an increasing cross border mobility of (highly flexible) workers, pensioners and jobseekers.

For this track we invite papers dealing with, among others:

- Intergenerational solidarity: pensions, health costs, property rights
- (Quasi-) self-employment and social protection: legal answers in and outside social security
- The legal boundaries of the 'enabling' welfare state
- Social security and family responsibilities: a right to care?
- Legal safeguards for 'good administration': good practices; practical and fundamental limitations
- The consequences of cross border mobility: legal obligations, enforcement issues
- 'Social drawing rights' and other ideas to protect people moving between various work and non-work statuses

Track 5 Purpose, scope and boundaries of labour law

Hugo Sinzheimer was one of the first legal scholars promoting labour law as a distinctive and specialised field of law, but ever since it has been under continuous pressure requiring scholars to think and rethink the purpose and scope of labour law. For scholars in the field it is obvious that labour is not a commodity and therefore labour law aims to create decent working conditions, circumstances and living wages. Nevertheless, these aims conflict with other interests, like economic circumstances, the obligation of companies to make profits, etc. Secondly, labour issues are also involved in other fields of law, for instance company law, investment law, insolvency law, private law, consumer law, public law and immigration law. This is the case on the domestic level as well as on regional (e.g. NAFTA for North-America; European regulations for EU member states) and international (e.g. WTO, World Bank, IMF) level. As a consequence, the purpose, scope and boundaries of labour law cannot be taken for granted and remain a continuous subject of research interest.

For this track we invite papers dealing with, among others:

- Historical and contemporary accounts on the purpose and scope of labour law
- Interdisciplinary studies on the purpose and scope of labour law
- Intersectional papers dealing with labour law issues regulated by different legal disciplines, including company law, insolvency law, consumer law, private law, human rights law, etc.
- Studies on the boundaries of labour law, from two perspectives: the impact of labour law on other fields of law and the impact of other fields of law on labour law (both on national, regional and international level)
- Analysis on tendencies/developments of labour as a commodity
- Papers on the impact of globalization, the economic crisis and other developments on the purpose, scope and boundaries of labour law

Call for papers (and other proposals)

We are inviting the following types of proposal:

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. Proposals will be subject to peer-review by the organising committees.

Panel session: scholars are also welcome to submit proposals for full panel sessions, which include 4 papers or 3 papers and a discussant. Such proposals should be submitted by the convener of the panel (who can also serve as the chair), and include abstracts of all proposed papers as well as a short integrative statement explaining the theme of the panel (all in one document!).

Author meets reader panel: scholars who wish to organise a discussion around a recent important labour law book are invited to propose a panel with 3-4 discussants and the author as a respondent. Proposals for an 'Author meets reader'-panel do not require abstracts, just a short explanation of the book's importance and brief biographies of the discussants who agreed to take part.

Book presentation: scholars who recently published a book around an important labour law issue are invited to propose a panel with 3-4 authors and a discussant not involved with the book. Proposals for a book presentation do not require abstracts, just a short explanation of the book's importance, brief biographies of the participating authors and the discussant.

Research Centres Showcase Panel: labour law research centres are invited to propose sessions in which their research projects will be presented and discussed. The exact plan for such a panel is open for discussion with the international organising committee.

Closed workshop: We encourage scholars or groups planning a closed workshop (or other meetings) on labour law topics to consider holding those meetings in Amsterdam, immediately before or after the LLRN conference. This could prove convenient for participants in both events, and minimise their costs. The local organising committee will be happy to help in securing appropriate rooms at the Amsterdam Law School for such meetings.

All proposals are to be sent to LLRNConference@uva.nl. Please indicate for which track you are submitting your proposal.

Important dates

15 October 2014	Last day to submit abstracts/panel proposals
15 December 2014	Decisions on acceptance of papers/panel proposals
25 May 2015	Last day to submit full papers
25-27 June 2015	Conference!

Confirmed speakers

We are delighted that the following leading scholars have already confirmed their intention to participate and present papers.

Gordon Anderson (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Takashi Araki (University of Tokyo)

Harry Arthurs (Osgoode Hall Law School, Canada)

Adelle Blackett (McGill University, Canada)

Zhou Changzheng (Nanjing University, China)

Hugh Collins (Oxford University)

Nicola Countouris (University College London)

Simon Deakin (Cambridge University)

Cynthia Estlund (New York University)

Matthew Finkin (University of Illinois)

Sandra Fredman (University of Oxford)

Mark Freedland (University of Oxford)

Judy Fudge (Kent Law School, UK)

Adrián Goldin (San Andrés University, Argentina)

Frank Hendrickx (University of Leuven, Belgium)

Mijke Houwerzijl (Tilburg University, the Netherlands)

Alan Hyde (Rutgers University)

Claire Kilpatrick (European University Institute, Florence)

Attila Kun (Károli Gáspár University, Hungary)

Sylvaine Laulom (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Gillian Lester (University of California Berkeley)

Orly Lobel (University of San Diego)

Virginia Mantouvalou (University College London)

Robert Rebhahn (University of Vienna)

Joellen Riley (University of Sydney)

Mia Rönnmar (Lund University, Sweden)

Silvana Sciarra (Florence University)

Nicola Smit (North-West University, South Africa)

Bernd Waas (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Logistics

Participants are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodation; however there will be no conference fees (other than costs for coffee/tea breaks, lunches and dinner). Information about recommended hotels (including special rates for conference participants) will be provided later on.

We hope to be able to provide financial assistance to participants from developing countries who cannot otherwise attend the conference. While we are still not in a position to guarantee such funding, participants from developing countries are encouraged to submit abstracts or panel proposals, and note their need of financial support.

Organising committees

International organising committee

Evert Verhulp, University of Amsterdam (co-Chair)
Guy Davidov, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (co-Chair)
Isabelle Daugareilh, Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV
Catherine Fisk, University of California Irvine
John Howe, University of Melbourne
Rochelle Le Roux, University of Cape Town
Julia López, Pompeu Fabra University

Local organising committee

Evert Verhulp (Chair)
Alexander de Becker (co-coordinator)
Beryl ter Haar (co-coordinator)
Mies Westerveld
Nuria Ramos Martin
Margreet Kroon

All questions and suggestions should be addressed to LLRNconference@uva.nl. If you prefer, you are free to contact any of the organising committee members instead.