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UPCOMING MEETINGS

AALL Annual Meeting, "Forgo the Status Quo," July 15-18, 2017 in Austin, TX.

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Aug. 19-25, 2017 in Wrocław, Poland.

IALL Annual Course, October 22-26, 2017 in Atlanta, GA.

Denmark's Crown Jewels: "The Black Diamond" and the Guaman Poma *Corónica*

Julienne E. Grant

This will be my final article related to my Baltic adventure last summer. Thinking back on that three-week sojourn, I am still somewhat amazed at what I saw (accomplished?) in that short amount of time—Copenhagen, Oslo, Berlin, Tallinn (Estonia), Saint Petersburg, Helsinki, and Stockholm. And yes, seeing *The Hermitage* in Saint Petersburg is an absolute must for anyone, despite the huge crowds and the pickpockets (a guy on our tour had his wallet swiped while gazing at a van Dyck).

In this piece, I will again focus on Denmark—specifically, two of its crown jewels, but not those belonging to the Danish royal family. These jewels, instead, are the Royal Danish Library (*Det Kongelige Bibliotek*, also known as "The Black Diamond") and one of the Library's rare book treasures – Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's *El Primer Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno*. You're probably wondering particularly about the latter, and yes, that title is in Spanish, and my spelling of *Corónica* is no mistake. The story of this tome is fascinating (especially to an FCIL librarian with an interest in Latin America), and I will share some of it below. First, though, a word about "The Black Diamond."

"THE BLACK DIAMOND"¹

One of the required activities for tourists in Copenhagen is a canal cruise, which is generally a pleasant trip, particularly if it's sunny. The ride includes a quick stop for a rear glimpse of "The Little Mermaid" sculpture (I never did get around to seeing the front), and a pass by of the magnificent *Old Stock Exchange Building* (constructed circa 1620s). Among these waterfront sites is a structure that seems misplaced in a cityscape that includes a 17th century architec-

tural gem, as the building initially reminded me of Darth Vader's helmet. I was thus quite surprised to learn that this building is part of the Royal Danish Library (RDL) and is nicknamed "The Black Diamond" because of its jet black color, unusual angles, and fabulous shimmer. After seeing the place from the water, I decided to take a look inside when I was back on land.

According to a pamphlet I picked up, "The Black Diamond" was inaugurated in September 1999, and its Danish architects designed it to mimic a sculptural monolith—"a 'shrine' dedicated to the national cultural heritage of the library."² The building itself

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Exterior of "The Black Diamond"
(courtesy of the Royal Danish Library)

From the Chair

Alison Shea

As this is my last “From the Chair” column, I just want to express my sincere thanks to all of the members of the FCIL-SIS who have continued to make it such a wonderful SIS to be a part of. To the members of the Executive Committee: Alex Zhang, Loren Turner, and Lucie Olejnikova – thank you for helping me lead the SIS through what was undoubtedly one of the busiest years of my career! To our outgoing Committee/IG Chairs Jim Hart (ERIG), Alyson Drake (EU), Julienne Grant (Latin America), Dan Donohue (Nominations), Thomas Mills (Strategic Plan), and Catherine Deane (Teaching FCIL): this SIS is indebted to you all for the amazing work you have done in your respective IGs and Committees. I look forward to sharing all of the great work you have done throughout the past year at the Business Meeting in Austin. Finally to our most amazing and decorated Newsletter Editor, Deborah Schander: THANK YOU for all of the hard work you have put into content recruitment, organizing, and editing the Newsletter three times a year for the past five and a half years! Our SIS is indeed richer for the work you have done, and I know I speak for all members when I send my sincere thanks for your service.

Finally, I am looking forward to welcoming our new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Catherine Deane, and our new Secretary/Treasurer Sabrina Sondhi to the Executive Committee at this year’s FCIL-SIS Business Meeting. I have great confidence that both of them, along with our incoming Chair Alex Zhang, will provide excellent leadership and stewardship of our fabulous SIS in the coming year!

