

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

# “Eurocepticism and Multiculturalism”

7 December 2009  
9:00 – 18:30  
Raadzaal, Achter Sint Pieter 200



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**Biographies**

## Biographies

### *Session I – Freedom of religion and multiculturalism*

#### **Prof. Titia Loenen**

Titia Loenen is professor of Legal Theory at Utrecht University. She studied history and law at the Leiden University. She did a PHD at the same university with as topic 'Difference in Equality'. After having taught at the university of Leiden and Utrecht was she was appointed as the second Professor of Gender and Law.

Loenen's research interest lies within the field of Equality and law, human rights, gender and multicultural issues. She published extensively on the non-discrimination law and sex equality. She is amongst other things a member of the Board of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights and member of the editorial Board of 'Law, Democracy and Development Journal'.

Titia Loenen's Curriculum Vitae (in Dutch) including a list of selected publications can be found [here](#).

#### **Prof. Veit Bader**

Dr. Veit Bader is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Professor Emeritus of Social and Political Philosophy at the Amsterdam University. He is also a member of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES).

He is currently involved in the IMES research line on the Governance of Ethnic and Religious Diversity. He is also the coordinator of the Dutch partnerships in the FP7 funded projects Tolerance, Pluralism and Social Cohesion: Responding to the Challenges of the 21st Century in Europe (ACCEPT) and RELIGARE —Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe— Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy.

Bader's research interests lie within the fields of social theory, class theory, critical theory, institutional pluralism and multiculturalism.

In his book '*Secularism or Democracy? Associational Governance of religious Diversity*' Bader gives an alternative to the predominant contemporary regimes of governance of religious diversity. Bader tries to incorporate non-liberal but decent groups within democratic constitutional states. This alternative is called 'associative democracy' (AD)

AD is a libertarian and flexible version of democratic institutional pluralism, rejecting constitutional establishment. It supports the legal, administrative and political recognition of organised religions. It balances individual religious freedom and associational freedom of religion and provides maximum accommodation to religious practices, only constrained by minimal morality and the protection of basic rights. In addition to indirect financing through tax exemptions, AD provides public funding for faith-based care and educational organisations, taking into account public scrutiny and principles of quality. It provides opportunities for such organisations to be even-handedly involved in standard-setting and the governance of such services. AD not only allows recognised religions to play a public role, it gives them specific information rights, particularly when it comes to hotly debated societal issues. Entitlement, moreover, occurs on an equal basis with other *weltanschaulichen* organisations (based on 'philosophical ways of life'). AD grants rights and provides opportunities to participate in public forums and hearings. It allows religious organisations to be included in ethic advisory councils.

A list of Veit Bader's selected publications can be found [here](#).

## **Dr Anat Scolnicov**

Dr Anat Scolnicov is the Director of studies and College Lecturer in Law at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge University. From January 2008, she also works as Deputy Director of the Centre for Public Law at the same University.

In books as "*The Right to Religious Freedom in International Law*", she has analyzed the right to religious freedom within international law, arguing that the interpretation and application of religious freedom must be understood as a conflict between individual and group claims of rights, and argues for an individualistic interpretation of this right.

She lectures in Civil Liberties in England and Wales (LLM), European Human Rights (Law Tripos Part II); Women and the Law, Law and Ethics of Medicine (Part II). Her research interests include Law, State and Religion, Feminist legal theory, Public law and International law.

The Curriculum Vitae of Anat Scolnicov can be found [here](#).

### **Professor Antal Örkény**

Antal Örkény is professor of sociology at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. Since 1997 Antal Örkény is the chair of the ELTE-UNESCO Minority Studies Department. He is also the director of the Social Relations Institute including three departments (Minority Studies, Social Psychology, Cultural Anthropology) at the Social Sciences Faculty of the ELTE. Antal Örkény is a Fellow Board member of the ERCOMER.

His major research fields are cross-national surveys on social justice, national identity and national stereotypes in cross national comparative perspectives. Until now, he has published nine monographs, two of which have been published in English. *“Ideology and Political Beliefs in Hungary The Twilight of State Socialism”*, London and New York: Pinter Publishers, 1992 was written together with György Csepeli, and *“Grappling with National Identity. How Nations See Each Others in Central Europe”*, Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, 2000 together with György Csepeli and Mária Székelyi. Together with Karen Phalet he was the co-editor of the book titled *‘Ethnic Minorities and Inter-Ethnic Relations in Context: A Dutch-Hungarian encounter’*, published in Amsterdam by Ashgate-ERCOMER.

Antal Örkény’s CV including a list of publications can be found [here](#).

### **Professor Leonard Besselink**

Leonard Besselink is professor of European Constitutional law in the University of Utrecht. At present, he holds the Jean Monnet Chair of European Constitutional Law. Furthermore, he is the programme coordinator of the Legal Research Master of Utrecht University.

He studied law at the University of Leiden, specializing in European and international law. Further studies were completed at the Académie de Droit International de la Haye, at the Johns Hopkins University, the School of Advanced International Studies, and he holds a doctorate of the European University Institute in Florence.

At the European University Institute, Leonard Besselink has been a visiting professor from 2003 to 2004 and he has given many other guest lectures at Universities worldwide.

Furthermore, at present he is also involved in a number of research networks, such as the Research School *Ius Commune*, and he is a member of several editorial boards, such as the *European Constitutional Law Review*.

His expertise lies in Dutch and international public law, with a focus on constitutional law, European law, political theory and the philosophy of law. His contributions on the development of European constitutional law, and especially from the perspective of national constitutional law, are of high interest for our conference.

A list of Leonard Besselink’s publications can be found [here](#).

