



# The law in education: multidisciplinary research methods

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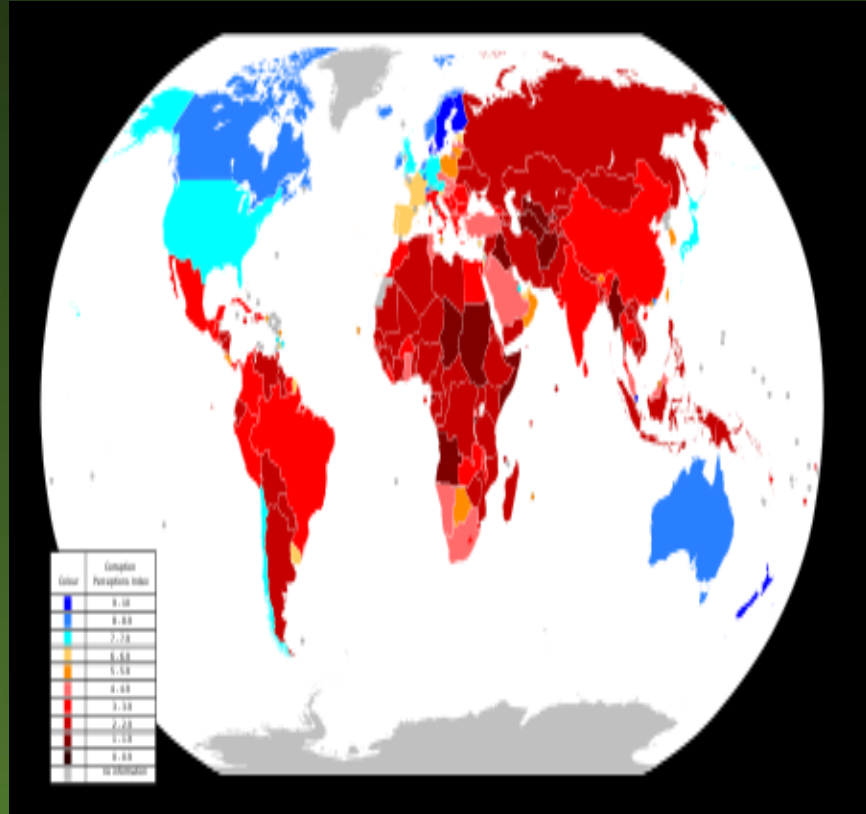
## Aims

- Provide a fundamental background to law
- Point out aim of research within law
- Indicate what research in law comprises
- Weigh legal research against other research
- Signpost *black-letter-law* versus *law-in-context*
- Suggest integrative multidisciplinary research approach







# Student research concerns

-  Pervades all countries
-  Challenges thinking
-  Own students
-  Other students' research





## The law: fundamental background

-  **Legislative authority**
-  **Executive authority**
-  **Judicial authority**
-  **Common law**

## The law: aim of research



- ✎ **Systematic, analytic process**
- ✎ **Neither quantitative/qualitative**
- ✎ **Three vital steps [1, 2 & 4]**

### Vital aspects

- 📁 **Constant active thought**
- 📁 **Know structure: legal concepts**
- 📁 **Legal analysis important**
- 📁 **Consult widely**

## Legal research *versus* other research



- ✎ **Sound attributes: correctness, credibility, cost-effectiveness, comprehensiveness**
- ✎ **Comprehensiveness vital!**

## ***Black-letter-law approach***



- 💣 **Comparative research:  
comparisons + legal theory**
- 💣 **Analytic = non-interactive mode**
- 💣 **Lacking in methodology??!**



## ***Law-in-context* approach**



- 💣 **Socio-legal research**
- 💣 **External inquiry – law as entity**
- 💣 **Interdisciplinary approach:  
historical/social context**
- 💣 **Results = academic arguments**
- 💣 **Open to criticism!!**



## ***Integrative multidisciplinary research approach***

### **Core concepts**

- 💣 Disciplinarity [single research]**
- 💣 Integrative [umbrella]**
- 💣 Interdisciplinary [one approach]**
- 💣 Multidisciplinary [interaction]**
- 💣 Russo pleads!!!!**

**Student takes accountability**



**Study leader/promoter takes over**



**Worthwhile research with integrity**

# Conclusion

**Support students in finding their way competently**

**Do not become bogged down: conventional approaches**

**School level catch-22s need solid education law research**



*Long may education law research live!*

