

Learning Module: Intercultural Law and Translation (Melisa Liana Vazquez) (AA 2021-2022)

This course in intercultural law and translation will consist in eight two-hour sessions for a total of 16 hours of class time. Each lesson will take on a conceptual/theoretical topic related to intercultural law and translation which will be analyzed through legal cases. The lessons will be organized as follows:

- Lesson 1 –
17 novembre 2021 What is intercultural law?
We will explore ‘intercultural’ as distinct from ‘multicultural’ as a lens for viewing the exigencies behind legal claims. Further analysis will consider what an “anthropological approach” (to culture, to law, to religion) entails and its relationship to cultural pluralism. Legal cases: the ‘personhood’ of rivers and other ‘natural bodies’
- Lesson 2 –
19 novembre 2021 Secular, Secularizations, Secularisms (Part 1)
What are the differences and why do they matter? We will look at the historical and sociological roots and ramifications of ‘incomplete secularism’ to understand the implications for the ‘religious factor’ within law. Legal cases: employer vs employment rights and freedom of conscience
- Lesson 3 –
24 novembre 2021 Secular, Secularizations, Secularisms (Part 2)
What happens to these distinctions when we take a spatial view? How are notions of private and public problematized by the conflicts between the secular and the religious in today’s plural public sphere? Legal cases: ‘cultural symbols’ and religious ‘imprints’ on physical space
- Lesson 4 –
26 novembre 2021 Cultural bodies, Secular bodies
How are they regulated? How should they be? Burkinis, kirpans, crucifixes and veils of various kinds continue to vex the legal regulation of how people may or may not express their religiosity through their modes of dress. Similarly, food regulations would seem to infringe upon how people eat. We will explore culture and the body in ‘secular’ law. Legal cases: ‘living together,’ nationhood and menus
- Lesson 5 –
01 dicembre 2021 Legal Personhood inside Liquid Modernity
The global migration towards technology-dominated modes of living has exacerbated the human drive to contain and express ‘multitudes.’ What does this mean for how we regulate personhood for digitally dispersed persons? Can an intercultural approach help us to better understand and better manage the relentless creativity of selfhood? Legal cases: right to be forgotten, freedom of expression, post-mortem rights
- Lesson 6 –
03 dicembre 2021 Intercultural Translation Methodology (Part 1): intersecting narrative webs and contextualizations
Reproductive technologies and end-of-life issues raise similar bioethical concerns regarding human dignity and freedom. We will engage the intercultural methodology of analyzing intersecting or “crossed” narrative

webs of signification and their contextualizations in bioethical contexts.
Legal cases: abortion, embryo custody, medical euthanasia

Lesson 7 –
06 dicembre 2021

Intercultural Translation Methodology (Part 2): translations, transactions
Morphological appearances, physical materiality and geographical space may appear to be robust obstacles for concepts of intercultural translation and transformation, but instead they can be among the more illuminating perspectives, particularly when we apply the intercultural methodology of categorical migration and transformation. We will ‘unmask’ the apparent obtuseness of these solidities to reveal the moving parts that always lie beneath. Legal cases: public space and public manifestations

Lesson 8 –
10 dicembre 2021

Human Rights and Intercultural Translation
Are Human Rights believable? Are they translatable? Human Rights are among the few legal institutions that are genuinely international in intentional scope if not in application. At the same time they are accused of partiality, hypocrisy and inefficacy. What happens if we apply an intercultural approach to Human Rights? Could we transform them into new interfaces of translation thereby redeeming their universalistic intentions? Legal cases: religious freedom, right to health

The suggested course textbook will be:

M. RICCA, *Oltre Babele. Codici per una democrazia interculturale*, Dedalo, Bari, 2008, pp. 1-176, 217-310.

Alternatively, relevant materials in the form of lectures notes, essays and case-law will be provided directly to enrolled students