

Call for Papers:

LEGAL EDUCATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Situated Learning: Climate Change, First Nations Recognition, Generative AI

20-21 November 2023

The field of legal education is evolving, and a significant shift has taken place towards more experiential and practical learning approaches. Situated learning, a powerful pedagogical framework, emphasizes the importance of context and authentic experiences in fostering deep understanding and skill development. It is critical for legal educators and researchers to explore the theory, practice, and implications of situated learning in legal education to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning methods.

Did the above paragraph read uncannily and banally at the same time? Like something was simultaneously strictly accurate and somewhat lacking? That is because it was provided to us by none other than ChatGPT, the bane of old fashioned legal educators the world over and the siren for pedagogical innovators and tech evangelists with core competencies in their sights. Hold that thought for a while...

This year we want to address the theme of *situated learning*. (This is really us, the conference collective, speaking now – can you tell?) But we want to do so in two senses. First, we invite individual papers, organised panels and roundtables on the theme of situated learning in legal education along the lines so helpfully laid out by our digital amanuensis, above.

- How does situated learning take place within the core curriculum and outside it, in clinical or experiential settings?
- What is the theory and practice of situated learning?
- What makes situated learning difficult, challenging or productive in legal education?
- Could law students do with *more* situated learning – technically, professionally, ethically, emotionally? Or less?
- What does a 21st century practice of situated legal learning look (or sound, or feel) like?

The second sense is the broader, non-technical, more social and political sense of being *situated*. We are situated, all of us, as legal educators in a world structured by history and riven by constant change. Moreover, we all write and think and teach from somewhere. The above travesty of a first paragraph was ‘composed’, if that is even the right word, on a computer on stolen unceded sovereign Gadigal land – on land that is increasingly subject to the vicissitudes of runaway climate change. What differences to these intersecting contexts and situations – the technological, the decolonial and the climatological – make to our practice and thinking as legal educators? What does it mean to teach law in these situations, here, now? We invite reflections along the above lines, specifically encouraging papers, panels and roundtables on the themes of climate change, first nations recognition and generative AI, and on how we think, practise and teach law in these situations.

Conference Format

The 2023 conference will be held in-person at UNSW Law & Justice.

Conference Participation

There are two main types of participation in the conference: individual conference papers and session proposals.

Individual Conference Paper: participants should send abstracts of no more than 500 words. If accepted, participants should plan to present papers of 20 minutes duration.

Session Proposals: we encourage traditional and non-traditional session formats. These can include debates, interviews, conversations, roundtables, or other formats. They can also include the standard conference format of 3 x 20-minute papers plus a chair, in which case the panel organiser needs to submit a brief (100 word) description of what the panel is about followed by 3 x 500-word abstracts (one for each of the papers). For non-traditional formats, please include the names of the participants and an explanation of the planned format and theme for the panel.

We particularly welcome doctoral, early career and junior scholars. We welcome scholars within the discipline of law but also those outside law who are interested in questions of legal education and the reproduction of legal knowledge.

Please send individual paper abstracts and session proposals for this conference to leconf@unsw.edu.au by COB 1 August 2023.

Registration

Registration is free. Registration details to follow. Any inquiries can be directed to: leconf@unsw.edu.au



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