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# PREFACE

Since its founding in 1973, the Research Institute of Legal History (INHIDE) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has held academic events to promote the disciplinary development of legal history.[1] For many years, the Institute's celebrated biweekly or monthly workshops, where INHIDE members and visiting researchers in Argentina presented their work, reported on the status of their research, and shared their publications.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020 did not interrupt this disciplinary routine. On the contrary, INHIDE swiftly adapted to digital tools and, by April of that same year, transformed the workshops into weekly events. This transition allowed for the participation of an increasing number of foreign legal historians, thanks to the internationalization made possible by the new digital platforms. The academic universe expanded, INHIDE's intellectual heritage started to have no limits, and a valuable community of scholars began to gather. Both experienced and emerging researchers, from Argentina and international, master's and doctoral students appeared on INHIDE's digital stage.

In 2022, the new technological reality enabled Viviana Kluger (Deputy Director of INHIDE) to participate in the event *"Diversity, Dilemmas and Discoveries: Legal History in the Curriculum"*, organized by The Open University Law School (United Kingdom).[2] Kluger contributed with a paper titled *The Contribution of Legal History to the Curriculum of the Modern Law School*. On that occasion, she shared the panel with Thomas Cheney (UK) and Tomasz Kucharski (Poland).

Legal historians were facing recurring questions. What had been previously discussed through informal conversations now required deeper and more formal debate. It became necessary to reflect on the discipline through the lens of teaching and research experiences, in addition to research on specific themes. It was essential to exchange views on the current state of the field, its strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and possible courses of ac-

[1] For more information on INHIDE academic curriculum see *https://inhide.org/*.

[2] For more information on the activities hosted by *The Open University Law School please see https://law-school.open.ac.uk/research/research-clusters/legal-histories.*

tion. Thus, in 2023, INHIDE proposed initiating a series of dialogues on the current state of the discipline across diverse jurisdictions. Taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technologies and the participation of both Argentine and international researchers, a new discussion series was launched that year, titled *"Transatlantic Dialogues Between Legal Historians."* As of the publication date of this volume, the dialogue series has welcomed specialists from Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, England and Wales, France, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Scotland, Spain and the United States of America. All sessions are recorded and available on INHIDE's YouTube channel.[3]

Kluger and Agustín Parise considered it necessary to capture some of these reflections in a collective volume, this time enriched by the contributions of comments and questions raised during the dialogue sessions. This idea was shared with Oscar Cruz Barney, who had presented his research on the state of legal history in his country, Mexico. The Mexican colleague immediately offered to publish the volume through the prestigious Legal Research Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (IIJ-UNAM), and to invite other colleagues from France, Italy, Spain, and the United States of America to collaborate.

The result of that effort is embodied in this volume. It brings together most of the presentations delivered during the dialogue series, along with additional contributions from other jurisdictions. The volume presents 17 chapters that explore the state of the discipline in Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, England and Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Poland, Scotland, Spain and the United States of America. It is worth noting that some chapters were co-authored and were submitted in Spanish and English.

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Oscar CRUZ BARNEY
Agustín PARISE

[3] *INHIDE* Legal History YouTube channel, available at: *https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVaFDAuAtk_X4g1Wgs9LDMg.*