6th Topics Workshop of the IMPRS Uncertainty, Erasmus University Rotterdam, October 15th till 19th 2012

The Topics Workshop 2012, titled “Policy Implications of Law and Behavior” was organized by the Erasmus School of Law at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands. Together with the Ph.D. students from the EDLE (The European Doctorate in Law and Economics), 18 IMPRS Ph.D. students heard remarkable talks by invited keynote speakers and Ph.D. students.

Monday, October 15th

The workshop started with a welcome meeting on Monday evening, where everybody had the chance to get to know the other group. Since there are a lot of new Ph.D. students in the IMPRS Uncertainty, there was also the possibility to meet the future colleagues.

Tuesday, October 16th

The sessions on Tuesday morning started with the opening and introduction by Fabian Amtenbrink, research dean at the Erasmus School of Law and Klaus Heine, Jean Monnet professor at the Department of Law and Economics. They welcomed everyone and the handed over to the first speaker of the day, Arjo Klamer, Erasmus School of History, Culture, and Communication. He elaborated on the questions “What is the right thing to do? Or, the need to focus on qualities rather than quantities.”

Organizers of the Workshop: Marianne Breijer-de Man, Klaus Heine
After the coffee break, the sessions continued by two student presentations of the IMPRS Uncertainty. Pascal Langenbach introduced his experiment “Voice effects towards an impartial decision maker: experimental evidence on procedures”. Marian Panganiban spoke about: "Peer Selection and Joint Liability Contracts". The afternoon sessions included a talk by Vincent Buskens (Erasmus School of Law, Utrecht University) on an “Experiment on cost rules”. The talk was followed by again two student presentations by Ph.D. students of the EDLE: Sergio Mittlaender Leme de Souza talked about “Behavioral Responses to Breach of Contract” and Marco Fabbri about “Increasing Voluntary Contribution in a Public Good Game – The case of tax evasion”. The day concluded with a dinner at the Euromast. From there one had a wonderful view over Rotterdam and the port.
Wednesday, October 17th

The next workshop day started with a keynote lecture by Jonathan Klick (part-time appointed at the Erasmus Chair of Empirical Legal Studies at Erasmus School of Law, Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School). He talked about the promise and the limits of empirical legal studies. Jon Klick is not new to the IMPRS students, since he already gave a course in one of the summer schools. The schedule continued by presentations of Pieter Desmet (Rotterdam Institute of Law and Economics) on “Prophets vs profits: How market competition influences organisational disciplining behaviour) and Kateryna Grabovets (Erasmus School of Law, EDLE). She talked about “Organisational Coordination and Accident Risks”.

The sessions after the lunch break started with an inspiring lecture by Avishalom Tor (University of Notre Dame, Indiana). The following presentation was again given by an IMPRS Ph.D.student. Gulnaz Anjum spoke about “Testing the Contact hypothesis among Fulbright Pakistani students in the U.S.”. The last talk of the day was given by Daria Ratsiborinskaya on “European investments in the Third Countries: Legally Green?”

Ekateyna Grabovets, Pieter Desmet, Gulnaz Anjum, Daria Ratsiborinskaya
The evening was free for all participants of the workshop and some used it to experience Rotterdam on their own.

**Thursday, October 18th**

The last keynote lecture of the workshop was given by Jeffrey Rachlinski (Cornell Law School). He tried to take the audience “Inside the Civil Judge’s Mind”. After the coffee break another presentation was given by an IMPRS Uncertainty Ph.D. candidate. Serhiy Kandul presented an idea for an experiment about cheating “Is Lying a tradable Service? Some Insights into the Delegation of Cheating”.

Before lunch Elena Reznichenko (EDLE) gave a very interesting talk about the “Ambiguity and the perceived probability of Detecting Criminals”. The last presentation of the workshop was given by Joost Leunissen (Rotterdam School of Management). He presented studies on “The Importance of Forgiveness in a Perpetrator’s Choice to Apologize”.

Elena Reznichenko, Serhiy Kandul, Joost Leunissen
In the afternoon, the participants went to a guided tour to see Rotterdam’s architecture. In three groups famous building like the Cubical houses or the famous bridges were explored. The tours ended at the Dutch Architecture Institute where everyone had the chance to have a look at the past and modern architecture in the Netherlands.
Friday, October 20th
Some of the students went on a harbor sightseeing cruise on Friday morning, to see more about a city, that is different from other cities, but nevertheless very nice.

Thanks again or an inspiring, interesting and well-organized workshop! The cooperation between the Erasmus School of Law and the IMPRS Uncertainty will for sure continue. Not just on a formal level, but also on individual cooperation among the PH.D. students.

Most of the participants of the 6th IMPRS Topics Workshop “Policy Implications of Law and Behavior”