The Curriculum Vitae of Leonard Besselink can be found [here](#).

## **Dr Gavin Barrett**

Dr Gavin Barrett, LL.B., Ph.D., D.A.L.F. is a barrister, senior lecturer and Director of Doctoral Studies in the School of Law in University College Dublin. He specialises in European law, in particular in the constitutional and employment law aspects thereof. He is the editor of a number of works mainly in the field of European law, (most recently: *'National Parliaments and the European Union: The Constitutional Challenge for the Oireachtas and Other Member State Legislatures'* (Clarus Press, 2008)) and has published articles on European-related themes in inter alia, the Common Market Law Review, the European Law Review, the Yearbook of European Law, the European Law Journal, the European Constitutional Law Review, the Dublin University Law Journal, the Industrial Law Journal and the Commercial Law Practitioner. He has also written frequently for the Irish Times and the Sunday Business Post on European constitutional legal themes. Prior to his present position he worked in the Academy of European Law in Trier, Germany and in the Institute of European Affairs. He was a UCD President's Research Fellow in 2007/8 and a Government of Ireland Fellow in 2004-2005.

His contributions in the field European Constitutional Law, more specifically on the ratification procedures of the Lisbon Treaty, are very interesting for this conference. Also, the Irish struggle with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty may certainly provide for interesting discussions during our conference.

A list of Gavin Barrett's publications can be found [here](#).  
The Curriculum Vitae of Gavin Barrett can be found [here](#).

### Session III – Cultural identity and the regulation of private law in Europe

#### **Dr Ruth Sefton-Green**

Dr Ruth Sefton-Green, *literae humaniores* M.A. Oxon, qualified as a solicitor in England and an avocat in France. She is now a Reader of comparative private law at the Université Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne) where she obtained her doctorate (PhD, 1997) and attached to the comparative law research centre UMR de droit comparé de Paris. She teaches mainly the comparative law of obligations and introduction courses to another legal system involving comparative law methodology. Her thesis *La notion d'obligation fondamentale: comparaison franco-anglaise* (LGJD, 2000) was awarded the Lévy-Ullmann prize for comparative law. She has also given conferences in several universities in Europe, as well as participating in many international colloquia in Europe, U.S.A and Canada.

Her extensive publications include, as editor, a book in the Common Core of European Private Law series, *'Mistake, Fraud and Duties to Inform in European Contract Law'* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) republished in paperback (Cambridge University Press, 2008). She has participated as a reporter in other Common Core of European Private Law volumes and is an active member of the Study Group for Social Justice in European Private Law. She has also published numerous articles, singly and collectively, in French and English law books and periodicals on themes and issues relating to the comparative law of obligations and comparative law in general.

Ruth Sefton-Green's publications and interest in multiculturalism and the harmonisation of certain private law matters are of particular relevance for our conference.

Dr Ruth Sefton-Green's Curriculum Vitae (in French) including a list of selected publications can be found [here](#).

#### **Professor Jan Smits**

Jan Smits is professor of European Private Law and Comparative Law in the University of Tilburg. Also, he is director of the Tilburg Institute of Comparative and Transnational Law. Furthermore, he is research professor of Comparative Legal Studies in the University of Helsinki.

He studied law at the University of Leiden and the University of Poitiers (France). Afterwards he did his PhD at the University of Leiden. His PhD research concerned the development of a theory of how contractual liability can best be explained.

After having taught at the universities of Stellenbosch (South-Africa) and Tilburg, he was appointed as an associate professor at Maastricht University. Later, he was appointed to the Chair of European Private Law, which was the first chair for this particular field worldwide. Also he led the private law research group of the *Ius Commune Research School* at Maastricht. Since 2008 he is teaching again in Tilburg and also has the Chair of European Private Law and Comparative Law, which has been newly created under a special scheme of the Tilburg University board.

Besides his academic diligence at Tilburg University, Jan Smits also is a member of several editorial and advisory boards, and moreover, an honorary judge in the Amsterdam Court of Appeal.

For our LRM international conference Professor Jan Smits is very interesting for his well-known critical views on the European harmonisation process, especially with regard to private law.

A list of Jan Smits' publications can be found [here](#).  
Jan Smits' Curriculum Vitae can be found [here](#).

## **Professor Esin Örucü**

Esin Örucü is a member of the Emeritus Staff of the School of Law of the University of Glasgow, and holds the status of Honorary Research Fellow.

In 1965, she completed her LL.B. degree at Istanbul University. Furthermore, she studied at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences as a research student. In 1969, she received her PhD degree from Istanbul University. Between 1986 and 1999, she was Honorary Guest Professor at Leiden University Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Law. Since 1976, she has been teaching “Jurisprudence and Comparative Law” at Glasgow University School of Law, as a lecturer between 1976 -1983, as a senior lecturer between 1983 and 1992, and as a professor since 1992.

Besides her academic diligence at Glasgow University, Esin Örucü is Emerita Professor of Comparative Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Honorary Professor of Turkish Law at the Amsterdam Free University, and member of International Academy of Comparative Law. Also, in January 2009 she was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Law honoris causa from the University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Her research interests include Comparative law methodology, Transmigration of laws, Changing paradigms in the new world order, Mixed jurisdictions, Systems in transition, Legal systems and legal cultures, and Convergence and divergence between legal systems and cultures, and, finally, Turkish law, culture and language.

For our LRM international conference Professor Esin Örucü is very interesting for her experience with comparative law research with regard to convergence of several private law areas within Europe. Also, her knowledge of Turkish law may be an interesting discussion topic in relation to Euroscepticism and a possible future enlargement of the Union.

A list of selected publications of Esin Örucü can be found [here](#).