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Editorial

Joaquín Santuber, Katri Nousiainen, Lisa Toohey, Arianna Rossi, Rossana Ducato*

This first issue reflects the deliberately expansive and exploratory editorial frame we purposefully adopted for the first two years (and four issues) of the Legal Design Journal. We have done so in order to engage in a period of editorial co-design with those who have something to say about this subject. Embracing the designerly ways of legal design practice and research, this first editorial effort as a collective was primarily about learning. Learning from each other, from the authors, from the reviewers, and certainly we will also learn from the readers. A journal issue about an emergent field born as an interdisciplinary community of practice requires from all authors, editors, reviewers, and especially the reader, the sensibility to spot the values we share, instead of those minor things on which we disagree. Reading these articles of the first issue is about celebrating the multiple shades of research and practices that legal design has to offer.

In this first round from submission to publication, as an editorial collective we had to deal with our own plurality of views and paths to find the right balance between the novelty of the contributions, academic rigor, and being a good fit for a broad audience. This is hopefully visible in the collection. In this regard, it is important to highlight how these academic articles are written in a way that is accessible, grounded in phenomena and presented in a relatable description of the projects and case studies. The articles are rich in references to the case studies and contexts from where they contribute to legal design - i.e. in law firms, public organizations, NGOs, the public health sector, and in education - offering the reader many hints and signs to guide their possible paths in this field. Likewise, the research gaps and contributions are well positioned in the current discussion and literature in legal studies (i.e. immigration law, health care law), design (i.e. human-centered design and critical design approaches), and of course the legal design body of research.

Based on our commitments as a journal, the articles section has contributions from both academic – experienced scholars, as well as students - and practitioners whose submission to the LDJ was their first academic publication. In our view, this is a great achievement, to enable rich and nuanced perspectives from practitioners to join the discussion in their own voices. Those authors who decided to engage in the process of writing and revising for this academic section found in the reviewers not the gatekeepers of knowledge creation, but a supportive counterpart - more like a peer-to-peer mentorship than a judgmental obstacle to

* Of, respectively; Johannes Kepler Universität; Harvard University; University of New South Wales; Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa; and University of Aberdeen.

overcome. This supportive attitude in the reviews and communication with the authors also reflects the Journal's values of collegiality and respect for each other's work, life experiences and interests, in line with our wider ethos. The emphasis was on the relevance and quality of the submissions which is palpable in those that made it to this first issue.

The article *A legal design classroom: reflections on learning through legal education* offers a set of case studies in an educational context. It explains the use of legal design in exploring marginalisation and countering biases in law students, and in encouraging participation from students enrolled in an LLM programme. This is achieved not only from the lens of the teaching team but as a joint reflection with the students who co-authored this article. In this regard, it showcases the role of a legal design curriculum in "building, open, critical, as well as impactful learning environments" from the two perspectives.

The article *Creating Gladys: How legal design can support person-centred care in public health* offers a case study of an end-to-end legal design project in the context of access to information in healthcare at a large public health organization in Australia. It offers a rich and nuanced account of situated challenges and opportunities of applying legal service design in the medical context, e.g. in dealing with budget limitations. This article reminds us that "great results, and substantial impact, can be achieved on a shoestring".

The article *Legal Design and Easy Language: creating a set of images to illustrate administrative texts aimed at migrants* describes an empirical study evaluating the effectiveness of pictograms created to accompany legal-administrative texts in Easy language for a very specific audience: non-native migrants in Italy who face linguistic and cultural barriers in accessing their legal rights. As a special treat for the readers, the article comes with a selection from the 61 images shown to participants during the image comprehensibility test.

Taking an empirical approach to a legal design intervention in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the article *Sustaining Legal Design: Designing Legal Resources with Refugee Communities* sheds light on the special requirements in terms of time, flexibility, and funding that doing legal design in such contexts entails. The key practical contribution is the role that service providers should play during the design process. At a theoretical level, the article contributes to the idea of "sustaining" as a phase of the legal design process.

The article *"You don't often create solutions in the law": Legal design in a small Australian law firm* bridges a gap in the literature, namely the impact of the application of legal design principles and methods on the business practices of a law firm. It reports on a particular use case providing eloquent and vivid interview quotes on applying legal design thinking to the firm's practices to overcome the frustration of traditional legal services and to offer client-centered, and innovative, services.

Framing this first issue as a collective exercise, we are grateful to the group of reviewers who joined this endeavor with the intention to see the reviewed articles published. This is very telling, and from the reviewers' comments a sense of kindness was graspable with no exception. This - rather unusual - agreed upon value of our Legal Design Journal is very present in this first issue and we hope it will continue in the next issues.

The richness of this first issue lays definitely in its plurality of contributions, contexts, perspectives, and experiences. In this sense, a broad range of readers will be able to relate to the articles in different ways, finding possibilities for action that can be applied to their own contexts and problems. We hope this first issue of the Legal Design Journal will touch you, move you, and inspire you by offering a broad field of possibilities for action in legal design.

*The Articles Section editorial collective
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