

ELS Lab Meetings – Overview

The [Empirical Legal Studies Lab @Leiden](#) is organizing a new series of sessions, for researchers interested in empirical legal research. Are you looking to learn more about empirical methods and/or engage in lively discussions on ELS? Join the upcoming ELS lab meetings!

Ranging from the informal Lunch & Learn to more in-depth paper discussions, the ELS lab meetings cover a wide range of empirical research methods and ELS-related topics. We offer a possibility to learn about each other's research and experience, test out ideas and receive feedback on work in progress. You're welcome to join, regardless of your degree of experience with ELS.

Our upcoming sessions are below. To sign up, send an email to Kimia Heidary: k.heidary@law.leidenuniv.nl or Sarah Vandenbroucke: s.e.m.vandenbroucke@law.leidenuniv.nl

Date	Session
21 October 12:00 - 13:00	Lunch & Learn Topic: From Legal Scholar to Empirical Legal Scholar
12 November 10:00 - 11:00	Journal Club Topic: The biasing effect of character evidence in legal decision making and procedural justice
3 December 10:00 - 11:00	Paper Development Session Topic: Designing Vignette Studies – tips and tricks

About ELS Lab @Leiden

The Empirical Legal Studies Lab @Leiden provides a platform that brings together legal scholars and social scientists to collaboratively explore legally relevant questions related to market regulation. Our purpose is to shape and strengthen expertise on law and behavior in a market context. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, we do research on law in action and underlying assumptions of legal rules. Our empirical studies collectively aim to uncover how regulations and legislation can shape markets in fair and just ways.

Empirical Legal Studies is one of the legal science themes of the Leiden Law School as part of the Law Sector Plan, together with Institutions for Conflict Resolution. The Empirical Legal Studies project receives funding from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) through the multi-year Law Sector Plan. For any questions, please contact Helen Pluut (h.pluut@law.leidenuniv.nl).



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ELS Lab Meetings – Lunch & Learn

21 October, 12:00 – 13:00 (Hybrid)

Lunch & Learns are informal, interactive sessions where we discuss a controversial statement relating to an ELS-themed topic. It is an opportunity to share your opinion and experiences with regard to doing empirical legal research and to learn from peers.

Topic

From Legal Scholar to Empirical Legal Scholar

There are two distinct profiles of empirical legal researchers. The first is a traditional legal scholar needing to learn about empirical methods. The second is a social scientist needing to learn about pressing legal issues. What are the challenges faced by each of these types of scholars? Are there risks involved when one engages in non-traditional research, and if so, which? Niek Strohmaier will introduce his perspective on the matter as a ‘psychologist turned lawyer’. Gitta Veldt will offer her perspective as a legal scholar diving into the world of empirical research. Expect an interactive session with plenty of discussion among all the attendees.

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ELS Lab Meetings – Work in Progress

12 November, 10.00 – 11:00 (Hybrid)

Paper Development Sessions involve presentations of work in progress. This can be at any stage of the research process, from the design to writing the actual paper. It is in particular a nice opportunity to receive feedback on empirical ideas and get suggestions on how to improve the methodology.

Topic

The biasing effect of character evidence in legal decision making and procedural justice

Psychological research has shown that import (moral) judgments and decisions are affected by our evaluations of a protagonist's moral character. Once we have formed an opinion on someone's character, it will bias our subsequent sense making. In a legal context, it has been shown that import judgments about causality and foreseeability can (erroneously) be affected by perceptions of the moral character of a defendant. In this session, Niek Strohmaier and Sofia de Jong will present the research design of their new study that aims to shed further light on the matter. The goal of this sessions is (1) to introduce attendees to the research topic and methods, and (2) to receive feedback on the design of the studies.

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ELS Lab Meetings – Journal Club

3 December, 10:00 – 11:00 (Hybrid)

Journal Clubs are sessions in which we discuss empirical legal articles, focusing on the methodology used in the paper and the lessons that can be learned.

Topic

Designing Vignette Studies – tips and tricks

During this Journal Club, we will discuss the vignette study methodology as performed by Shosha Wiznitzer in her book "*Defensieve dokters? Een juridisch-empirisch onderzoek naar de invloed van het medisch aansprakelijkheidsrecht op het professionele handelen van zorgverleners*". In her book, Shosha conducted legal-empirical research on the behaviour of healthcare providers, in the light of medical liability law. Gaining inspiration from the vignette studies used by Shosha, we discuss the method and its (possible) applications in different fields of law.

Book

Shosha N.P. Wiznitzer (2021) "*Defensieve dokters? Een juridisch-empirisch onderzoek naar de invloed van het medisch aansprakelijkheidsrecht op het professionele handelen van zorgverleners*", Boomjuridisch.

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