

## Conference Announcement:

### Improving Legal Research Methodologies

On 17 February 2017 the Montaigne Centre of the Utrecht Law School organizes a one day conference on different types of legal research methodologies. The conference does focus not only on the question *how* to do legal historical, socio-legal or doctrinal legal research, but also on the questions *whether* and if so *why* researchers should do that. Where does it get them? Are any avenues closed? How eclectic can one be ('cherry picking', 'anything goes')? And maybe even more important: How explicit should legal researchers account for methodological choices?

Papers will reflect on comparative legal research, on empirical qualitative and quantitative approaches, on hermeneutical methods including historical legal research etcetera. Plenary sessions at the start and close of the day offer a floor for topics of general interest to researchers in law; parallel workshops offer short presentations and discussions on separate topics.

Among plenary speakers will be Peter Sparkes and Arno Akkermans. There will be plenary discussions at the start and at the close of the day, Papers will be published in a conference-publication; a selection will appear in the Utrecht Law Review.

Peter Sparkes, professor of property law at the Southampton Law School, and involved among more in the Common Core of European Private Law, will deliver a lecture on comparative law and how to create a single standard out of disparate legal techniques in common law, civil law and mixed jurisdictions.

Arno Akkermans, professor of private law at the Free University of Amsterdam, is director of the Amsterdam Centre for Comprehensive Law (ACCL). The ACCL is pioneering a variety of innovative empirical-legal research methods and is experimenting with the way legal research is oriented and organized. At the end of our meeting, Arno Akkermans will guide us to a future with more recognition for legal research methodologies, based on our exchanges that day.

If you are interested in interactions and on questions on how legal research methodologies can be developed and applied, reserve 17 February 2017 in your agenda and register at [N.Costeris@uu.nl](mailto:N.Costeris@uu.nl)