

8TH WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE
OF THE
GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE EDUCATION (GAJE)

“JUSTICE EDUCATION FOR A JUST SOCIETY”

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE SESSION STREAMS AND SUB-THEMES

STREAM 1: THE CONTENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Justice education and clinical legal education contain a multitude of themes, programs, and initiatives. A central theme of sessions in this stream is the challenge of providing access to justice and legal assistance to all people, with a focus on understanding the roles and obligations of the legal profession to supporting low income individuals and communities and vulnerable members of society.

Sub-themes

1.1: Access to justice.

This sub-theme focuses on justice education's role in the access to justice movement. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Legal empowerment and economic justice for rural and marginalized communities (for example, refugees, women, LGBT, defense in one's mother tongue and translation in court);
- Assessing the technological aspects of access to justice (for example, online access to legal resources, electronic case filing);
- Health and environmental justice;
- Human rights and the rule of law;
- Alternative dispute resolution and informal justice systems;
- Legal aid in developed and non-developed countries;
- The role of universities (academia) in access to justice;
- Role of access to justice in building a fair and inclusive society.

1.2: Themes related to particular vulnerable or marginalized groups and particular issues of discrimination and equality.

This sub-theme focuses on civil and political rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, such as those recognized by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Discrimination and equality;
- The standard of vulnerability
- Strategies to support and protect the rights of vulnerable people;
- Justice education for a more inclusive society, including examples of clinics advancing the rights of vulnerable populations.

1.3: Legal ethics and professional responsibility.

This sub-theme focuses on ethical issues that arise in clinical programs and the teaching opportunities ethical dilemmas can present. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Experiences of teaching legal ethics and professionalism in legal clinics;
- Legal ethics and professionalism in the curriculum;

- Ethical obligations in legal clinics and the legal profession;
- Cultural relativity and legal ethics;
- Cross-cultural experiences in teaching and learning legal ethics;
- Professional and personal conflicts in legal clinics;

STREAM 2: RESOURCES AND METHODOLOGIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Well-functioning justice education programs aim at achieving best academic practices and greater societal impact. Sessions in this stream focus on the types of resources and methodologies justice educators need to achieve these ends.

Sub-themes

2.1: Using technology to advance justice education and social justice.

This sub-theme focuses on the uses of digital technology in justice education. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Using technologies to enhance the teaching and learning experience;
- New IT technologies and international co-operation in justice education;
- Virtual classrooms (comparing the efficiency of real-time and virtual legal education);
- Technology and extending the reach of justice education (for example, collaborative document drafting, online cases and projects, online dispute resolution).

2.2: Legal literacy: Street law, legal awareness and citizen participation.

This sub-theme focuses on Street Law and other grassroots programs that educate students and communities about law, democracy, and human rights. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

Preparing a Street law syllabus

Interdisciplinary approaches to street law education (for example, law and sociology, arts, sports, communication sciences)

Comparative review of literature on street law and community legal education

Writing, editing, and translating street law materials on a national and international level

STREAM 3: HOW CAN A CLINIC BE SUSTAINABLE?

Sustainability of clinical programs is vital in ensuring continued best academic practices, promoting students' pro bono mindedness and ethical development, as well as community empowerment and legal services to the community. Sessions in this stream examine a variety of factors and strategies necessary to assure the on-going success of clinical programs.

Sub-theme

3.1: Sustainability, structural support, and expansion of clinical projects.

This sub-theme focuses on the sustainability of clinical legal; education around the world.

Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Integrating legal clinics into the general curriculum;
- Introducing skills training in the curriculum;
- The role of national, regional and international networks for exchanging experiences and good practices;
- Setting standards and best practices;
- Justice education in an era of limited resources.

STREAM 4: OBSTACLES TO PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM

Justice educators often face obstacles in their efforts to promote human rights, social justice and legal education reform. Sessions in this stream identify some of the major obstacles to achieving the fundamental goals of justice education and explore means to overcome these challenges.

