

King's People



Professor David Nelken

Academics

Supervisors

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.^[1] 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.^[2] 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. On the editorial board of numerous journals, he is also a member of the Independent Board of the SCOPUS (Elsevier) Database of peer-reviewed literature, where he is responsible for evaluating all law journals worldwide. Was a Panel member of Scottish Children's Hearings juvenile justice system 1979-1983, of Italian Regional Crime committees in the 1990's and, amongst many visiting appointments, was the Global Law professor at Tilburg University, the Netherlands, for 2014. Appointed to the REF Law Committee for 2021.

Based in:

[Law](#)

Research interests

Theoretical enquiry and empirical investigation in the areas of comparative sociology of law, criminology, and legal and social theory.^[3] 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;

- The Changing Role Of Law in Japan: Empirical Studies in Culture, Society and Policy Making (with Vanoverbeke, Maesschalck and Parmentier) Elgar, 2014.

Latest publications



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

Nelken, D., 1 Jan 2021, *Comparative Methods in Law, Humanities and Social Sciences*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, p. 175-196 22 p. Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding > Chapter > peer-review

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

Nelken, D., Jun 2021, In: *International Journal of Law in Context*. 17, 2, p. 215-234 20 p. Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review. DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S174455232100029X>

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

Nelken, D. & Siems, M., Jun 2021, In: *International Journal of Law in Context*. 17, 2, p. 161-167 7 p. Research output: Contribution to journal > Review article > peer-review. DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744552321000252>

- **Court reform and comparative criminal justice**

Nelken, D., 18 Apr 2019, *The Legal Process and the Promise of Justice: Studies Inspired by the Work of Malcolm Feeley*. Cambridge University Press, p. 139-151 13 p. Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding > Chapter > peer-review. DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108234979.008>

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

Nelken, D., 2021, In: *GLOBAL COMMUNITY YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE*. 20 Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review

- **Imagining transnational security projects**

Nelken, D., 3 Mar 2016, *C. Wright Mills and the Criminological Imagination: Prospects for Creative Inquiry*. Taylor and Francis Ltd., p. 255-271 17 p. Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding > Chapter > peer-review

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

Nelken, D., Nov 2020, In: *Journal of Law and Society*. 47, 4, p. 535-557 23 p. Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review. DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jols.12255>

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

Nelken, D., 1 Jan 2014, *Concepts of Law: Comparative, Jurisprudential, and Social Science Perspectives*. Ashgate Publishing Ltd., p. 137-152 16 p. Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding > Chapter > peer-review

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

Nelken, D., 1 Jan 2014, *Law, Society and Community: Socio-Legal Essays in Honour of Roger Cotterrell*. Ashgate Publishing Ltd., p. 23-38 16 p. Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding > Chapter > peer-review

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

Nelken, D., Oct 2019, In: *Journal of Law and Society*. 46, S1, p. S31-S50 Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review. DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jols.12182>