AALL 2017

I know everyone says this, but I honestly cannot believe it is already time for the Annual Meeting again! The FCIL-SIS will once again have a stellar line-up of programming and meetings to whet your FCIL appetites while in Austin. I draw special attention to our Business Meeting, which will again feature a (very) light breakfast and will allow you to learn about the accomplishments of our SIS in the past year, as well as the winners of our three SIS awards. Please also consider attention our FCIL sponsored program on Monday morning, and before you hit the International Reception on Monday evening why not stop by the Schaffer Grant presentation to hear this year’s winner Rosemarie Rogers present “I am the River and the River is Me.” A complete listing of all FCIL-SIS programs and meetings is below:

Sunday, July 16

- FCIL-SIS Electronic Resources Interest Group Meeting (7:45 - 8:45 a.m., ACC Room 8B)
- FCIL Member-Coordinated Program: “**Global Energy Law: Perspectives from North America and Africa**” (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., ACC Room 18AB)
- FCIL-SIS Jurisdictions Interest Group Joint Meeting (1 -

2:15 p.m., ACC Room 4C)

- FCIL-SIS Foreign Selectors Interest Group (5:15 - 6:15 p.m., ACC Room 7)
- FCIL-SIS Standing Committees Joint Meeting (6:15 - 6:45 p.m., Hilton Room 402)

Monday, July 17

- FCIL-SIS Business Meeting and Breakfast, sponsored by Bloomberg Law, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory US (7 - 8:30 a.m., Hilton Room 400)
- FCIL-SIS Sponsored Program: “**Cuban Law and Legal Research: A Snapshot During the Deshieldo**” (9:45 - 10:45 a.m., ACC Room 18AB)
- FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research Interest Group (3:30 - 4:30 p.m., ACC Room 5B)
- FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Recipient Presentation (4:45 - 5:45 p.m., ACC Room 8C)
- International Attendees Joint Reception (AALL/FCIL/IALL) (6 - 7 p.m., Hilton Governor’s Ballroom Salon B)

Tuesday, July 18

- FCIL-SIS Education Committee Meeting (7:30-8:15 a.m., Hilton Room 404)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

I would like to encourage anyone who is looking to get more involved with the FCIL-SIS to consider volunteering for a Chair position of one of our Standing Committees or Interest Groups! This is a wonderful opportunity to work with colleagues across the country and build leadership credentials, all while helping forward the mission of the FCIL-SIS.

Chairs have a variety of duties depending on the nature of their Committee or IG, and assistance is always available from IG/Committee members and the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee throughout the year. Anyone considering volunteering should feel free to contact the **Executive Committee** and/or the **current IG Chairs** for more information about the individual groups and the scope of respective responsibilities.

The following positions are available:

- Asian Law Interest Group
- European Law Interest Group
- Electronic Research Interest Group
- Latin American Law Interest Group
- Newsletter Editor (please see advertisement on page 9 for more detailed description of duties)
- Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research Interest Group

If you have any interest in becoming Chair of any of these IGs, please send me a brief email (aashea@law.fordham.edu) expressing the reasons why you believe you would make a good Chair of that IG by **Friday June 16, 2017** for consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to email me directly.

Denmark's Crown Jewels *continued from page 1*

is covered with 2,500 square meters of black granite from Zimbabwe, which was cut and polished in northern Italy. The building has eight floors and contains 450 rooms and 800 doors. There is a walkway on the third floor that connects “The Black Diamond” with the library’s older buildings from 1968 and 1906. The atrium is quite spectacular and is flooded with natural light. For those interested, there is a [virtual tour](#) of the interior available on the library’s well-populated [website](#).

The RDL serves as Denmark’s national library, and it also encompasses the University of Copenhagen’s libraries (including the new digs of the [Legal Knowledge Centre](#)). In addition, the RDL just merged with the State and University Library in Aarhus (the second largest city in Denmark). As such, “The Black Diamond” is part of a library network that contains the country’s most extensive collection of books, serials, maps, printed music, manuscripts, and other media; there are some 27.5 million cataloged items in total, covering around 200,000 meters of shelf space.³ According to the RDL’s website, the oldest printed work in its “[Danish Collections](#)” is a Latin oration to a Danish king from 1474.⁴



Interior of “The Black Diamond”
(photo: Julienne Grant)

