

For Susan Haack

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Legal academics in Ibero-America—and, more notably, Spain—have a persistent problem: research and researchers are divided into separate isolated departments or “knowledge areas”—civil law, criminal law, procedural law, administrative law, philosophy of law, etc. This isolation occurs at many levels. Ideas are rarely discussed in shared forums, academic journals are aimed at readers and contributors from a single department or area, and even the literature consulted to prepare papers is often produced by other researchers in the same area. This tendency has a high cost, clearly reflected in the quality of the results. Many of the issues studied require a multidisciplinary perspective. Any approach that limits an expansive viewpoint is partial one, and runs the risk of encouraging theories that would be untenable from a more comprehensive perspective. Moreover, debates and developments in one area of knowledge often provide constructive contributions to others.

This division of legal studies into separate departments occurs to a yet greater extent between legal and non-legal disciplines. All too often, law is studied in total isolation from theory in the social sciences, from philosophy and, even more so, from empirical studies.

This situation—not at all conducive to the development of knowledge—contrasts sharply with Susan Haack’s approach and highlights one of the outstanding characteristics of her scholarship: working across disciplinary boundaries. From her publications in the philosophy of logic (which is extremely useful for legal applications of deontic logic) through her work in the philosophy of science (which bears significantly on evidential legal reasoning) to her ideas about proof of causation or expert evidence, Susan Haack’s work bridges disciplines and cuts across knowledge boundaries. Beyond this, it has focused on many relevant meta-disciplinary issues such as the problems of peer review and the acceptance of academic papers or the perverse incentives used to evaluate individual researchers or teaching or research centres. Needless to say, Haack’s body of work is extensive in scale and, especially, scope.

A second point that we would like to make concerns the impact of Haack’s work on evidence and proof theories being developed in Ibero-American countries. Until twenty years ago, scholars’ approach to evidential problems was formal and dogmatic. During the last two decades, however, it has become more common to view evidence for judicial proceedings from an epistemological perspective. Haack’s work on the philosophy of science and her numerous articles on legal evidence have considerably influenced this emerging view and the principal Ibero-American authors in the area. This has led to a substantial number of invitations to partici-

pate in events and conferences, where the quality of Haack's arguments is enhanced by her distinctive sense of humour.

This impact of Susan Haack's work on the academic community of legal scholars in Ibero-America was rightfully acknowledged a few months ago by the Chair in Legal Culture of the University of Girona with the presentation of the International Award for Legal Culture 2020. The award ceremony gave Haack the opportunity to visit us again and to present the Spanish edition of her book, *Filosofía del derecho y de la prueba. Perspectivas pragmatistas*, translated by Carmen Vázquez, and published in the *Filosofía y Derecho* series, by Marcial Pons, co-edited by Jordi Ferrer.

Susan Haack's thorough editing of her academic writings, including translations, compares only to her dedication and generosity of effort. This generosity led her to overcome physical limitations, and even the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, to join us in March, for the fourth time in nine years. She had been here previously to take part in the Standards of Proof and Scientific Evidence workshop (2011), to serve on the board of examiners for the doctoral thesis of Carmen Vázquez (2014) and to give various seminars in the first edition of the Master's in Evidential Legal Reasoning (2017). The video library available on the Chair in Legal Culture's YouTube channel is a record of those contributions.

Our love and appreciation for Susan is a token of our gratitude to her for a rigorous academic example, always accompanied by smiles and hugs.