

What tasks should the organization undertake? What role should it play in the world of law-and-society studies? What relationships should it have with other law-and-society organizations? On these and any other subjects, I and the board members really want to hear your voices. My email address is lmf@stanford.edu.

The Next Annual Meeting of the RC SL

The next Annual Meeting of the RC SL will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2-4 August 2004. A preliminary programme and contact information is posted at RC SL's Home Page is posted at: <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc12.htm>. For more information contact Rogelio Perez Perdomo rperez@unimet.edu.ve or Reza Banakar rezabanakar@hotmail.com.

Obituary: Jean Carbonnier died on October 28th 2003, aged 95

For decades, Jean Carbonnier was the French sociology of law *en personne*. By teaching, publishing and researching he gave an academic impetus to the subject. He began teaching sociology of law first to law students in 1957 and some years later also to students in sociology. He created a *Laboratory of Legal Sociology* at the University Paris II, with the purpose of producing data that could help law making. This initiative was related to the drafting of the French Family Law reform, a task which at that time had been entrusted to him – he was regarded as an authority on family law – by the French Government. In 1972 he published *Sociologie juridique*, a comprehensive and illuminating handbook. The third edition of this work, which was published in 1994, contains an impressive amount of up-to-date additions, revealing how attentively the author was following up the recent development of the field.

On the international level, Jean Carbonnier supported the creation of the RC SL. Years later, he participated in the inauguration of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Oñati, sharing the Opening Panel with Renato Treves and Masaji Chiba. But his most significant contribution to the worldwide academic recognition of the discipline is undoubtedly his book *Sociologie juridique*, translated in many languages – except, as far as I know, in English – which has offered instrumental guidelines to those who were trying to establish Sociology of Law at their university.

His main concepts – effectiveness / non-effectiveness of the law; “non-law” (*non droit*) ; legal pluralism, etc. – are in the first place descriptive, somehow too modest for leading to a thorough renewal of the understanding of Law in Society. But his sensitive and sensible account of the relationship between Jurisprudence and Social Sciences, and his ironical perception of the limits of Law may still help us to tackle some of most pressing epistemological and ethical issues at stake, today, at the borderline between socio-legal research and the policy of the Law.

Pierre Guibentif, Lisbon

Annual Prize

The Research Committee is in the process of establishing an annual prize, for contributions to the field of sociology of law, in memory of the late Adam Podgorecki, who himself contributed so much to the field; and who was, for so many years, one of the most active and significant members of the Research Committee. We hope to announce the first winner at our meeting in Puerto Rico in August. More details will be supplied in the next newsletter.

Call for Applications for the Position of the Academic Director of the Onati Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL)

The International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Onati, Basque Country, Spain (www.iisj.es) invites applications for the position of Academic Director. IISL has a rotating directorship. Once every two years a new Academic Director is appointed with a view to maintaining and enhancing the Institute's unique multicultural atmosphere.

Professor Volkmar Gessner started his two-years term in September 2003 with the aspiration to promote the Institute's global profile (www.iisj.es/NL16.pdf). The RC SL welcomes this emphasis on, and recognition of, the diversity of legal cultures and adopts it as a guideline in its search of candidates for the next directorship, the term of which will begin on 1 September 2005.

Some familiarity with the IISL and knowledge of more than one of the Institute's languages (in particular Spanish and English) is desirable. The job carries a Spanish visiting professor's salary (plus fringe benefits like travel allowances and free accommodation).