



RAJIV GANDHI SCHOOL OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW,
IIT KHARAGPUR

Symposium on

EPISTEMOLOGICAL INNOVATION

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE CONTOURS
OF LEGAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

18 -19 OCTOBER 2024

BACKGROUND NOTE

The field of legal research is experiencing a significant methodological shift as scholars embrace approaches, critically reassessing and expanding traditional paradigms. Methodologically, this symposium seeks to examine epistemological schema in legal research, concurrently focusing how knowledge production in law can be reimagined. At the same time, the outer boundary is set to seek response to contemporary socio-legal challenges.

Legal research has historically been dominated by doctrinal analysis, a method deeply rooted in the interpretation of legal texts and the gradual permeation of normative principles. While this approach remains vital, the complexities of contemporary legal issues demand that we look beyond doctrinal boundaries and incorporate insights from diverse epistemological traditions. This includes, but is not limited to, interdisciplinary research, empirical inquiries, and computational methodologies. The symposium encourages participants to reflect on how these varied approaches can be synthesized to enhance the vitality of legal scholarship.

Epistemological innovation, as construed here, is broad and inclusive. It encompasses both theoretical reflections on the nature of legal knowledge and practical innovations in research methods. Participants are encouraged to present works, challenging established methodologies and introducing innovative legal constructions.

We reiterate that a key consideration for this symposium is to promote cross-pollination across different disciplines as law is a part of a complex system. However, this raises an important question about the autonomy of law as a separate field of study. How can legal scholars balance the need for interdisciplinary insights with the preservation of law's distinct analytical framework? This tension between integration and autonomy will be a central theme of the symposium. Through discussions and deliberations spread over a span of two days, this symposium seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on the future of legal research. By fostering discussions on epistemological innovation, it aims to enrich the methodological toolkit and to encourage the development of more nuanced and effective approaches to the study of law.

ABOUT IIT KHARAGPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP) is the first engineering institution established by the Government of India in 1951. IIT KGP has nineteen academic departments, eight multidisciplinary centres and 13 schools of excellence in addition to more than twenty-five central research and development units, truly representing an inspiring arena for research. Over the years, IIT KGP has consistently excelled in education and research, producing global leaders. IIT KGP was awarded the status of “Institute of Eminence” in 2019, and continues to be a trendsetter, leading the way for the other IIT systems. Distinctively, IIT KGP is a pioneer in integrating and administering non-engineering disciplines, such as law and management, at the core of its academic system. The institute’s motto, *Yoga Karmasu Kaushalam* which translates to ‘Excellence in action is Yoga’, has fostered an environment for original, path-breaking and revolutionary research.

ABOUT RGSOIPL

Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law (RGSOIPL) was established in 2006 with the aim to integrate technology and law. Over the years, it has produced lawyers equipped to traverse the multifaceted and ever-growing intersections of these fields. RGSOIPL emphasizes holistic development, with a strong focus on research and academic excellence. The School has the first position in Legal Research (as per the list released by the National Institute Ranking Framework for 2024) among all the law schools in the country.

The school’s academic offerings include a three-year Bachelor’s Degree in Law (LL.B. Hons.), a two-year Master’s Degree in Law (LL.M) with specialisations in Intellectual Property Law, International Law and Criminal Law, and a Doctoral Programme (Ph.D.). The school has also recently launched Master’s in Public Policy and Governance, boasting an interdisciplinary curriculum with a focus on Research. Besides inviting several legal luminaries in every academic year, the school successfully hosts a National Colloquium on Legal Research inviting participants nationwide. The School also organizes a national moot court competition and promotes strong “Pro Bono Culture for Better Access to Justice”.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT RGSOIPL

The Scholars of RGSOIPL are engaged in Research in various fields of Law including interdisciplinary studies. These include Intellectual Property Laws, International Law, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Corporate Laws, Environmental Law, Law and Technology, Law and Economics, Competition Law, and Labour Law.

The Researchers at RGSOIPL have participated in a myriad of International and National Conferences such as Conference of the Asian Law Institute, Intellectual Property and Innovation Researchers of Asia, Asian Society of International Law, Portland International Center For Management of Engineering and Technology, Asian Criminology Conference, and Management of Intellectual Property Rights and Strategy, to name but a few.

Our Scholars have publications in world renowned journals and publishing houses including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, British Society of Crimonology Conference, Wiley Journal, Asian Journal of Criminology, Taylor & Francis Publishing, Springer Publications, Sage Publications, and Brill.

REGISTRATION FEES

A nominal registration fee will be charged to cover the costs from every participant attending.

- Participants from outside IIT Kharagpur: 2000 INR
- IIT Kharagpur students: 500 INR

Participation fee excludes food and accommodation. One working lunch and one dinner shall be provided. Accommodation will be provided in the Institute Guest House on the payment of an additional amount. All Participants shall have the opportunity to participate in a separate session with the resource persons where Participants can discuss their areas of research and receive their valuable guidance.

CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

We invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit extended abstracts (Maximum of 1000 words, excluding footnotes) for the Symposium. We encourage presentations based on such submissions that critically engage with traditional methodologies or propose new frameworks for understanding legal knowledge.

Submissions of abstracts are welcome from all fields and sub-disciplines of law, as well as from across disciplines, provided that the contribution significantly engages with issues of legal epistemology. We particularly encourage submissions that balance theoretical rigor with practical relevance.

SUGGESTIVE SUB-THEMES

- Law as Data, Text as Data, and Legal Ontology
- Computational Legal Research and Artificial Intelligence
- Law as a Complex Adaptive System and Legal Memetics
- Legal Entropy, Information Theory, and Legal Epistemology
- Evidence-Based Legal Research
- The Autonomy of Law in Multidisciplinary Research
- Technology-Assisted Legal Research Management
- Bibliometrics and Network Science in Legal Literature Reviews
- Critical Research Methods in Legal Studies
- Indigenous and Decolonial Approaches to Legal Research
- Action Research in Law and Policy
- Bridging the Gap between Scientific Temperament and Legal Research
- Interdisciplinary, Trans-disciplinary, and Multi-disciplinary Legal Research

(Note: The sub-themes listed above are merely indicative in nature, and are in no way exhaustive.)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The extended abstract should summarise the scope of the paper, the results, and the findings. Please use “Times New Roman” as the font, 14 (Bold) as the font size for titles, 12 (Bold) as the font size for section subtitles, and size 12 as the font size for the main text. The extended abstract should not exceed 1000 words excluding the footnotes. The extended abstract should preferably have the following sections:

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Analysis and Outcomes
- Conclusion
- References

Figures and tables, if any, should be included in the presentations, corresponding to the abstracts. The authors are also advised to follow OSCOLA 4th Edition for citation. No plagiarism will be entertained. The files should be submitted in PDF/doc/docx format.

Co-authorship is allowed up to a maximum of two co-authors. The names of each such author, along with their affiliation, should appear in the extended abstract. A separate page containing short bios of all such co-authors must also be submitted along with the extended abstract.

The extended abstracts must be uploaded to this [link](#) in PDF/doc/docx format. they should be named as follows: “<names of authors>_extended abstract”.

Once an extended abstract is accepted, the authors will be informed about the registration process for the Symposium. Selected extended abstracts would be called for presentation/ poster presentation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Details	Timelines
Last date for submission of extended abstracts	07.10.2024 (updated)
The last date for registration for the Symposium	15.10.2024
The dates of the Symposium	18.10.2024– 19.10.2024

CONTACT US

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