The historical depth of the library’s collection is partly due to Denmark’s legacy of “legal deposit” requirements for the royal library—the first being a 1697 royal ordinance directing Danish publishers to deposit five copies of all works they printed. The current “legal deposit” law, the [Act on Legal Deposit of Published Material](#) (Act No. 1439 of Dec. 22, 2004), covers works published in physical form; recordings of radio and television programs; films; and materials published in “electronic communication networks.” Regard-



The Reading Room
(courtesy of the Royal Danish Library)

ing the latter, the act targets websites with Internet domains specifically assigned to Denmark (.dk), as well as websites that are aimed at a Danish audience. The RDL currently harvests these websites on its [Netarkivet.dk](#) platform, which is not publicly available, but researchers may request permission to access it.

Many of the RDL’s materials are in closed stacks, and others are simply not available for lending, so items must generally be requested online prior to a visit. The RDL, however, has several impressive digitization initiatives that provide online access to some of the library’s materials. These include an ongoing project to digitize some 35 million pages of Danish newspapers and [Danish Books 1701-1914 On Demand \(DOD\)](#), which allows patrons to order electronic copies of titles from the covered time period. The RDL has also digitized a number of its [rare Danish](#) and [foreign books](#) and also offers several [Web-based book exhibitions](#). It should be noted that the RDL was the target of a series of [book heists](#) in the 1970s when an employee managed to pillage over 1,000 rare books collectively worth millions of dollars. The thief was not identified until 2003 when he had already died, and the RDL has still not recovered all of the stolen items.

In addition to serving as a library, “The Black Diamond” includes a café and a theatre that seats up to 600. “The Black Diamond” also houses a gourmet restaurant called [søren k](#) (named for Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard), which has to be the only eating establishment on the planet named after an existentialist. Whether diners spend time contemplating the authenticity of their herring, I can’t say, as the restaurant was a little beyond my price point. Also housed in “The Black Diamond” is the [Museum of Danish Cartoon Art](#) (interesting to see how the politically charged

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Denmark's Crown Jewels *continued from page 3*

topic of immigration has been treated in Danish cartoons over the years). There is also ample room on the library's seaside to stretch out, read, and sunbathe. Can't say I've ever gone to a library to soak up rays, but that's what I did here, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

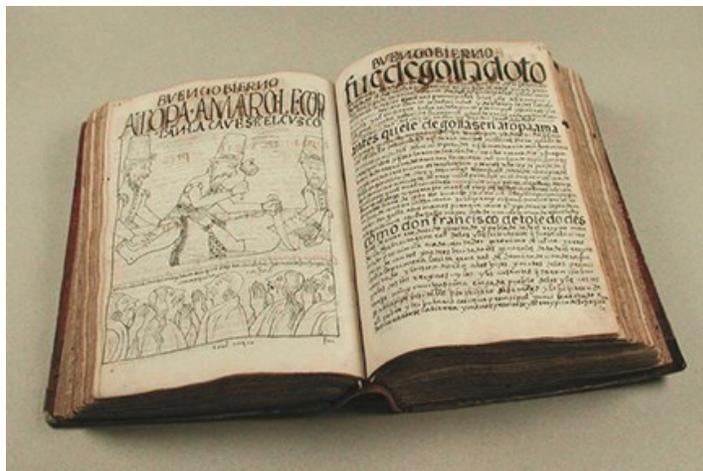
THE GUAMAN POMA *CORÓNICA*

Despite the aforementioned book thefts, the RDL has an extraordinary rare book collection, some of which was on display during my visit. The RDL owns a Gutenberg Bible, and perhaps unsurprisingly, personal papers of Søren Kierkegaard and original Hans Christian Andersen manuscripts. What did surprise me, however, was to see a 17th century Peruvian work, *El Primer Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno* (The First New Chronicle and Good Government) in the exhibition. This remarkable tome, flooded with text and pen and ink drawings, was authored and illustrated between 1612 and 1615 by an Andean Indian, Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala (1535?-1616?). According to a descriptive plate, the *Corónica* is the only existing record of an Andean Indian's view of the Conquest and the first 100 years of Spanish colonization. The title was added in 2007 to UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Register, and I have recently spent some time learning more about it.

