



Call for papers

The Democratic Rule of Law in World Society

Annual Meeting of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law (RCSL)

August 31 — September 3
2026 2026

Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile

► Abstract submissions: www.rcsl2026.udp.cl



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- The violent influence of organized crime, drug cartels, and illegal markets, especially in Latin America and Africa;
- Neo-nationalist strategies that seek to rebuild zones of cultural or political dominance;
- Mass migration across Europe, North America, and Latin America;
- The increasingly urgent impacts of climate change.
- Rapid global transformations driven by new digital technologies (social media, big data, and artificial intelligence) impacting every aspect of society.

These developments raise critical questions about the resilience and the future of the rule of law as a global normative ideal. Can the rule of law still regulate coexistence in modern societies? Can it continue to prevent domination in its various forms? Can it remain open to alternative perspectives that reinterpret its abstract principles in ways both cognitively adaptive and normatively inclusive?

The 2026 RCSL Santiago Conference aims to address these questions and challenges through a comprehensive global dialogue. We invite contributions examining the foundations, historical trajectories, current transformations, and possible futures of the rule of law in contemporary world society. Proposals engaging with other significant issues in the sociology of law and justice are also welcome.

Relevant dates

The key dates for the 2026 RCSL Santiago Conference are as follows:

	Dates
Submission of paper and session proposals (abstracts)	October 20 (2025) — December 29 (2025)
Decisions of the Scientific Committee on the proposals received	January 30
Deadline for Registration for participants whose paper(s) or session(s) are to appear in the final program	March 31
Publication of preliminary program	April 20
Last day for early bird reduced fee	May 31
Reception of papers to be uploaded on this site before the Conference	August 17
Publication of final program	August 24
RCSL Santiago Conference	August 31 — September 3

Submissions

Paper and session proposals must be submitted by **December 29, 2025**, via the conference website: <https://www.rcsl2026.udp.cl/>. Proposals may be submitted to any of the RC12 Working Groups:

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| 1. Civil Justice and Dispute Resolution
2. Comparative Legal Culture
3. Comparative Studies of Legal Professions
4. Digitalization, AI and Society
5. Gender, Law and Society
6. Histories of the Sociology of Law
7. Human Rights
8. Judicialization of Social Problems | 9. Knowledge and Opinion about the Law
10. Law and Development
11. Law and Migration
12. Law and Politics
13. Law and Popular Culture
14. Legal Pluralism
15. Social and Legal Systems
16. Sociology of Constitutions |
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For questions about submissions or any other aspect of the conference, please contact the Local Organizing Committee at: rcsl2026@mail.udp.cl

Local Organizing Committee

The 2026 RCSL Annual Meeting is co-organized by the School of Sociology and the School of Law, Universidad Diego Portales.

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