

The Impact of the International Right to Housing on National Legal Discourse: Using Data Science Techniques to Analyse Eviction Litigation

Fact Sheet

Project Information

EVICT

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EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council (ERC)


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EU contribution

€ 1 499 018

Hosted by

RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT
GRONINGEN
 Netherlands

Project description

A data-driven legal study of eviction cases

Forced evictions constitute a violation of human rights. The right to housing is recognised under international and European laws and regulations. However, eviction cases typically fall under the prerogatives of national laws, which often do not offer adequate protection for the propertyless. The EU-funded EVICT project will study some thousand cases of eviction during the financial crisis in the EU (2007-2011). The findings will shed light on how and if the international right to housing

impacts national law. Specifically, the project will apply a data-driven approach in the legal discipline, using citation network analysis to examine the interaction between international and national laws.

Objective

Eviction – the involuntary loss of one’s home – has a devastating impact on people’s wellbeing and has severe consequences for society as a whole. During and after the financial crisis of 2007-2011, over 700,000 people in Europe either lost their homes or were at risk of losing them.

National courts use national laws to rule on whether an eviction is just. However, the right to housing, as laid down in international and European law, often demands more protection of the power- and propertyless than national laws prescribe. As a result, national courts are at the centre of the complex interaction between national and international law. In times of growing national resistance towards international law, the questions whether, how, and why international law impacts on national law are among the most topical that legal scholars face.

Evictions provide a timely opportunity to determine why international rights, such as the right to housing, may or may not have an impact on national law. The financial crisis has led to an enormous amount of case law (legal big data). The combination of the developed, but understudied, international right to housing and these vast amounts of national data offers a unique opportunity to examine the interaction between international law and national law.

It is impossible to analyse all judgments manually. Therefore, I will use a data-driven approach that is unique in the legal discipline. Using citation network analysis, I conceptualise the right to housing as a network of international rights and conduct the first empirical analysis of the impact of this right in case law from national supreme courts and lower level courts. With the use of machine learning, I will identify predictors for courts’ decisions, and explain how these predictors may mirror the right to housing. This approach has long been called for but, so far, rarely been executed. If successful, it could be used in future research projects in other areas of the law.

Fields of science

[natural sciences](#) › [computer and information sciences](#) › [data science](#) › **big data**

[social sciences](#) › [law](#) › **international law**

[natural sciences](#) › [computer and information sciences](#) › [artificial intelligence](#) › **machine learning**

Programme(s)

H2020-EU.1.1. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council (ERC)

MAIN PROGRAMME

Topic(s)

ERC-2020-STG - ERC STARTING GRANTS

Call for proposal

ERC-2020-STG

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

ERC-STG - Starting Grant

Host institution



RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

Net EU contribution

€ 1 499 018,00

Address

Broerstraat 5

9712CP Groningen

 **Netherlands** 

Region

Noord-Nederland > Groningen > Overig Groningen

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Non-EU contribution

€ 0,00

Beneficiaries (1)



RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

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