

***Juris Diversitas* Conference**

“Comparative Law and...”

Aix-en-Provence (France), 17-19 July 2014

Anna Taitlin
Australian National University & University of Canberra

I must confess this was my first time at *Juris Diversitas* conference. It was very tempting to attend the comparative law conference, just to see a crowd of comparativists congregated in the same place (and in what place: in Provence!). The organizers (under the leadership of Prof. Olivier Moreteau) were a kind lot and everything did run smoothly. It was interesting to see the French academic scene (there were number of French language sessions), though it is pity that some of us less linguistically gifted than others (and there was a courageous attempt on the bilingual plenary session).

What stroke me the most was the diversity of the presented papers. There were, of course, as one would expect, the sessions focused on ‘legal traditions’ *per se* (general underpinning of comparative law): ‘legal traditions, history & culture’ and ‘pluralisme & universalite’ and ‘making comparison? Issues in methodology’. There was a session on legal pluralism: constitutional perspectives’. There were also a session on ‘codification, mix and identity’ and a panel on post-socialist civil law’ as well as sessions on more specific/applied questions, such as ‘state v market: regulation, publicity & control’ and ‘land ownership: indigenous & outside perspectives’ and ‘property, housing taxation & expropriation’. There were sessions with papers focused on the EU law. There were, besides, sessions on topical questions of comparative law: ‘comparative law, legal education & research’, ‘deconstructing criminal justice’, ‘freedom, physical and moral integrity’ and even a session on the WTO. Some session had historical as well as comparative focus, as one on human rights’, in some comparative law focus was achieved by comparison of the same issue with respect to different jurisdictions, such as ‘homosexuality: where is human dignity’. There were, of course, miscellaneous sessions too: some of us have less common interests than others. The plenary papers were diverse too: from ‘comparative law and the forensic process’ to ‘comparative law and ... visual Arts’!

So there were plenty of opportunities to meet a colleague with a kindred interest, and I hope most of us did.