



**AN INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON LEGAL  
PLURALISM  
9-12 December 2015  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**

## Overview

During 9-12 December 2015 the International Commission on Legal Pluralism in cooperation with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay will organize a course on Legal Pluralism in Mumbai, India, about theories, knowledge and methodologies of legal pluralism. The purpose of the 3½-day course is to familiarize the participants with the current international debates and insights in socio-legal studies and legal pluralism and to offer a comparative perspective that allows them to rethink their own research and practical work.

Participation is limited to 25 persons to allow for maximum discussion. The participants will include academics and practitioners, e.g., NGO activists or government officials, who deal with issues related to legal pluralism, informal justice systems and social justice in their academic or professional work. As in past courses (held amongst others in Wellington (New Zealand), Accra (Ghana), Williamsburg (USA), Moscow (Russia), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Fredericton (Canada), Jakarta (Indonesia), Zurich (Switzerland), Cape Town (South Africa) and Manchester (UK)), during this intensive training, the participants will be given an opportunity to discuss their work and to build long-lasting intellectual connections with both other participants and the teaching staff who, among others, will include

*Keebet von Benda-Beckmann*

*Werner Menski*

*Gopika Solanki*

*Janine Ubink*

*Maarten Bavinck*

*Latif Taş*

*Bertram Turner*

*Wabeeda Amien*

*Katrin Seidel*

Some of the topics to be covered in the course are as follows:

Theoretical and methodological aspects of legal pluralism

Legal empowerment, gender and human rights

Dispute Resolution

Natural resources management

Land tenure and customary law

Rights of indigenous communities and economic development

Access to justice, legal reform and the role of international development agencies

Emerging issues in technology and law related to development issues

And a half-day field trip

## **Selection, Tuition, and Funding**

Prospective students should either be young scholars studying for a JD or PhD or having just finished one, or more senior scholars who are relatively new to the field of legal pluralism, or practitioners whose work is directly related to one or more of the topics that will be covered in the course. Participants must demonstrate a level of proficiency in English that allows them to read and actively discuss relevant academic literature. Students will be selected based on their motivation to join the course.

The course fee is 200 USD. The participants will be responsible for the cost of their airfare, accommodation, meals and local transportation. A limited number of tuition waivers will be awarded to participants who demonstrate extreme financial need. In allocation of tuition waivers, the priority will be given to students coming from low- and middle-income countries. Depending on pending grant applications, some of the participants may be provided free accommodation, local transportation and hospitality during the course.

## **Application, Contact and More Information**

Individuals interested in participating in the course are invited to apply **by October 1, 2015**. The application should include a cover letter, brief curriculum vitae and evidence of English proficiency. Applications should be emailed to Yüksel Sezgin at [turkeypm@hotmail.com](mailto:turkeypm@hotmail.com). Decisions will be made by October 15, 2015.

The course will precede the International Conference of the Commission on Legal Pluralism organized in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on 14-16 December 2015. Prospective students who are also interested in presenting at the conference should note their desire to be included in the program at the time of their applications. Requests may be accommodated depending on scheduling constraints and space limitations.

For more information on the Commission on Legal Pluralism and its past courses and conferences please visit: <http://www.commission-on-legal-pluralism.com>.