There has been a fair amount of literature published in various languages about both Guaman Poma and the *Corónica*, and I won't summarize all of it here. The most recent English-language monograph I identified is the 2015 title, *Unlocking the Doors to the Worlds of Guaman Poma and His Nueva corónica* (Rolena Adorno and Ivan Boserup eds., Museum Tusulanum Press). The book is a compilation of scholarship stemming from the Second International Guaman Poma Conference held at "The Black Diamond" in October 2013.

In the Introduction to the aforementioned title, Yale Professor Rolena Adorno explores the provenance of the *Corónica*, which somehow made its way from Lima to Copenhagen in the 1660s. According to Professor Adorno, there is circumstantial evidence that Cornelius Pedersen Lerche (1615-81), who served twice as the Danish ambassador to Spain, gifted the manuscript to the royal collection.⁵ The *Corónica*, however, remained in obscurity in the stacks until 1908 when a German scholar discovered its bibliographic entry in the library's handwritten catalog dated 1784-86.

The *Corónica* itself is essentially a letter in book form addressed to the reigning Spanish monarch (King Felipe III). Spread across almost 1200 pages, the text is written in Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, and Latin, and is interspersed with



El Primer Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno
(courtesy of the Royal Danish Library)

nearly 400 full-page drawings. The book, which is divided into over 30 chapters, chronicles pre-colonial Incan society, as well as the colonial environment in which Guaman Poma himself interacted. The work has autobiographical elements, and scholars have generally recognized the author as a multilingual member of an elite indigenous family who served as a translator and assistant to various Spanish officials.⁶ Guaman Poma has also been identified in external documents as a plaintiff in a number of land reclamation lawsuits in the 1590s that he ultimately lost, which likely resulted in his disillusionment with the Spanish colonial justice system.⁷ The overall theme of the *Corónica* is accordingly a cry for justice, as Guaman Poma vividly documented the abuses that Peruvian indigenous communities suffered under Spanish rule.⁸

Emeritus Professor Regina Harrison (University of Maryland) examines the *Corónica*'s legal-related content in "Guaman Poma: Law, Land, and Legacy," an impressive piece of scholarship in the 2015 title mentioned above. In it, she notes that Guaman Poma appealed for indigenous justice through the application of "divine law, Spanish codified law, and customary law, frequently equally weighted in importance."⁹ In her study, though, Professor Harrison focuses specifically on Guaman Poma's treatment of two Spanish legal instruments—the writ of *amparo*¹⁰ and the testamentary will. The writ of *amparo* in colonial Peru was a "formidable instrument in the hands of the native Andeans who petitioned for administrative justice."¹¹ Guaman Poma recognized the importance of the writ in seeking protection from Spanish authorities, and in the *Corónica*, presented "the correct legal wording to bring about a successful plea in a sample writ."¹² On a similar vein, Guaman Poma viewed the written will as a means of documenting the conveyance of indigenous assets (including ancestral lands), and he provid-

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ed explicit instructions for drafting one in accordance with Spanish practice.¹³ The author also utilized bold graphics to stress the importance of inheritance as a means of protecting indigenous property:

“Guaman Poma also enhanced access to Andean justice by reminding the reader of the power of a will, a Spanish legal means to convey the rights to land and property. Graphically, he emphasized the power of inheritance, and depicted an elderly male defiantly hugging his llama, proclaiming that he inherited this animal, this house, and his lands from his deceased father.”¹⁴

Professor Harrison, in a sense, characterizes the *Corónica* as a 17th century legal manual for a Peruvian indigenous population seeking to preserve its land and cultural heritage. Her study is thus a significant contribution to the growing body of literature on Incan and Spanish colonial law. It also perhaps serves as an impetus for further research on the role of law in Guaman Poma's book. Thankfully, the RDL has facilitated study of the *Corónica* by digitizing it, and making images of individual pages available on “[The Guaman Poma Website](#).” This excellent site also includes transcriptions of the original text with annotations (prepared by Professor Rolena Adorno and others).

