Professor David Nelken

Professor of Comparative and Transnational Law

Research subject areas
Law

Biography

Professor Nelken taught law at Cambridge, Edinburgh and University College, London, from 1976-1989 before moving to Italy in 1990 as Distinguished Professor of Legal Institutions and Social Change at the University of Macerata. From 1995 to 2013 he was also Distinguished Research Professor of Law at Cardiff University, and from 2010 to 2014 Visiting Professor of Criminology at Oxford University.

Awards received include the American Sociological Association Distinguished Scholar Award (1985), the Sellin-Glueck International award of the American Criminological Society (2009), the Podgorecki Distinguished senior scholar award from the International Sociological Association (2011) and the (USA) Law & Society Association's International Scholar Award (2013). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Research interests

Theoretical enquiry and empirical investigation in the areas of comparative sociology of law, criminology, and legal and social theory. More recently working on global social indicators and the implications for law of governing by numbers.

Teachings

Criminology, Jurisprudence, Sociology of LAW, PHD supervision

Selected Publications

- Beyond the study of ‘law in context, Ashgate 2009;
- Comparative criminal justice: making sense of difference, Sage 2010;
- Using legal culture, Wildy, Simmonds and Hill, 2012;
- Globalisation and crime (with Susanne Karstedt), Ashgate 2013;

Latest publications

- **Between comparison and commensuration: The trouble with global social indicators**
  

- **Between comparison and commensuration: A case-study of COVID-19 rankings**
  

- **Numbers in an emergency: The many roles of indicators in the COVID-19 crisis**
  

- **Court reform and comparative criminal justice**
  

- **Global Social Indicators, Comparison, and Commensuration: A Case-Study of COVID Rankings**
  

- **Imagining transnational security projects**
  

- **Beyond Social Constructionism? Cicourel and the Search for Ecological Validity**
  

- **Legal sociology and the sociology of norms**
  

- **Why must legal ideas be interpreted sociologically? Roger Cotterrell and the vocation of sociology of law**
  

- **Whose Best Practices? The Significance of Context in and for Transnational Criminal Justice Indicators**
  