



European Research Council



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

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Cultural Expertise in Europe: What is it useful for?

Project Snapshot

Team: Livia Holden – PI, 3 post-docs (position to be advertised soon), 14 PhD holders/14 PhD candidates (positions to be advertised soon), advisory board (proposals for nomination and candidatures welcome), ethics committee (proposals for nomination and candidatures welcome).

Cultural Expertise in Europe: What is it useful for?

Respect for diversity has been at the forefront of political accession to the European Union since 1993 and socio-legal scholarship has developed articulated reflections on the accommodation of ethnic and religious minorities in Europe. Country experts with a variety of backgrounds have been instructed with increasing frequency in legal proceedings and in pre-judicial procedures involving members of diasporic communities. In some common law systems the role of the expert witness has expanded for experts to systematically assist the judge when litigants are belonging to minorities; in many systems of civil law, similar roles are played by translators and cultural mediators, including notaries and lawyers. Multi-national enterprises in various European countries are relying on the assistance of experts for transactions involving clients belonging to ethnic and religious minorities. Yet, a culture of disbelief is developing around cultural expertise while the European majority and the so-called minorities have drifted apart. Hence the question: *Cultural Expertise in Europe: What is it useful for?*

This project will empirically investigate the use and impact of cultural expertise in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Data will be collected through ethnographic fieldwork integrating both quantitative and qualitative data for an extensive and in-depth assessment of cultural expertise in the judicial, pre-judicial, and extra-judicial settings. The objectives will be to: 1) map the terms, conditions, and costs of cultural expertise in civil law and criminal laws; 2) create an interdisciplinary toolkit for measuring the impact of cultural expertise; 3) establish an open access platform for the consultation of cultural expertise; 4) design a teaching and learning module using the cultural expertise impact toolkit; 5) and formulate policy-making guidelines for a cultural expertise leading to sustainable inclusiveness in Europe.