For an FCIL librarian with a strong interest in Latin America, it was fortuitous to happen across the *Corónica* while wandering through “The Black Diamond.” It is a remarkable work that is certainly one of the RDL's (and Denmark's) bibliographic jewels, and the library has done an outstanding job of preserving it and making it available digitally to a global audience. I have to wonder, however, if the Peruvian government has ever (or would ever) contemplate repatriating this historic tome that is so closely associated with the country's indigenous heritage. That line of inquiry, however, will have to wait for another day.

Author's note: I would like to express my gratitude to several staff members at the RDL who answered my email inquiries and provided photos to accompany this article.

¹ Most of the information contained in this section was gleaned from the Royal Danish Library's [excellent website](#) (last visited May 12, 2017).

² DET KONGELIGE BIBLIOTEK, *The Black Diamond/Den Sorte Diamant* (bilingual pamphlet, English/Danish), undated.

³ [Det Kongelige Bibliotek](#), *Årsberetning 2015*, at 174.

⁴ Det Kgl. Bibliotek, “[Danish Collections \(The National Collections\)](#),” (last visited May 10, 2017).

⁵ Rolena Adorno, *Introduction*, in UNLOCKING THE DOORS TO THE WORLDS OF GUAMAN POMA AND HIS *NUEVA CORÓNICA* 9, 11-12 (Rolena Adorno and Ivan Boserup eds., 2015).

⁶ *See, e.g.*, ROLENA ADORNO, *GUAMAN POMA: WRITING AND RESISTANCE IN COLONIAL PERU* (2d ed. 2000).

⁷ Rolena Adorno, *Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala: Native Writer and Litigant in Early Colonial Peru*, in *THE HUMAN TRADITION IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA* 173, 174 (Kenneth J. Andrien ed., 2d ed. 2013).

⁸ Regina Harrison, *Guaman Poma: Law, Land, and Legacy*, in UNLOCKING THE DOORS TO THE WORLDS OF GUAMAN POMA AND HIS *NUEVA CORÓNICA* 141, 141 (Rolena Adorno and Ivan Boserup eds., 2015).

⁹ *Id.* at 144.

¹⁰ I have always associated the writ of *amparo* with Mexico, but it apparently has roots back to the Spanish *Siete Partidas*, which were compiled in the 13th century. *See* Hector Fix Zamudio, *The Writ of Amparo in Latin America*, 13 U. MIAMI INTER-AM. L. REV. 361, 364 (1981).

¹¹ Harrison, *supra* note 8, at 149.

¹² Harrison, *supra* note 8, at 147.

¹³ Harrison, *supra* note 8, at 150, 153, 157.

¹⁴ Harrison, *supra* note 8, at 149. For a view of this page of the *Corónica*, see <http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/poma/891/en/text/?open=idp546096>.

Electronic Research IG Report

Jim Hart

The Electronic Research IG has been at work writing descriptions of the “Top 5” – and two new – online resources of foreign, comparative, and international law research. They will appear the FCIL website under [the Research tab](#).

An introduction explains the project's purpose, how the resources were chosen, our definition of “new,” and gives credit to the diligent and assiduous souls who wrote them, i.e., Catherine Deane, Yemisi Dina, Dennis Kim-Prieto, Steven Perkins, and (Sherry) Xin Chen.

DU's Certificate in International Legal Research

Karina Condra

The Westminster Law Library at Denver University's Sturm College of Law created a non-credit, Certificate in Legal Research program in Spring 2013. The program was conceptualized as a way to provide additional research instruction to students. It started out initially as a Certificate in Advanced Legal Research Skills focusing on providing students the opportunity to learn advanced research skills. It has developed over the years to offer three distinct certificates: the Certificate in Basic Legal Research, the Certificate in Advanced Legal Research and the Certificate in International Legal Research. While DU law students are the primary participants, the program is open to alumni, members of the Colorado Bar, librarians, and non-law students at Denver University.

In order to receive a Certificate, students must attend a set number of classes and complete an assignment for the classes attended. Students who complete the program receive a signed Certificate and a letter describing the program from the Law Library Director. The completion of the Certificate is noted on the student's transcript.

