

Workshop

“Research experiences, disciplinary design and political relevance: the case of ethnographic tools”

Coordinated by

Mariavittoria Catanzariti, Alvise Sbraccia, Luca Sterchele

The workshop aims to establish a discussion among colleagues on the potential of qualitative research in Sociology of Law, in order to activate a reflection among the members of our section that we intend to be fruitful not only in terms of mutual exchange and training, but also in defining the future perspectives that might interest our discipline in the face of an ever-changing object of knowledge. We therefore propose this contribution in order to bring qualitative - and, in particular, ethnographic - research on law and legal processes back to the centre of our disciplinary project. This is understood as a perspective capable of providing central tools for understanding them, also in fruitful dialogue with research oriented towards more purely quantitative approaches.

In particular, this contribution is oriented towards an in-depth reflection on the following questions:

- How qualitative techniques allow us to concretise an approach that highlights the significance of a communal, socio-legal perspective which is transversal to the participants in the workshop, even in front of the thematic heterogeneity of the different fields of study that may pertain to our field.
- To identify the potential of an anti-deterministic approach both from a methodological point of view and from the point of view of policies relating to the various knowledge markets, identifying possible points of intersection and dialogue between the two dimensions. In particular, we are interested in pointing out the possibilities of theoretical formulation in connection between local and global levels that qualitative methods *per se* could guarantee, going into how these could be further strengthened in the convergence of approaches.
- The final objective is therefore to enhance the tradition of socio-legal studies in a sense that is not purely conservative, but looking at how it can find a renewed breath in new methodological perspectives, opening up directions that allow us to face the present in a shared and long-term perspective, albeit certainly differentiated within it, that testifies to the centrality of the legal element in the broader sphere of the social sciences.