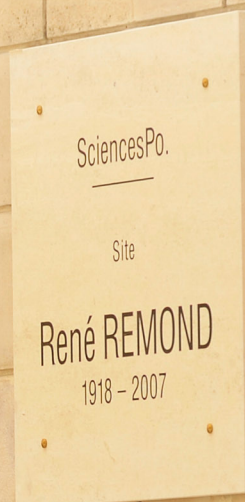




SciencesPo.

École de Droit



Law and Boundaries

*28-29 March 2012*

Sciences Po Law School



## Keynote speakers:

*Susan Marks*, London School of Economics

*Dan Daniels*, Northeastern University School of Law

*Gunther Teubner*, International University College, Torino,  
Goethe University Frankfurt/Main

The conference seeks to create a cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue between students coming from European and foreign universities. The project was initially driven by the feeling that legal scholarship has remained largely silent in the aftermath of the economic crisis, especially concerning the role of lawyers and legal templates.

Another underlying impetus is the concern over the relative absence of European legal scholarship in debates concerning cutting-edge global governance issues. The challenge is to explore how European legal thought can help to understand problems brought about by globalization.

**Abstracts** (maximum 300 words) should be submitted by February 4, 2012 ([lawandboundaries2012@gmail.com](mailto:lawandboundaries2012@gmail.com)). **Working papers** should be sent a week before the presentation, no later than March 20, 2012 (maximum 7000 words). Each participant will be affected to a discussion panel. Working papers will be discussed by Sciences Po faculty members and can be presented in either English or French.

*We welcome papers on different topics which are related to these and others subjects of study.*

## The confinement of the legal discipline:

What exactly is at stake when considering the arguments against and for the autonomy of law? Does the issue of “interdisciplinarity” in law merely boil down to the idea of American legal imperialism? One of the underlying questions is also related to the way legal disciplines should be taught and the role of institutions in the (re)production of discourses.

## The legal discipline and its inner boundaries:

The legal discourse is shaped by a number of divides: public/private, international/domestic, universalism/pluralism. These distinctions were challenged in many ways by critical legal scholars, feminist studies, social science etc. Is the time ripe for a reconstructive endeavor using new alternative descriptive and analytical tools, which would move beyond the (ritual and sometimes sterile) discussions of the unsustainability of the current dichotomous way of thinking?

## Boundaries of law - the legal/non-legal debate:

Traditionally law, at least in the European context, is defined as a set of positive norms backed by the coercive power of the State. The new issues for legal theorists (but also practitioners) are: how to make sense of non-state spheres of normativity such as *lex mercatoria*, *lex sportiva*, internet law – local communities' law?

Is legal pluralism merely an endeavor to revamp old debates? Does the legal pluralistic conceptual framework lead to an intellectual stalemate or is it a new field of contestation? Here again the public/private, State/economy, core/periphery dichotomies are central to our understanding of law.

## Law, space and temporality

How does law construct spaces- physical and virtual? What is the role of law in the delimitation and hence the stabilization of boundaries between the center and the periphery? A whole field of research has emerged pointing to the relations between law, space, time and injustice. We welcome papers exploring the multiple ways in which the interconnections between these concepts can be (re) imagined, to wit, papers rethinking our traditional conceptions of the State – the territory- and the reach of law.

## Boundaries - new territories for regulation?

What are the new fields of regulation constructed by law? How does it help us (re) imagine the terms of the regulation/deregulation debate? Here we welcome papers working on interstices between different legal regimes and different fields of study such as feminist studies, queer theories, bioethics, political economy and law.