

Institutionalisation of Judicial Reforms between Legislation and Practice

Panel proposal for Section 33 – Law and Courts

Panel Chair: Borjan Gjuzelov, Queen Mary University of London, b.gjuzelov@qmul.ac.uk

Abstract

As an independent and impartial judiciary is a key precondition for the rule of law, developing democracies tend to be continuously engaged in processes of judicial reform. Unsurprisingly, not all such reform efforts lead to desired outcomes, and often have unintended or reverse consequences. Successful institutionalisation of judicial reforms, understood as implementation of formal rules in convergence with informal practices and unwritten rules-in-use, is often hindered by a number of factors. These range from a simple lack of institutional capacity and resources, to more complex structural constraints that may include powerful networks of corruption and patronage. Failed institutionalisation of judicial reforms is likely to result in legal uncertainty and corruption as well as greater political interference and democratic backsliding.

The panel welcomes abstracts which analyse the complexity of institutionalisation of judicial reforms in various contexts in order to provide better understanding as to why some reforms work and others do not. Proposals that examine institutionalisation of EU sponsored rule of law reforms in developing democracies are particularly welcome, as are comparative case studies within and across regions.

To submit a proposal, you will need to create a MyECPR account and submit the following information by **15 February**:

- Your name, academic affiliation and email address
- The title of your paper
- An abstract of up to 500 words.
- 3 to 8 keywords

For further information and submission of proposals, please contact Borjan Gjuzelov b.gjuzelov@qmul.ac.uk.