

## Issue No. 7 / March 2014

- \* Teaching Innovation in the Core Course
- \* CTLS Students' First Visit to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) in The Hague
- \* End-of-Semester Festivities and Personal Reflections

**CTLS** is in an exciting phase of its development, more diverse and more visible than ever. The Fall 2013 semester welcomed 88 students, from 21 schools, and different 18 countries, as well as incorporating a new partner school: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia).

A great variety of courses made up a very balanced offering, in which the students could follow their own track or combine among them. Broadly speaking, there were three of those tracks: practice-oriented courses on the field of public law; practice-oriented courses on the field of private law; and theory-oriented courses.

The colloquium, as always, provided the students with the opportunity to engage in first-hand scholarly discussion, and had the added value of exposing them to very different academic styles. The participants for Fall 2013 included CTLS faculty Daphna Lewinsohn-Zamir, Nicola Palmer, Ugo Pagallo, Michael Schillig, Satvinder Juss, Eva Maria Belser Wyss and Adam Hofri Winogradow, as well as our guest speakers Geoffrey Samuel, Christopher Townley, Victor V. Ramraj, Nigel Duncan, Peter Fitzpatrick and Sionaidh Douglas-Scott.

In spite of the diversity of areas of legal knowledge addressed in the different papers, all of them dealt broadly with at least one of these two broad topics: the paradigm shift in the field of legal theory brought about by globalisation; and the practical consequences of this change in

different areas of public and private law, from competition law to refugee law passing through the law of trusts, internet law, and more.

After a series of panel talks and special guest lectures which were incorporated into the curriculum, and particularly the Core Course, our roster of distinguished guest speakers has grown substantially. Being addressed by Sir Michael Rawlins, our first lecturer in Transnational Justice for the Academic Year, was a particular highlight.

Professor Sir Rawlins, who is the former Chair of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (1999-2013), and currently President of the Royal Society of Medicine, spoke with reference to a range of medical cases around the globe, in which critical decisions have had to be made regarding health resource allocation. Such decisions are no longer the preserve of just one public body, government or organisation, but bring many transnational factors into play. This fascinating talk made clear that even in the richest of countries, there is a disconnect between biomedical possibility and economic reality, and that lawyers have a crucial role to play.

The lecture was attended by an array of guests, both those connected to CTLS (including faculty members and students from the medical and legal divisions at King's College, London) and those from the wider academic community.

### Center for Transnational Legal Studies

Swan House

37-39 High Holborn

3rd floor reception

London WC1V 6AA

United Kingdom

tel.: +44 (0)20 3077 5900

ctls@law.georgetown.edu

## The Core Course: Highlights and New Innovations

*César Arjona and Gregg Bloche, 2013-2014 Faculty Co-Directors, reflect on continuing developments within the CTLS Core Course*

For the first time in Fall 2013, we conducted a pilot entry survey to identify background information about CTLS students, as well as their interests and motivations. We discovered that the CTLS is not only a place made up of people with different backgrounds, but also with different interests and motivations. The different expectations of students coming to the Center, combined with a large student body of 88, is a further source of rich diversity and for the same reason a further challenge.

The Core Course – the only mandatory Fall-semester course for CTLS students – offers the potential to hold a conversation draw comparisons amongst students’ differing legal systems and educational cultures. With this in mind, one innovation that we have built on this term is dividing the Core Course class into breakout groups, which resulted in the creation of a more familiar environment, and allowed for the discussion of controversial readings especially selected for these occasions. In such a large body of students, this kind of discussion would have been almost impossible otherwise.

To broaden the scope of the course, we held panels and guest lectures by speakers whose specializations contrasted with our own. One panel was on Religious Law, which was presented by Fr. John Conneely (Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Westminster), Professor David Hillel-Ruben (Honorary Research Fellow, Birkbeck College, University of London), and Dr. Farrah Ahmed (University of Melbourne). Later, Professor Allyn Taylor (Professor of Law, Georgetown University) lent her expertise in global health law and international organizations. Werner Menski’s guest lecture focused on Asian legal systems, and specifically Muslim and Hindu Law. From another quarter, John Flood (University of Westminster) spoke to great acclaim on the subject of law firms ‘Going Global’, drawing on his experiences



of the legal profession in transnational contexts.

