



**Graduate Students in Law/ Étudiant(e)s Diplômé(e)s en Droit
University of Ottawa**

Law and Conviviality: Expanding the Field of Possibilities

**4th Annual Graduate Students in Law Conference
Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, 7-8 May 2015**

“... there is no global social justice without global cognitive justice. Therefore, in order to capture the immense variety of critical discourses and practices and to valorize and maximize their transformative potential, an epistemological reconstruction is needed. This means that we need not so much alternatives as we need an alternative thinking of alternatives.”

Boaventura de Sousa Santos, 2008

Conference Theme:

Inspired by Boaventura de Sousa Santos’ call for “a sociology of absences and a sociology of emergences”, the objective of this conference is to bring together graduate students whose work documents and analyzes alternatives to theories or practices producing social exclusion.

A great diversity of groups and movements – deployed on local, national and international scales – are developing alternative legal tools and frameworks that challenge the hegemonic legal principles and structures. The analysis and the valorization of these alternatives to oppressive practices are fundamental, primarily for groups vindicating greater social inclusion (minorities, women, workers, indigenous peoples, tribal communities, etc.); but also for society as a whole, as it enables access to knowledge and experiences which could prove useful in addressing issues currently lacking adequate responses.

These alternatives usually constitute fragile and unstable experiences susceptible to being neglected, rejected, and co-opted by dominant cultures and systems. In this context, researchers bear a particular responsibility in selecting their epistemological and theoretical approaches to reveal absences and to analyze emerging practices contributing to conviviality between groups, individuals and cultures.

We welcome proposals on any topic examining alternatives to the dominant legal paradigm in order to achieve greater social inclusion of groups or individuals. This may include, for example, theoretical and methodological approaches favouring conviviality between groups, individuals and their world views; conviviality in the sharing of space (property, environment, etc.); conviviality of world views and in social and democratic practices (intellectual property, culture, folklore, democratic rights, etc.); and, conviviality with respect to gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, ethnicity, etc.



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Submission and Format:

Abstracts from students currently enrolled in a graduate program in law should be submitted (in either English or French) by November 24th, 2014, to gsledd@uottawa.ca. The abstract should be 250 words maximum and must be the student's original research. Please include your name and affiliation. In order to help us with the scheduling of panels, please also indicate your degree of fluency in French and English (participants are not expected to be bilingual).

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in the week following their application. Selected participants will be asked to provide a draft paper (5,000-10,000 words) by April 6th, 2015. These documents will be circulated among participants before the conference in order to allow for more in-depth discussion.

Registration Fees:

Early bird participant (payable by December 8th, 2014): **\$60**
Late bird participant (payable by December 22nd, 2014): **\$75**
Non-presenters (payable by April 1st, 2015): **\$15 per day**

Questions may be directed to the conference organizers at gsledd@uottawa.ca.