

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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We present the current issue (vol. 2, n.1) of the Brazilian Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, published by the Brazilian Network of Empirical Legal Studies (REED – *Rede de Pesquisa Empírica em Direito*). This issue follows our goal of disseminating empirical research on topics related to law, as well as research that reflects on this type of project.

We would like to highlight that the gradual advancement of empirical legal studies in Brazil continues, as illustrated by the more intense and direct dialogue with the international community in this issue. There are more pieces from foreigners and so it seems that a certain harmonization starts to happen between the discussions we have been producing and the ones from our colleagues in other countries. Besides the North Americans and Europeans, the Latin Americans occupy a special place in this issue, an articulation that is one of the institutional goals of Reed itself.

The article submitted by Professor Daniel Bonilla, from the Universidad Los Andes, provokes us to reflect on, particularly, where legal knowledge is produced. The polarization between the so-called Global South and Global North is an interesting axis for differentiating the objects, the methods and, naturally, the results of production of legal knowledge, which are disseminated to law schools. This is an instigating starting point for an epistemological reflection in the context of countries from the Global South. Professor Wanda Capeller's article, from the Université de Toulouse, presents an important epistemological discussion about law from a social theory perspective. On the other hand, the interview with Professor Álvaro Pires, from the University of Ottawa, also brings an interesting contribution about doing research on the border between law and sociology/criminology, based on his own professional trajectory. We also have in this number, an important translation of an article from Professor Russel Korobkin, from the University of California at Los Angeles, about empirical research on contracts – a classic legal institute and a privileged object for the observation of law in action. The last international contri-

bution to this issue is the article from Lina Penen, from the Universidad Externado de Colombia, which analyzes the legal matter behind the clash between the LGBT movement and religious movements in Colombia.

The dialogue is completed with the Brazilian pieces selected for this number, whose quality confirms the path of empirical legal research in this country. The studies of how courts decide (and think...) are still present in this issue. One of these articles presents an important assessment of the anti-racist legislation in Brazilian case law (Machado, Santos and Ferreira). Another study tackles the argumentative quality of the Brazilian Supreme Court's (STF – *Supremo Tribunal Federal*) decisions and its integration with other courts (Santana, Ramos and Lemes). The reports on the experience of doing empirical legal studies, which are very illustrative and useful for future research, are also present in this issue. First, there is a comparison between the experience of doing an ethnography in judicial education institutes both in Brazil and in France (Fontainha) and then there is a review of the tortuous path to obtain court documents from the dictatorship period in Brazil (Schinke). The relationship between Law and Sociology, discussed in Capeller's article and in the interview with Álvaro Pires, reappears in the analysis of how legal doctrine treats the obscene act (Martins). There is also an analysis of the Brazilian Judiciary with a different perspective, mainly through the gradual regulation of the judiciary by the members of National Council of Justice (CNJ – *Conselho Nacional Justiça*), a new actor in the Brazilian institutional landscape (Franco).

A special thanks to all our blind reviewers, translators and revisers who voluntarily, and with irreproachable quality, worked on the selection and preparation of the pieces published in this issue.

Happy reading!

THE EDITORS.