

A Decade of Emergence and Transformation of a Journal: *Naveeñ Reet*: Nordic Journal of Law and Social Research

In the wake of 2009/2010, when I was a visiting professor at Gillani Law College, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan, Pakistan the idea of establishing a Journal of Law and Social Research anchored at BZU was launched in a meeting attended by Livia Holden, Khalid Sayeed, Shuja ulhaque and Abdul Aziz Khan Niazi. In view of the need of the college the objective of the journal was to raise the quality of legal scholarship in the diverse field of law in Pakistan. Since then the journal has been published once a year.

The first issue of the journal was general, while all later issues focused on a specific subject. The second and special issue dealt with *Law and Corruption* (2011). This is a subject, which is not only relevant in developing countries like Pakistan, but also pertinent in global context. The cover showed an image of female underclothing hanging to be dried, an artwork of Khalil Chishti with a verse by the famous Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib “*Aakhir iss dard ki dawa kiya hey*” (oh this pain! Any cure). Right-wing radical element at the BZU raised objections to both the cover and content of the issue, for obscene and a challenge to traditional setup. However, with support of the Vice Chancellor Syed Khwaja Alqama the issue was published.

Through my affiliation with the Department of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies (CCRS) at the University of Copenhagen the journal became linked to this institution thus becoming more international. The scope of the journal was broadened to include legal matters of concerns common for developing countries. The scope of the law is understood broadly to include cultural diversity and plural legal realities all over the world. In 2014 the name of the journal changed to the present *Naveeñ Reet*, Nordic Journal of Law and Social Research. *Naveeñ Reet* is a Punjabi expression meaning ‘new tradition’ underlining the ambition of the journal to experiment and open up to new ideas. The journal has survived crises not only moving from one university and country to another but also economic crises in the world and at the University of Copenhagen.

Two issues have dealt specifically with gender the first addressing *Gender and Legal Profession* (2012). The legal profession has been male dominated all over the world until the turn of the 21st century. Gender is a recent category in law, and women have become important actors in struggles to transform the legal landscape, in a changing world order. The second issue on *Runaway Women* (2013) deals with socio-legal mechanism regarding a global phenomenon, the problematic of run-away women. The journal has also focused on fields, which have only recently become subjects of legal and normative research. Two issues have focused on *Law and Art* (2014 and 2015) and one on *Law, Culture and Governance in Hunza* (2018). These issues put more emphasis on legal cultural studies on communication, as well as on concerns about justice and fairness expressed through different artistic expressions than on traditional dogmatic legal research. Two issues have dealt with China, one of the very important actors in an emerging new world order. The first was *Law and Transitional Society: Chinese and Global Perspectives* (2016) and the second *Living apart together – Chinese-European Perspectives on legal Cultures and Relations in the Digital Age* (2019). The last issue deals primarily with challenges faced by China as well as Europe by the normative and legal cultures in the digital age. To meet these challenges new traditions may be need to be developed. The issue is prepared under pandemic which adds to the challenges. Chinese authors view the potential of technology with more optimism in comparison to Western authors. However, nobody knows what transformation towards digital technology will leads to. The volume is an effort to link different actors of importance for the Nordic region and to initiate a dialogue and comparative discussions.

This resent issue (number 10, (2020) draws attention to *Nordic and Muslim Emerging Legal Practices*. The issue covers examples of how bridges are being built between Nordic legal practices and Muslim legal practices.

The journal is an open access online publication. We publish a small number of hard copies to provide libraries, subscribers, authors and for our record.

Accomplishments and efforts

We have often tried to arrange workshop before producing a special issues of the journal. This may allow participants to exchange ideas on the proposed subject and get inspiration from each other before finalizing their papers for publication.

Our efforts have been to provide an innovative and experimental approach to research and to, keep improving the standard of the journal. Naveiñ Reet has also been lucky

to have engaged peer reviewers, and has introduced improvements in the peer review process for both reviewers and authors.

The journal has recently been approved by the NSD Norway and is part of the BFI-system in Denmark.

Title covers are made by artists or photography relating to the subject matter of the journal.

Further aspirations and collaborations

As *Naveen Reet* means New Tradition this indicates that we welcome new experiments and ideas in research and dissemination.

The decade which has passed and the beginning of the 21st century have been marked by crises, uncertainty, unpredictability – and authoritarian tendencies. In the rapidly changing present world contexts and realities pose a challenge of rethinking long standing academic structures – as well as academic research, which is facing dilemmas including urgency & temporality and meaningfulness of research. The pandemic has become an additional challenge for which we have planned to publish a specific issue of the journal in 2021. In light of this we need inter-generational collaboration and to encourage young people to take creative initiatives, and develop new thinking in form and content. I am therefore proud to introduce three new young members to the editorial committee with this issue.

Finally our thanks go especially to:

- Z.A. Bhatti for facilitating publication process at BZU University Press.
- Ingolf Thuesen former head of CCRS for welcoming the journal with financial and moral support.
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Rubya Mehdi

