



The Role of Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods in Legal Education

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Abstract

My purpose with the paper is to support the idea that the aim of innovative teaching and learning methods is to translate the enthusiasm of teaching to students' enthusiasm to learn. Furthermore I am convinced that the role of legal education is to ensure that while teachers are teaching explaining students are learning and understanding the argumentation. It might sound obvious, however especially in legal education it often happens that students are not able to follow the material, since they are required to study a lot and they are struggling with the knowledge level of thinking. Moreover unfortunately in legal studies the "learn it and lose it" attitude is quite often. Hence it is the task of a teacher with the aid of innovative methods to break deadlocks and avoid impasses that might occur during the students' learning process. In terms of presentation methods I especially focus on mini-lectures. Regarding innovative verbal teaching and learning methods I discuss role-playing. I am certain of the efficiency of role-playing not only in drama and sociology classes but in legal courses, since the goal of a role-playing is to create a scenario that suits the topic and the same time the application level of thinking can be achieved. Taking into consideration innovative out of class teaching and learning methods I promote weekly reaction papers. Final in the paper I would like to introduce the application of some innovative assessment methods in legal education such as student portfolios that can reflect to the crucial question of "How students learn"? Additionally I clarify how trends in assessment try to move from single method to multiply methods, from evaluating the "product" of the student to appreciating the process of development as well.