

# Syllabus

## Transnational Law Colloquium

*Fall 2020 (Prof. Byrne, Georgetown Law / Prof. Stoffel, Université de Fribourg)*

In the Transnational Law Colloquium, faculty from the Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) and other legal scholars will present their own work for discussion by students, colleagues, and guests. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss papers in a broad range of topics relating to transnational law, including public and private international law and comparative law. The papers presented will most often be works in progress, although some will be recently published work. They will ordinarily be available on MOODLE two weeks in advance of the colloquium: they will also be available on TWEN, a platform that all the partner schools can use. You are expected to react to those works in progress, through reaction papers and participation in class discussion.

The Colloquium will take place on seven Thursdays, at **16h** (10 am Washington time), until 18h (one hour a. It will take place in person in Fribourg, and on Zoom at the other places. Students and faculty will participate for credit simultaneously from four universities: Georgetown, Fribourg (Switzerland), Esade (Spain), and Torino (Italy). This will provide an opportunity for sharing across legal cultures. It also will create some unprecedented logistical challenges, and we ask that you be patient with the arrangements. The dates are

- September 24, 16h-18h
- October 1, 16h-18h
- October 15, 16h-18h
- October 29, 16h-18h
- November 12, 16h-18h
- November 19, 16h-18h, and
- December 3, 16h-18h.

The September 24 meeting will be just for the Fribourg students, will present an introduction to transnational law, and discuss logistics of the course.

The first presenter, on **October 1**, will be Georgetown's own Prof. Philip Schrag, who will present part of his new book, **Baby Jails: the Fight to End the Incarceration of Refugee Children in America**. The presenters for the subsequent Colloquium sessions are committed but not yet all scheduled. We will provide a complete schedule shortly.

The student requirements for the Colloquium are to attend each session and write reaction papers, of no more than 1000 words each, for three (3) of the six presentations. You will be randomly assigned to three presentations but may trade with a classmate (with notice by email to Prof. Byrne) if you prefer to write about some different presentation. Papers are due to Prof. Byrne by email by 9 am on the Tuesday before the scheduled presentation; all papers will be given to the presenter before the talk. Grades are only P/F in accord with long-standing CTLS practice.

Be ready to raise your questions or comments during the discussion: at each colloquium session, the speaker will summarize his or her paper in about 30 minutes but will assume that everyone has read the paper. The rest of the session will involve an open conversation in which students, faculty, and other invited guests share their views and ask questions of the author based on their paper. You should ask questions of the presenter and share comments, whether they are based on your written response or occur to you during the presentation and discussion. The speakers and the Prof. Byrne will have read your reaction papers in advance, and we may call on you to present your comments to the group, and you should be ready to do so.

The Colloquium will be worth **5 points ECTS**, special credits.

Walter Stoffel  
Fribourg, September 7, 2020