

International Research Group on Law and Urban Space

2012 - 2023



Founded in 1993, IRGLUS is a global, informal network of scholars interested in the intersections of law and urban space. While initially focused on planning law, IRGLUS' membership today comprises scholars who work across a wide range of legal fields including property law, constitutional law, human rights law, informality and the law, environmental law and local government law.

After some years of inactivity, IRGLUS was revived in late 2012 as a free network with open membership. Thomas Coggin and Marius Pieterse, both affiliated to the School of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, have since served as its global coordinators.

The intention was for the network primarily to function as a communications platform, that enables researchers to reach and interact with others who may be working on or interested in similar problems. Secondly, IRGLUS aimed to stimulate members' research interests, to actively foster networks and to raise the academic profile of urban law, by organising or participating in periodic conferences, conference sessions, workshops and networking events.

Network Building, Web Presence and Communication

An [IRGLUS website](#) was established in early 2013. It contains basic information about the network, encourages scholars to join and provides some news updates, by linking to its periodic newsletters.

An [IRGLUS Facebook page](#), regularly updated by founding member Edesio Fernandes, was established in early 2013. As on 17 April 2023, the page has around 2500 likes and followers.

Since late 2013, IRGLUS' main communication tool has been a periodic electronic newsletter sent by email to subscribers. These typically contain news on IRGLUS initiatives, urban law events and members' research activities. All members of the network are free to contribute content to newsletters.

The image shows a screenshot of the IRGLUS website. The header includes the logo 'irglus' with the tagline 'international research group on law and urban space'. Navigation links include 'IRGLUS NEWS', 'JOIN IRGLUS', 'CONTACT', 'EVENTS', and 'HOME'. There are also social media icons for Facebook and LinkedIn. The main content area features the title 'International Research Group on Law & Urban Space' and a paragraph describing the group as a global network of academics from various backgrounds interested in the interface between law and urbanisation.

*IRGLUS.net - the website of
the International Research
Group on Law & Urban
Space*

**International Research Group on Law &
Urban Space**

The International Research Group on Law and Urban Space-IRGLUS is a global network which gathers academics from diverse backgrounds – jurists, geographers, sociologists, political scientists, urban planners, environmentalists – who are interested in the interface between law and urbanisation.

Partnerships

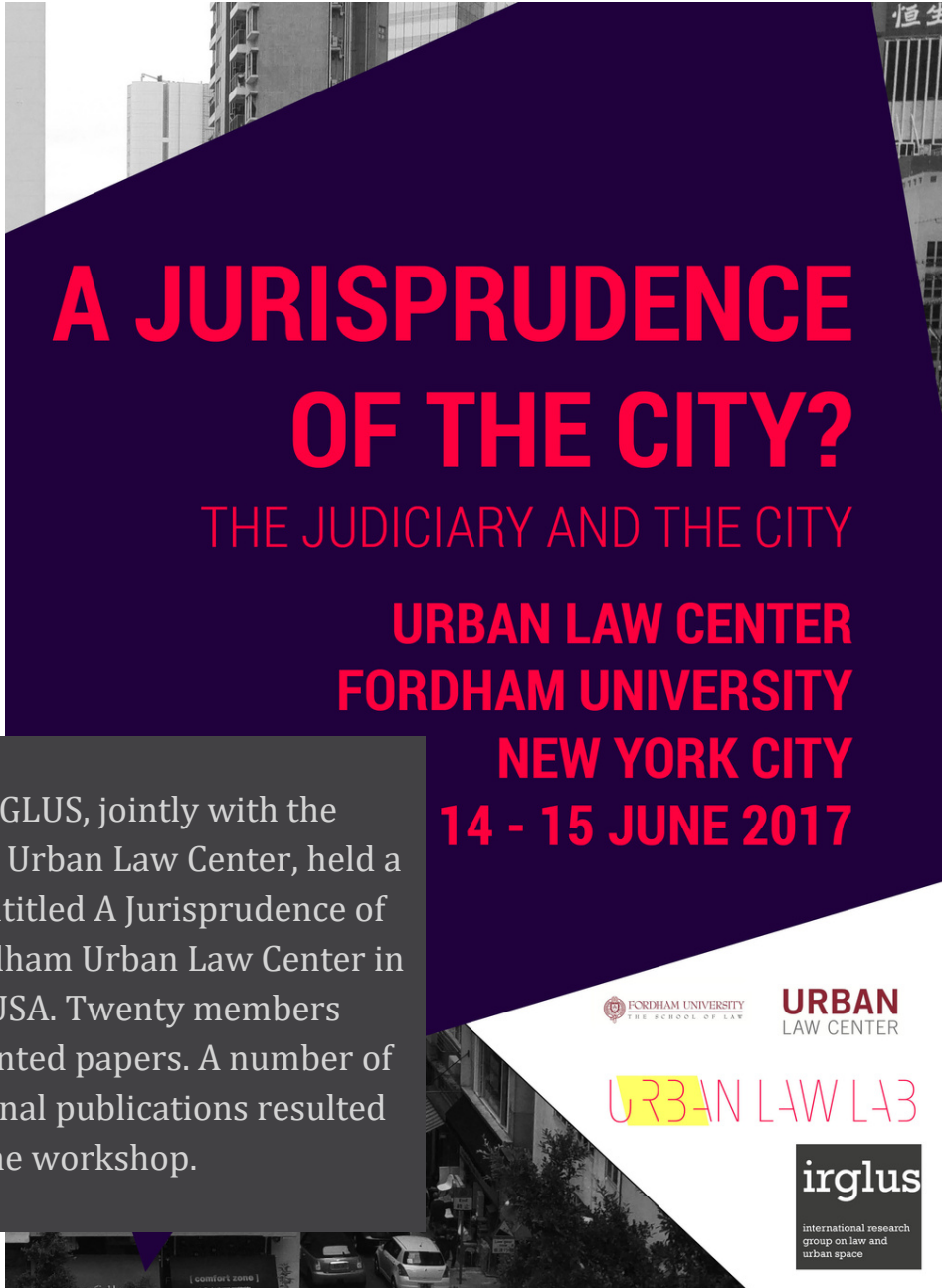
IRGLUS has a historical connection with the policy legislation and governance section (formerly the urban legislation unit) of UN Habitat. Over the years, IRGLUS members have participated in various events organised by the section and vice versa and, as elaborated below, the section and IRGLUS co-organised both an “Urban Law Day” in 2019 and a session at the World Urban Forum held in Abu Dhabi in early 2020. In 2014, upon invitation from the section, IRGLUS provided input, on behalf of its membership, into the preparatory process for the HABITAT III conference held in Quito in late 2016, which eventually resulted in publication of the New Urban Agenda.

