

Conference

Clinical Legal Education in Times of Polycrisis

13.-14.10.2025, University of Erfurt, Germany

hosted by

Global Justice Clinic Erfurt

Venue: Erfurt University, Nordhäuser Str. 63, Erfurt

Room: Senatssaal, building C23, top floor

Programme

Monday 13/10/2025

10:00 - 10:30 – Arrival & Coffee

10:30 - 10:45 – Welcome Remarks

10:45 - 12:00 – Opening Panel: Beyond Strategic Litigation: Transformative Lawyering, Systemic Interventions and Scholactivist Collaboration

- Daniel Augenstein, Tilburg University
- Joshua Castellino, Brunel University, London
- Carolina Olarte, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá
- Miriam Saage-Maaß, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
- *Moderation:* Annelen Micus, University of Erfurt / ECCHR

12:00 - 12:15 – Coffee Break

12:15 - 13:15 – Roundtable: Towards Transformative Collaborations: Challenges and Best Practices for Transnational Clinical Cooperation Between Academia and Civil Society

- Joaquin Antonio Garzon Vargas, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá
- Jessica Holl, University of Erfurt / Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- Milka Wahu, Amka Africa/ Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology and Agriculture, Juja
- *Moderation:* Hannah Franzki, Free University Berlin/ ECCHR

13:15 - 14:15 – Lunch

14:15 - 15:30 – Parallel Workshops on Methodologies of Clinical Legal Education

Workshops are held in parallel and with the purpose of engaging in an informal exchange among participants to identify common interests and pathways for future collaboration. Those participants assigned to a specific workshop below are asked to prepare short inputs

on one or more of the themes indicated in the title. The inputs should draw on participants' experience and identify possible areas and modalities for future collaboration among clinics. Each workshop should produce a short outcome document that collects the inputs and key results of the discussion. Conference participants not yet assigned to a particular workshop are invited to join any of the three and actively contribute to the debate.

Workshop 1: Formats, Didactics, Curriculum Development, Syllabi & Manuals, Examination Practices and Constructive Alignment - **Room: C18-LG 4 | 03.04**

- Gerardo Castillo Torres, ITESO, Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara
- Giovana Paula Ramos Silveira Leite, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (co-authored with André Rezende Soares Lino)
- Tim Wihl / Michael Riegner, University of Erfurt
- Nancy Trejo and Consuelo Vanina La Rosa Cedano, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima
- *Moderation:* Malte Spielmann, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Workshop 2: Interdisciplinary Teaching: Relevance of Non-Legal Knowledge for Strategic Litigation and Clinical Work - **Room: Senatssaal, building C23, top floor**

- Flavianne Fernanda Bitencourt Nóbrega, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife
- Hannah Franzki, Free University of Berlin/ ECCHR
- Fernanda de Mendonça Melo, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (co-authored with Lorena Góes Pimenta de Pádua Andrade)
- Mina Schmidt, Facing Finance
- Consuelo Vanina La Rosa Cedano and Itala Posadas Gutti, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima
- Itala Posadas Gutti, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (co-authored with Jennyfer Cordova Chavez)
- *Moderation:* Laura Gorriahn, University of Erfurt

Workshop 3: Managing and Financing Clinical Education and Partnerships: Squaring Professionalism, Sustainability and Independence - **Room: C18-LG 4 | 03.05**

- Daniela Baresch, Humboldt University Berlin (co-authored with Susanne Baer)
- Camila Harmelly Bermudez Garcia, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá
- Hannah Franz, Refugee Law Clinic Hamburg
- Annelen Micus, University of Erfurt/ ECCHR
- Lise Tupiassu, Universidade Federal do Pará, Belém
- *Moderation:* Daniel Augenstein, Tilburg University

15:30 - 16:00 – Coffee Break with Clinic Posters

16:00 - 17:15 – Panel 2: Eco-Activism and Clinical Education: Towards Planetary Collaborations?

- Aurélien Bouayad, Sciences Po Paris
- Maria Nilda Palacios Aronés, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (co-authored with Andrea Mariana Dominguez Noriega)
- Cristina Hernandez Hurtado, ECCHR
- David Rossati, Vrije University Amsterdam
- *Moderation:* Jenny García Ruales, University of Erfurt/ Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

17:30 - 19:00 – Keynote Panel: Academic Freedom Under Pressure: Transdisciplinary Alliances in Times of Shrinking Spaces

- Juliana Alvim, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte / Central European University, Vienna
- Andrea Kramer, GIZ (Latin America)
- Rene Urueña, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá
- *Moderation:* Itamar Mann, University of Haifa / Humboldt University Berlin / University of Erfurt

19:30 - Dinner | Kromer's, Kleine Arche 4, 99084 Erfurt

Tuesday 14/10/2025

9:30 - 10:00 – Arrival & Coffee, Clinic Posters

10:00 - 11:00 – Clinic Spotlights

11:00 - 12:30 – Panel 3: Rethinking Transformative Public Interventions: Public Advocacy, Strategic Communication and Litigation Counter-PR

- Sarah Eitze, University of Erfurt
- Lívia Miraglia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte
- Frederike Potts, Facing Finance
- Andre Pacheco Teixeira Mendes, FGV Rio Law, Rio de Janeiro
- *Moderation:* Michael Riegner, University of Erfurt

12:30 - 14:00 – Lunch

14:00 - 15:30 – Parallel Workshops

Workshop 4: From Resilience to Resistance: Rebellious Lawyering and Clinical Education in Times of Democratic Backsliding and Autocratic Legalism - **Room:** C03-LG 1 | 219