Last but certainly not least, we were grateful to count on other CTLS Faculty participating in the course, either by bringing their own expertise into a special lecture (as did Professors Satvinder Juss and Ugo Pagallo), or by taking care of small group discussions (Professors Eva Maria Belser Wyss, Nicola Palmer, and Ugo Pagallo). This contributed to the sense of community, and served to exploit the synergies between the Core Course and the optional courses.

### Fall 2013 Students: A Snapshot

- 42.7% of students attending the Fall 2013 semester at CTLS reported speaking three languages, or more
- The proportion of students who had previously left their home countries in pursuit of internships, job opportunities or further study was in excess of 50%
- The student body is split very evenly between students who come to CTLS to pursue predominantly intellectual goals, and those who attend for practical reasons: some business-driven, and some not. A smaller number (9.8%) are motivated by the chance to build up a network of contacts

## Study Visits to the ICTY and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon



A group of 46 CTLS students visited the institutions of The Hague (Netherlands) for the third time, as part of their course of study in International Criminal Law. They were accompanied by Faculty Co-Director, Professor Gregg Bloche, and CTLS staff members (above).

### DAY 1

Students were greeted by the memorable sight of Radovan Karadžić, the infamous former Bosnian Serb politician, defending himself against a range of charges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). After almost two hours spent observing the proceedings from behind glass panels, they toured the ICTY building and were briefed by staff members on aspects of the tribunal's work, including *Elements of Statutory Crimes under the ICTY Statute*; *Modes of Liability (Command Responsibility)*; and *Gender Violence in Armed Conflict*.

All the staff spoke in their capacities as Associate Legal Officers for the tribunal, but were frank and detailed in their presentations to the group, highlighting both the rewards and challenges of having dedicated a large portion of their early

legal careers to a unique endeavour like the ICTY.

The first day of the trip ended with a free evening in The Hague where even some gusty, wet weather didn't prevent the group from enjoying and getting know the city.

### DAY 2

On the second day of the visit, students were introduced to the work of the relatively new Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), and heard from representatives of the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence Office and the Registry. Although no hearings were taking place during the time of the students' visit, taken as a whole these discussions provided a fascinating insight into the intricate processes demanded by an enquiry on this scale. In answering students' questions, the speakers addressed issues of cooperation, victim participation, victim and witness protection, and, most crucially, the legitimacy and mandate for such a court. These considerations make the STL a melting pot of transnational issues, and as visitors there was a very high incentive to return and be brought up to date with future developments.

## Festivities: Thames Cruise and Dinner at the King's College Terrace

The end-of-semester celebration, which brought together students and professors, was an expression of the good atmosphere and friendly environment that we had enjoyed during the previous four months. The students who gave speeches during dinner emphasised that what they valued about the CTLS was not simply the technical knowledge they had acquired during the semester, but the platform they had found to engage in meaningful exchange with professors and with other students, what they had learnt in the process and how they had been transformed by it. We have the sincere impression that this has been a very successful semester and we warmly thank all those who contributed.

*César Arjona and Gregg Bloche*



### **CTLS Founding Partners:**

Georgetown Law • The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London  
 ESADE Law School • Hebrew University of Jerusalem • National University of Singapore  
 University of Fribourg • University of Melbourne • University of Torino • University of Toronto

### **CTLS Partners:**

Al-Quds University • Amsterdam Law School • Bucerius Law School • Católica Global School of Law • Diego Portales University  
 Free University of Berlin • The Haim Striks School of Law, Colman • Moscow State University  
 Peking University School of Transnational Law • Pontificia Universidad Javeriana • Renmin University of China Law School  
 Tecnológico de Monterrey • Universidad de Los Andes • University of Auckland • Yonsei Law School