

Global Rule of Law Exchange

Call for Think Pieces & Practice Notes

*“Development and the Rule of Law:
from Research to Practice”*

Overview

The Global Rule of Law Exchange is a new programme of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in London supported by global law firm Jones Day.

The Exchange seeks to address key challenges posed by global development and its relationship to the rule of law. It will consider the challenges in respect of developing the rule of law in emerging economies, with regard to issues such as access to justice, corruption, legal certainty, government decision-making and the measurement of success in rule of law interventions. Other issues include – but are not limited to – growth, investment and the effects on national economies and local communities; the relationship between formal and informal legal systems; and the extent to which access to justice is or could be an instrument of empowerment and of more equal distribution of resources.

Objective

Among its work, the Exchange is keen to foster empirical and comparative knowledge on what works and what does not in rule of law interventions, encourage discussions on their impact, as well as to identify good practice, research gaps, and ways forward.

To this end, the Exchange will compile a list of short papers (such as think pieces, practice notes, policy documents, etc) of around 1,500 – 3,000 words presenting research, case-studies and evidence from the field. Our intention is to then facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between academics, practitioners, civil society, policy makers, the legal profession and others. Multidisciplinary analyses are encouraged, as are quantitative and qualitative studies.

Discussions & Dissemination

Conferences will be organised in London and in the United States in late 2015 and early 2016 to discuss the papers (date TBA).

The Exchange is keen to use these conferences as a platform to connect researchers with practitioners and policy-makers from culturally diverse and cross-disciplinary backgrounds.

Shortlisted papers will feature in an edited publication, but the Exchange is also exploring opportunities of publishing a collection of these articles in a peer-reviewed journal.

Who should submit?

Submissions are welcome from academic researchers and practitioners, including those working in NGOs, governments, legal institutions, international organisations, development agencies, or others engaging with issues relating to the rule of law.

Submissions from PhD students are welcome and conferences may include workshops for graduate students. Both new work and work recently published will be considered.

Areas of interest

Suggested topics include - but are not limited to - the following themes:

- Rule of law, development and growth, particularly the relationship between economic growth, development and rule of law.
- Technical and knowledge gaps in rule of law
- New developments, challenges, and debates concerning rule of law and access to justice
- Innovative approaches to the measurement and evaluation rule of law interventions
- Qualitative or quantitative datasets concerning the rule of law.
- Impact of rule of law interventions
- Rule of law and its impact on the poor
- Rule of law and the empowerment of groups or individuals
- Rule of law and social development
- Rule of law and Sustainable Development Goals
- Rule of law fragile and conflict-affected situations
- Rule of law, corruption, accountability and transparency
- Demand and supply of rule of law
- Formal and informal rule of law institutions
- The relationship between constitutional reforms, public sector reform, and improved governance
- Rule of law and human rights
- Role of international, national and sub-national actors in sustaining the rule of law.
- Differences between 'western' and 'non-western' rule of law, and universality of the rule of law

Instructions for submission

- a. A 150-300 word abstract of the paper should be submitted by **30 June 2015**. An abstract should have a descriptive title in plain language, clearly indicating what the paper will be addressing. It should outline the main theme, research question(s), and/or idea(s)/evidence it will discuss, and how the paper will contribute to our understanding of development and the rule of law. Authors should i) clearly identify their organisational affiliation and ii) indicate whether this is published or unpublished research. Submissions should be sent to m.tromme@binghamcentre.biicl.org.
- b. Selected studies will be notified by **31 July 2015**.
- c. Final versions of the papers should be submitted by **30 September 2015** for review by a panel.
- d. Papers will be presented at either of the two conferences in late 2015 or early 2016 (exact location and date to be confirmed). Publication of the papers is scheduled for 2016.

Contact for questions and clarifications

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