Initially through founding member Antonio Azuela, IRGLUS constituted and chaired a working group on law an urban space for the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL), which is a research committee of the International Sociological Association (ISL), until early 2020. In this capacity, IRGLUS organised dedicated “law and urban space” sessions at a number of international and regional ISL/ RCSL conferences, as elaborated below.

As elaborated below, IRGLUS is currently collaborating with Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) on a multi-authored, multi-disciplinary book project.

Other partners/collaborators over the years have included the Urban Law Centre hosted at Fordham University, and the Chair on Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES) based at North West University, Potchefstroom.

In June 2014, IRGLUS held a 2-day workshop on Law, Urban Space and Social Justice at the Onati Institute for Sociology of Law in Onati, Spain. Seventeen IRGLUS members attended and presented academic research papers at the event. Several of these papers were subsequently published in peer reviewed journals or edited volumes.



A JURISPRUDENCE OF THE CITY?

THE JUDICIARY AND THE CITY

URBAN LAW CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK CITY
14 - 15 JUNE 2017

In June 2017, IRGLUS, jointly with the Fordham University Urban Law Center, held a 2-day workshop entitled A Jurisprudence of the City?, at the Fordham Urban Law Center in New York City, USA. Twenty members attended and presented papers. A number of peer academic journal publications resulted from the workshop.



URBAN
LAW CENTER

URBAN LAW LAB

irglus

international research
group on law and
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Through its then-membership of the RCSL, IRGLUS organised and/or chaired the following dedicated urban law conference sessions at ISL/RCSL conferences:

- A session titled “Law and The Right to the City” at the ICL Sociology of Law on the Move conference held in Canoas in May 2015.
- A session titled “Reimagining Access: Institutional Experiments in the Post-Industrial City” at a joint conference of the ISL and Law and Society Association held in Mexico City in June 2017.
- A session titled “Law, Justice and Urban Space” at the RCSL conference on Law and Citizenship Beyond States, held in Lisbon in September 2018.

Events

In partnership with the UN Habitat policy, legislation and governance section and the School of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand, IRGLUS organised and hosted the first UN Habitat Urban Law Day to be held in the global South, in Johannesburg on 29 March 2019. The theme for the event was “Law, the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Cities” and it included assessments of the state of national urban law measured against the goals in the New Urban Agenda, by speakers from South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Together with the UN Habitat policy, legislation and governance section, IRGLUS organised, introduced and moderated a session entitled “Achieving Spatial Equity through Human Rights and Rule of Law” at the 10th World Urban Forum, held in Abu Dhabi in February 2020.

IRGLUS and WIEGO co-hosted an online author’s workshop for their joint book project entitled Mapping Legalities: Law, Urban Space, and Informal Work in January 2022.



IRGLUS workshop 2014 at the Oñati Institute for Sociology of Law, entitled Law, Urban Space, and Social Justice.,

Scholarly Work

IRGLUS is not in and of itself primarily geared towards generating academic publications, though regards scholarly output as a desirable consequence of some of its activities. Several academic publications have resulted from papers prepared for and presented at IRGLUS events over the years.

Together with WIEGO, IRGLUS conceptualised a two-year book project entitled *Mapping Legalities: Law, Urban Space, and Informal Work* co-edited by IRGLUS' Thomas Coggin and Roopa Madhav from WIEGO. The project explores the link between law, processes of urbanisation and informal worker livelihoods across the following themes: Law and informal work; street vendors; urban workers; mobility and informal work, and Covid-19 and informal work. The project involves over 20 authors covering several sites of study spread geographically from Mexico City to Jakarta. Authors presented their draft work in a robust virtual workshop held in January 2022, and all chapters were subsequently subjected to peer review. The book is due for publication by Routledge in 2024.

*Participants at the 2017
IRGLUS / Urban Law
Center workshop at
Fordham University.*

