

Special issue on legitimacy and institutions for conflict resolution

Call for abstracts

Legitimacy is a core concept in the legal domain. It is also a complex concept that can be approached from different perspectives. From a doctrinal legal point of view, the issue of legitimacy is connected to legality. Social scientists tend to focus on public perceptions of the law and legal systems, whereas for (legal) philosophers legitimacy is closely connected to the notion of justice. Hence, legitimacy is particularly well-suited as a conceptual and methodological meeting place for a variety of disciplines and is as such pivotal to many empirical legal studies (ELS).

Legitimacy is also a concept that can be studied in a variety of contexts. One of these is the context of institutions for conflict resolution, a research theme on which Radboud University Nijmegen, Utrecht University, and Leiden University are collaborating within the Dutch national sector plan for law. To gain a better understanding of legitimacy in the context of institutions for conflict resolution, a special issue on this topic will be put together in 2022. The special issue aims to serve as a valuable point of departure for future researchers by offering an overview of the different theoretical and methodological approaches to this important concept.

Researchers who are working on legitimacy in the context of institutions for conflict resolution are cordially invited to submit an abstract outlining their proposed contribution. In your abstract, please indicate within which of the following three proposed sections of the special issue your contribution would fit:

Section 1: theoretical perspectives on legitimacy

Section 2: methodological aspects of research on legitimacy (including operationalization)

Section 3: concrete research projects involving legitimacy¹

As part of the initiative, we also intend to organize three meetings during the first half of 2022. Researchers who would like to participate in these meetings can present their draft contributions and receive feedback from the other participants, and/or participants can collectively reflect on core literature on legitimacy.

Researchers who are interested in taking part in this initiative are invited to submit an abstract (in English and approximately 200-400 words) to l.f.m.ansems@law.leidenuniv.nl **before November 1st, 2021**. More details, including details on the maximum number of words of the contributions, will follow after that time.

¹ **If you propose a contribution for Section 3**, please also indicate (a) what role legitimacy plays in your research, (b) which theoretical perspective or perspectives on legitimacy you use, and (c) how you approach legitimacy methodologically (including how it is operationalized). It would be appreciated if, after abstract acceptance, you could structure your final contribution according to these three questions as well.