

CALL FOR PAPERS

Frontiers in Civil Justice

16 and 17 November 2020 @ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Law

In view of the upcoming ERC conference ‘**Frontiers in Civil Justice**’, which will take place at the Erasmus University Rotterdam on 16 and 17 November 2020, we would like to invite submissions of abstracts for the panel entitled ‘**Innovations in Civil Justice - Bringing Justice Closer to Citizens**’.

The panel’s theme: Recent experiments throughout Europe show a shift towards a more low-threshold and accessible justice, with procedural innovations allowing for a more communicative, interactive and solution-oriented approach bringing justice closer to citizens. These innovations can be found for instance in the mediatory/conciliatory role of the judge, the idea of the “proximity judge” (both in terms of practice and in geographical distance) or the institution of community courts, which have a close relationship with local issues. With the presence of debt counsellors at hearings, directly accessible to those suffering debt problems, or the introduction of a free reconciliation procedure for the parties with a judge who mediates through an informal conversation, such innovations seek to design a socially effective and inclusive administration of justice. The last panel will present some of these shifts targeting litigants that – due to lack of self-reliance, in combination with the existing barriers to access to justice – are not or insufficiently accommodated in the current civil justice systems.

Call for Papers: For this panel we invite submissions of abstracts on topics relating to justice innovation, specifically about the development of initiatives aimed at bringing justice closer to citizens, their relevance for access to justice and the judicial system, and the challenges they may pose for judicial administration, litigants and other stakeholders. Contributions can be theoretical, empirical as well as policy oriented. Interdisciplinary approaches are especially encouraged.

Submissions: Please submit an extended abstract in English of no more than 500 words to Jos Hoevenaars (hoevenaars@law.eur.nl) and Betül Kas (kas@law.eur.nl) until 31 July 2020. Include your name, affiliation, and a link to your research profile. Submissions will be selected based on quality, originality, and their capacity to incite fruitful debates. Successful applicants will be notified by 31 August 2020 at the latest.

The organisers aim to publish some or all conference proceedings in an edited volume with a reputable publisher or a special issue of a European law journal.

The project aims to hold the conference on campus. If necessary, in the light of the COVID-19 situation, the conference will take place online or blended.

This conference is organised by Erasmus School of Law in the context of the ERC-Consolidator Research Project ‘Building EU Civil Justice: Challenges of Procedural Innovations Bridging Access to Justice’. More information at: www.euciviljustice.eu.