The program has been very successful. A total of 866 people have attended at least one class. From 2013 to 2017, the library has awarded over 401 certificates, of which 111 have been advanced legal research certificates.

Classes on international legal research topics have always been included in the program to support the Law School's curriculum. The University of Denver Sturm College of Law boasts the oldest International Legal Studies program in the Rocky Mountain West. Law students may focus their studies on international law through the International Law Certificate, the International Law and Human Rights Certificate, or through Dual Degree Programs offered in collaboration with the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Law students also have the opportunity to work with the Denver Journal of International Law & Policy, the second oldest international law journal in the U.S.

Initially, the international classes were offered as part of the advanced legal research skills certificate. Since I am the Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, I teach all the international legal research classes. The international law classes were well attended the first two years of the program. However, I had many students inquire about the possibility of a certificate just in international research skills. In Spring 2015, we added the Certificate in International Legal Research to the program. In order to obtain the newly created Certificate, students had to attend and complete assignments for seven international law classes and three ad-

vanced legal research classes. The classes had to be completed in one semester. I offered the following international law classes: Treaty Research I, Treaty Research II, United Nations Research, European Union Research, International Environmental Law, International Human Rights, and Foreign Law.

Adding the new Certificate to the program was a success. We had thirteen students receive the Certificate in International Legal Research. In addition, thirty students took at least one international legal research class.

The following year, we toughened the requirements for the advanced certificates. In order to obtain the Certificate in International Law, students now have to attend and complete assignments for 12 international legal research classes. Since I had only planned on teaching seven classes a semester, we changed the requirements to allow students to take the classes over multiple semesters.

With the new changes to the program, it was necessary to add additional international law topics. I added the following classes to the program: International Tribunals and Dispute Resolution, Customary International Law, International Trade Law, International Intellectual Property, and Private International Law. I chose the additional classes based on the type of research inquiries I got from students, and the international law classes taught at DU.

In Spring 2016, sixteen students took at least one international class. However, no certificates were awarded because only seven out of the twelve classes were offered. In Spring 2017, twenty students took at least one international class and we awarded one Certificate in International Legal Research.

There will be changes to the program in 2018 based on student feedback. We will change some of the requirements for the program. I have also decided to offer all twelve of the international law classes in Spring 2018. This will give the students the opportunity to complete the entire International Legal Research Certificate in one semester.

I will be presenting about my experience developing and implementing the Certificate in International Legal Research at the FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research Interest Group meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting. I will share my experiences including: development of the Certificate, marketing, implementing the program including technology and teaching strategies, statistics of participation and completion of the program, and the benefits and challenges of the program.

Feature: Books to Show You The World

FCIL Newsletter is pleased to include a recommendation for a book which highlights another one of our IG regions. Do you have titles you want to highlight? Email us!

Asian Law IG

Evelyn Ma

CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION IN SINGAPORE: THEORY AND PRACTICE

By *Jaclyn L. Neo, ed.*

This collection of articles edited by Jaclyn Neo is a compilation of papers presented at a workshop held in January 2012, and at a conference entitled “Judging the Constitution: The Theory and Practice of Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore,” held in May 2015, at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies of the National University of Singapore.

The collected work examines the growth of constitutional cases in Singapore in the last decade and analyzes the issues and trends characterizing the discourse of constitutional interpretation. It sheds light on how the Singaporean courts have strived to resolve the conflicts of the dynamics of originalism and textualism with the pragmatic needs of a modern rapidly evolving society. In so doing, they have had to innovate ways of interpreting the existing constitutional texts to deal with issues impacting rights and powers of the individual and the state.

The collection is divided into three major parts. The first set of articles on “Theoretical Frameworks” provides an overview of prevailing theoretical underpinnings of the Singaporean constitutional interpretation discourse. They include the textualist approach proposed by the Honorable Attorney-General V.K. Rajah, the Westminster style of constitutionalism explored by Kevin Tan, the debates of the basic features doctrine (Kevin Tan) and the basic structure doctrine (Andrew Harding), and the principled pragmatism approach discussed by Thio Li-ann.