Sub-themes

4.1: *Impediments to the promotion of human rights and social justice in legal education.*

4.2: *Obstacles to legal education reform.*

These sub-themes focus on challenges and to promoting equal justice and the rule of law through justice education. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating these sub-themes include:

- Clinical legal education in vulnerable democracies;
- Clinical programs in states, societies, and environments hostile to human rights.

STREAM 5: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Regional and international collaborations have been key in assisting in the development, strengthening, and expansion of justice education around the world. Sessions in this stream will identify key justice education alliances and critically analyze many of the ways and means these linkages and partnerships can have a transformative, measurable impact on the justice education movement.

Sub-themes

5.1: *International and regional collaboration in advancing justice education.*

5.2: *Promoting social justice and human rights through scholarship, teaching, and other cooperative ventures.*

These sub-themes focus on a global perspectives on justice education and its curriculum, including challenges facing an emerging global clinical movement. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating these sub-themes include:

- Clinical standards in the context of differing legal systems;
- National, regional, and international networks of legal clinics;
- Local and regional models for clinical legal education;
- Working together on clinical projects: exchanging experiences and good practices;
- Resistance to internationalized clinical legal education (from, for example, teachers, professionals, and students);
- Cultural differences and challenges to a universal curriculum for justice education.

STREAM 6: PRO BONO AND LEGAL CLINICS

The global clinical legal education and pro bono movements are interlinked through mutually cooperative initiatives and a commonality of goals. Sessions in this stream explore how clinical programs can further assist by successfully developing future pro bono-minded graduates equipped with the skills, knowledge, and strong sense of ethical obligation needed to achieve greater access to justice.

Sub-theme

6.1: *Using pro bono work by lawyers to assist in strengthening clinical law programs.*

This sub-theme focuses on justice education's commitment to develop the pro bono component in the legal profession to serve the legal needs of marginalized communities. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating this sub-theme include:

- Strategies to promote pro bono through justice education;
- Role of civil society (NGO's and Bar Associations) in the advancement of pro bono lawyering;
- Pro bono as a professional value;
- Pro bono networks and clearinghouses;
- Pro bono in a variety of practice contexts: opportunities for specialized legal experience;
- Financial and structural measures for a sustainable system of pro bono lawyering;

STREAM 7: NEW INITIATIVES AND INNOVATIONS IN JUSTICE EDUCATION

Sessions in this stream explore various innovations and new initiatives in clinical education that can help to ensure the vibrant strengthening and expansion of justice education globally.

Sub-streams

7.1: *New initiatives in justice education.*

7.2: *Innovative methodologies to enhance justice education.*

These sub-themes focus on new and innovative approaches to justice education, with an emphasis on clinical teaching methods as well as the structure and administration of clinical programs. Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions incorporating these sub-themes include:

- Strengthening the social justice mission of clinical legal education
- Preparation, supervision, and assessment
- The student-student relationship and peer mentoring
- The student-teacher relationship in clinical legal education
- Incorporating simulations in a "live client" clinic

STREAM 8: IJCLE SESSIONS

The *International Journal on Clinical Legal Education* (IJCLE) is a peer reviewed academic journal concentrating on issues relevant to the global clinical movement. This stream, while also focused on the overall conference theme of Justice Education for a Just Society, is more "academic" in nature than the others and the sessions will include more traditional presentations of papers.

Sub-themes

8.1. *The Map for Learning Law: clinic and curriculum design.*

8.2. *Collaborative Learning: comparative perspectives on clinic.*

8.3. *How do we know?: research, evidence and impact in clinical education.*

Examples of topics that might be covered in sessions presented during IJCLE sessions, including formal papers, include:

- The role of publications and research projects in justice education;
- Clinical research design and the evaluation of clinical research;
- The social impact of legal clinics;
- The impact of pro bono in justice education;
- The involvement of various stakeholders in clinical research;
- Interdisciplinary approaches in clinical legal education.

