Call for Papers

SPECIAL ISSUE

Exploring Tensions in Law and Legal Semiotics

Guest Editors
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Legal semiotics is a dynamic field at the intersection of law, language, culture, and society, marked by the inherent tension between semiotic representation and legal interpretation. This call invites scholars and researchers to delve into the complexities of tension in legal semiotics either linguistically or visually, exploring its cultural, social, historical, and legal dimensions, while also considering shifts in meaning through semiotic analysis.

Topics: This call seeks contributions that critically examine tensions in law and legal linguistics, highlighting its multifaceted nature:

1. **Cultural Tensions:** Analyzing how cultural norms, values, and practices intersect with legal language, generating tensions in interpretation. How do these tensions shape legal discourse and influence the understanding of legal concepts across different cultural contexts?
2. **Social Dynamics:** Investigating the tensions arising from societal factors such as power dynamics, socio-economic disparities, and identity politics, and their impact on legal communication. How do these tensions manifest in legal texts and affect access to justice and equality before the law?
3. **Historical Perspectives on Tensions:** Tracing the historical evolution of legal language and the tensions embedded within it. How have historical contexts contributed to the creation of legal ambiguities, and how do these tensions persist or transform over time?
4. **Legal Analysis of Tensions:** Examining the tensions inherent in legal principles, doctrines, and precedents, and their implications for linguistic interpretation. How do tensions between legal certainty and flexibility shape the interpretation of statutes, contracts, and judicial opinions?
5. **Linguistic and Semiotic Tensions:** Exploring linguistic and semiotic tensions within legal texts, including ambiguities, contradictions, and shifts in meaning. How do these tensions challenge traditional legal reasoning and foster new approaches to legal interpretation?
6. **Cyberattacks and Legal Responses**: Investigating the linguistic and legal challenges in framing laws that address cyberattacks. This involves exploring the tension between the technical language of cybersecurity and the interpretative language of legal response, the adequacy of current legal terminologies to address evolving cyber threats, and the development of new legal lexicons that can effectively encapsulate the complexity of cyber phenomena.

7. **Digital Justice and Access to Law**: Delving into how technology-mediated environments influence legal linguistics, particularly in the contexts of online dispute resolution, virtual courtrooms, and electronic legal documentation. This explores the tensions between traditional legal language and the demands for clarity, accessibility, and adaptability in digital legal platforms.

Submissions of abstracts should be addressed to wendyroseyu@hotmail.com , k.tranter@qut.edu.au and rcornis3@une.edu.au .

- Abstracts of 300 words by 15 January 2025
- After selection, final papers (no more than 15,000 words) should be submitted by 15 June 2025.