The second part entitled “Interrogating Assumptions” takes a deep dive into the different canons of interpretation and examines how these theories have been used in the last decade. Issues explored include the presumption of constitutionality (Jack Tsen-ta), the evolution of the use of the “balancing metaphor” in judicial review (Jaclyn Neo), and the intersection of free speech decisions with issues and cases relating to political defamation and contempt of court (David Tan).

The third category of articles, grouped under the section “Rethinking Boundaries,” discusses issues of constitutional

interpretation in the wider context of new schools of thought and ongoing global constitutional developments. Neo postulates in her Abstract that “Singapore is witnessing a shift in legal and political culture as both judges and citizens display an increasing willingness to engage with constitutional ideas and norms[.]” the section is a bold testament to this. The selection of articles attempts to challenge prevailing theories of constitutional interpretation and explores issues revolving round the reception of foreign law within the Singaporean constitutional framework, as parameters of the current discourse – such as the private and public divide, and national and transnational legal regimes – become increasingly blurred and intertwined.

To researchers and librarians, the value of the work lies in the comprehensive table of cases comprising very recent constitutional decisions from the Singaporean courts, and the bibliographical footnotes tracing the various themes and theories reflected in the scholarly discourse. The systematic analyses provided by the ensemble of Singaporean constitutional law scholars, jurists, and experts render the work a welcome addition to academic law libraries with a comparative constitutional law collection.

FCIL Newsletter

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Cuban Law and Legal Research: The Guide and The Program (No Movie—Yet!)

Julienne E. Grant

*“The first truth is that capitalist legality must be destroyed. The second truth is that socialist legality must be established. We revolutionaries have two parts to play – destroyers of laws in accordance with [one] phase of the revolution, and creators and defenders of laws in the other phase of the revolution.”*¹ –Fidel Castro, June 6, 1971

Fidel Castro made this statement in 1971, some 12 years after he and his group of rebels triumphantly entered Havana after forcing out Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Immediately faced with the task of creating a new government and society, the Castro regime began to uproot the country’s legal system. A lawyer himself, Castro recognized how the law could effectively be used to transition Cuba to a revolutionary State—one that he envisioned as socialist, and ultimately communist. As such, the concept of “socialist legality” is prominent in all of Cuba’s governing legal instruments, from the 1976 Constitution, to the 1987 Civil Code. “Socialist legality” is, in essence, the driving force behind the State’s evolution to communism, and it provides the foundation for Cuba’s governance.²

The topic of Cuban law (and how to locate and research it) has been the focus of the Latin American Law Interest Group for the past year and a half. As Chair of the Group, I’m extremely pleased to report that 12 of its members have completed the “Guide to Cuban Law and Legal Research,” which will be published in the *International Journal of Legal Information* (Vol. 45, Issue 2). I am also delighted to report that the IJLI’s new publisher, Cambridge University Press, has made a concession from its usual practice and will allow the Guide’s authors to post the published version on their own institutional repositories – no subscription required. (Many thanks to IJLI editor Mark Engelsberg for helping to make this happen.)

The intent of the Guide is to provide legal researchers with the knowledge and tools required to best tackle questions

pertaining to Cuba—an enigmatic and challenging jurisdiction, especially for those with little or no knowledge of Spanish. The Guide offers overviews of the Cuban legal system, government structure, primary sources of law, secondary legal literature, international initiatives, and the legal profession. Each of these sections includes historical background, as well as a bilingual bibliography of relevant sources. The Guide also provides lists of relevant commercial and free Web-based sources, and a section that highlights U.S. and Canadian libraries with rich collections of Cuban legal materials. The all-star cast of contributing authors is: Steven Alexandre da Costa, Julienne Grant, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Marisol Florén-Romero, Cate Kellett, Sergio Stone, Teresa Miguel-Stearns, Eduardo Colón, Jootaek Lee, Irene Kraft, Jonathan Pratter, and Yasmin Morais. Marisol Florén-Romero, Julienne Grant, and Sergio Stone served as co-editors of the Guide.