- Lothar Jahn, GIZ

- Daniela Kolland, FAU Nürnberg-Erlangen
- Augustine Magolowondo, ex-Netherlands Multi-Party Foundation / GIZ (Malawi)
- Karina Fernandes, Centro Universitário Ritter dos Reis, Porto Alegre
- *Moderation:* Tim Wihl, University of Erfurt

Workshop 5: Working with Open Source Information: Investigation Planning for Clinical Legal Education - **Room: Senatssaal, building C23, top floor**

- *Moderation and Input:* Lene Guercke, UC Berkeley/ FAU Nürnberg-Erlangen & Alexa Koenig, UC Berkeley

15:30 - 16:00 – Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 – Keynote Conversation: Transformative Tech: OSINT, AI and Legal Tech as Tools of Strategic Lawyering and Clinical Legal Education

- Christo Buschek, Programmer and Investigative Journalist, Vienna
- Alexa Koenig, UC Berkeley
- *Moderation:* Lene Guercke, UC Berkeley/ FAU Nürnberg-Erlangen

17:30 - 18:30 – Conference Reception

19:30 - Dinner | Pier 37, Lange Brücke 37a, 99084 Erfurt (self-paid)

Catering & Meals

- During the conference: Coffee, tea, water, and small snacks will be provided
- Lunch: All participants may have lunch at the University of Erfurt canteen (Mensa); meal coupons will be distributed at the conference
- Conference Reception with drinks and snacks
- Dinner:
 - Day 1: Conference Dinner at Kromer's (covered)
 - Day 2: Joint dinner at Pier 37 (at your own expense)

Accommodation and Directions

Hotels: H2 Hotel Erfurt, Neuwerkstraße 23, 99084 Erfurt; Ibis Hotel Erfurt Altstadt, Barfüßerstr. 9, 99084 Erfurt

Tram: You can take tram line 3 (direction: "Europaplatz") and tram line 6 (direction: "Rieth") to travel to the stop "Universität".

Conference Venue: Erfurt University, Nordhäuser Str. 63, Erfurt (Room: Senatssaal, Building C23, Top Floor): From the tram stop, cross the street to enter the main entrance of the University. From there, you will already see the building "C23" on your left, the highest building on campus. Enter this building and take the elevator (or the stairs) to the top floor of the building, where the Senatssaal is located.

Reimbursement

Participants were asked to pay their travel and accommodation costs upfront; reimbursements will be issued after the conference. You will receive a separate email with the reimbursement form and instructions.

Formats

Clinic Spotlights and Posters: In this format, we seek to introduce clinical work from around the world. Please be ready to introduce your clinic in 3-5 minutes. You can also bring a poster.

Panels: Each panelist presents their work or argument in a 12 minutes presentation, followed by Q&A.

Workshops: Workshops are held in parallel and with the purpose of engaging in an informal exchange among participants to identify common interests and pathways for future collaboration. Those participants assigned to a specific workshop are asked to prepare short inputs on one or more of the themes indicated in the title. The inputs should draw on participants' experience and identify possible areas and modalities for future collaboration among clinics. Each workshop should produce a short outcome document that collects the inputs and key results of the discussion. Conference participants not yet assigned to a particular workshop are invited to join any workshop and actively contribute to the debate.

- **Workshop 1:** *Formats, Didactics, Curriculum Development, Syllabi & Manuals, Examination Practices and Constructive Alignment*

This workshop offers practical guidance for designing and revising clinic courses with clear learning outcomes and constructive alignment. We compare teaching formats and didactic approaches, discuss syllabi and manuals, and map assessments to competencies and professional standards.

- **Workshop 2:** *Interdisciplinary Teaching: Relevance of Non-Legal Knowledge for Strategic Litigation and Clinical Work*

This workshop examines how expertise beyond law—e.g., social sciences, data science, journalism, and design—strengthens case strategy, evidence, and remedies in strategic litigation. We discuss how to embed such skills in clinical teaching and supervision, from framing research questions to managing interdisciplinary teams and navigating challenges of legal translation.

- **Workshop 3: *Managing and Financing Clinical Education and Partnerships: Squaring Professionalism, Sustainability and Independence***

This workshop explores how to structure and fund clinical programs without compromising pedagogical quality or professional standards. We examine funding, partnership designs and case-selection workflows, and discuss supervision frameworks that balance student learning with partner expectations and client protection.

- **Workshop 4: *From Resilience to Resistance: Rebellious Lawyering and Clinical Education in Times of Democratic Backsliding and Autocratic Legalism:***

In this workshop, participants will reflect on the changing legal-political contexts of clinical work and activism, which are increasingly marked by democratic backsliding, shrinking spaces for civil society and autocratic uses of the law. Continuing debates from the keynote session, participants will share experiences and best practices of how teaching, clinical work, and activist collaborations need to change in response to legal and political pressures at home and abroad.

- **Workshop 5: *Working with Open Source Information: Investigation Planning for Clinical Legal Education:***

In this workshop, we will introduce participants to the cutting-edge practice of digital open source investigation (OSI), illustrating several ways in which OSI-based skills are increasingly relevant to clinical legal education. Drawing from our experiences running the first law school-based open source investigation lab, we will engage participants in hands-on activities that can be used to strengthen the efficacy, efficiency and ethics of related practices. We will also introduce participants to the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigation – the international standards published by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – and demonstrate how the Protocol can help guide student engagement. Finally, we will offer tips and tricks for helping students through the psychosocial challenges of engaging with distressing material online, supporting their sustainability as lawyers.