I’m also happy to invite FCIL-SIS colleagues (and their friends of course) to the forthcoming program, “**Cuban Law and Legal Research: A Snapshot During the *Desbielo***.” The session, which is an outgrowth of the Guide, is scheduled for Monday, July 17 at 9:45 a.m. (ACC- Room 18AB) at the AALL Annual Meeting in Austin. Marisol Florén-Romero (Florida International University) and Julienne Grant (Loyola University Chicago), who both worked on the Guide, will be on a panel with **Professor Jorge R. Piñon** of the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Piñon, who is originally from Cuba, is the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Energy Program, Jackson School of Geosciences. Professor Piñon’s career spans some 35 years working and teaching in the area of Latin American energy and its geopolitics. Professor Piñon’s inclusion on the panel is particularly timely as Venezuelan exports of oil and oil-related products to Cuba **decline**, creating a chilling effect on the Cuban economy. Accompanying the program will be a handout that will serve as a supplement to the Guide. Looking forward to seeing FCIL librarian colleagues (and their friends) at this program! The session will also be taped for those not able to attend (perhaps not a Hollywood blockbuster, but interesting nonetheless).

¹ Fidel Castro Ruz, Prime Minister of Cuba, 10th Anniversary—Interior Ministry (June 6, 1971) (**English trans.** in the Castro Speech Data Base, Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC).

² DEBRA EVENSON, LAW AND SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY CUBA 10 (Kluwer Law International 2003) (1994).

Schaffer Grant Column

Do you have a story about how you or your library have worked with a Schaffer Grant winner? Send your notes to either **Lucie Olejnikova or **Teresa Miguel-Stearns** for the next issue.**

FCIL-SIS Member Recent Publications Round Up

Our SIS is fortunate to include in its ranks exceptionally talented and enthusiastic writers. With this new feature, we are happy to spread the word of their recent publications.

SPECTRUM

Patrick Charles, *The Library Book Thief*, 21 AALL: Spectrum, Mar. / Apr. 2017, at 47.

Sherry Xin Chen & Mary Ann Neary, *Artificial Intelligence, Legal Research and Law Librarians*, Spectrum, May / June 2017, at 16.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Anne Mostad-Jensen, Ning Han & Liying Yu, *Legal Research Instruction and Law Librarianship in China: An Updated View of Current Practices and a Comparison with the U.S. Legal Education System*, 109 Law Libr. J. 101 (2017).

BLOG POSTS

Beau Steenken, *On the Brink of the Abyss: Planning for Library Services after the Plunge*

Beau Steenken, *Letting 1Ls Leave the Nest*

Beau Steenken, *On the Value of Student Conferences*

Heather Casey, *Organizing and Participating in the “Open Access to Legal Knowledge in Africa” Workshop in Uganda*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Luz Verguizas, *Using Excel for Monthly Accounts Reconciliation*

Aaron Wolfe Kuperman, *Classification and Cuttering of Periodicals/Serials*

BOOK REVIEWS

Margaret Butler, Book Review, 109 Law Libr. J. 150 (2017) (reviewing Timothy Garton Ash, *Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World* (2016)).

Do you have items to submit for the next issue? Email Jingwei Zhang.

FCIL Newsletter Is Seeking a New Editor

JOB DESCRIPTION

The editor is responsible for publishing three issues of *FCIL Newsletter* each year (in February, May, and October). The editor calls for submissions, commissions content, communicates with contributors and executive board members, designs and produces each issue, and uploads issues and maintains the newsletter's content on the FCIL-SIS website. The editor also works in conjunction with the copy editor.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Ability to meet deadlines
Experience with:
Editing
Layout and design
Photo editing
Updating websites

APPLICATIONS

Send an email indicating interest to [Alison Shea](#), FCIL-SIS Chair. Include a brief statement of why you feel qualified to take on the position. Applications are due June 15.

THANK YOU

I just wanted to take a brief moment to thank all of you for making the past five and a half years as editor such an enriching one. I have enjoyed getting to know so many more FCIL-SIS members than I ever would have otherwise. You volunteered to write fascinating articles, were willing to be coerced into writing more, took beautiful photos, and shared your knowledge and experiences with your colleagues, often when you were busy with your own work.

It has been a genuine pleasure to serve as the *FCIL Newsletter* editor.

Thank you all!
Deborah