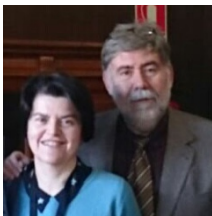


# A life shared with Sociology of Law: Manolo and Teresa



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The title of this chapter is intended to convey the idea of a joint personal, family and academic life in the field of legal sociology. I would go so far as to say that it was our interest in the sociology of law that initially brought Manolo Calvo (\*1956 in Aretxabaleta, Gipuzkoa, †2020 in Zaragoza) and the author of this chapter together. Our personal friendship, and later our relationship as a couple and as a family, followed on from my first steps in doing socio-legal research with Manolo in 1989. Almost without us realising it, our personal and professional lives intertwined. Our two children, Ramiro and Blanca, were born in 1996 and 2002 respectively, and we continued to work together academically for more than 30 years until Manolo's death on 21 June 2020.

The first part of this brief memoir concerns Manolo and his dedication to the study of the Sociology of Law from 1986 until his death. The second part describes my own beginnings, career and future projects in the sociology of law. Given that Manolo and I worked together in so many research studies and in our teaching, the two parts are inextricably linked. I will also emphasize the fundamental importance of the Oñati Institute of the Sociology of Law in both our academic and professional lives.

## **Manolo's dedication and my shared involvement with the sociology of law**

Manolo completed his PhD in 1986 with the title "Justificación y objetividad en la interpretación de la Ley" ("Justification and Objectivity in the Interpretation of Law"), which was concerned essentially with legal methodology. At the time, he was already interested in the sociological approach to the law, and his very first research works demonstrate a strong critical perspective and an analysis of the law from the standpoint of social reality (see also Lacasta Zabalza 2021, p. 533). This interest led to a research visit to Professor Renato Treves at the State University of Milan in 1988. Manolo himself said that it was Renato Treves's influence which led to his enthusiasm for empirical research in this field. In Milan, he also met Professor Vincenzo Ferrari and remained friends with him all his life (Calvo García 2014, pp. 8–9). After his visit to Milan, he included the socio-legal perspective in his research and also began to teach doctoral courses in sociology of law. His post-graduate students, of whom I was one, were very interested in this new approach to the law which, at that time, was almost unknown among Spanish students with law degrees.



Manolo returned from Italy to the University of Zaragoza with the firm decision to follow his interest in the sociology of law<sup>1</sup> in combination with his teaching and research responsibilities. At this stage, he was a Lecturer in the Theory of Law and Legal Philosophy at the university. One of his first actions was to invite Professor Treves to give a lecture on the sociology of law at the Law Faculty, which provoked considerable interest in the subject among Manolo's close colleagues, such as José Ignacio Lacasta, Jesús Ignacio Martínez García, José Martínez de Pisón, indeed among the faculty as a whole. This is because, at that time, the sociology of law perspective was very new in Spain. In particular, José Ignacio Lacasta and José Martínez de Pisón included this new methodological approach in their research work.

It was at that time when Manolo began to research and teach post-graduate and doctoral courses in the sociology of law. I was a doctoral student in the second course he gave in 1989-1990 at Zaragoza University. These initial doctoral courses were given under the title "Investigaciones empíricas y desarrollos teóricos de la sociología del derecho en Italia" ("Empirical Investigations and Theoretical Developments of the Sociology of Law in Italy"). I was especially interested in the empirical research of Paola Ronfani and Valerio Pocar of the State University of Milan about the application of the 1983 Italian Law of Protection of Minors, because I was thinking of doing similar empirical research about the new Spanish Law (1987) on the same subject.

At the same time, plans were being implemented for an International Institute of Sociology of Law at the ancient university of Oñati. Manolo was involved from the beginning and followed its progress with great enthusiasm. It was very important for the Institute that Manolo was Basque from the point of view of relations with Basque institutions. Manolo was very proud that the Institute was created in Oñati, 12 km from where he was born. I remember him speaking to us about the creation of the Oñati Institute, encouraging us to get to know it and to join the summer courses. He also encouraged us to consider doing PhD research in the field of the sociology of law, which is what I finally did. My motivation was the fact that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was introduced in 1989 and ratified by Spain one year later. This meant that the model for child protection had to be reformed in depth. This was of considerable interest to me, especially the way in which this new conception of children's rights

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<sup>1</sup> In the same chapter, Manolo explains that his research stay in Milan (1988) and his participation in the International Congress of Sociology of Law held during the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Bologna, organized by Vincenzo Ferrari, led him to finally decide to work in the field of the sociology of law. He added: "I am grateful to Renato and Vincenzo" (Calvo García 2014, pp. 8-9).

influenced European legislation in general and Spanish law in particular, and the social reality of children as subjects with rights under the law as opposed to being simply objects of legal protection.

Manolo considered the creation of the Oñati Institute a very significant step in the development of the sociology of law in the Basque Country and at Spanish universities in general. We have to remember that very little attention was paid to the sociology of law in Spanish universities at that time (Bergalli 1992, Calvo García 1995). In the 1980s, socio-legal research in Spain was scarce, fragmentary and dispersed. Some research had been done on Spanish legal culture and the legal professions within the framework of institutions such as the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) or the Sociological Research Centre (CIS), a public national research institute. There was also some research on issues including the administration of justice, prisons, drugs, the police, both in the Basque Country – i.e., Kiko Caballero's Laboratory of the Sociology of Law at the University of the Basque Country in San Sebastian-Donostia (Laboratorio de Sociología Jurídica de San Sebastián; see also Ramstedt 2022 and Guibentif 2022, this issue) –, and at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. In the field of the sociology of the family, there was some research on the adoption of minors and sexual equality in the family, among other such questions.

In addition, one of the difficulties at that time was the unwillingness of many researchers to engage in interdisciplinary study. Some colleagues at Spanish law faculties were suspicious of the socio-legal approach which, indeed, was also rejected by some sociologists.

During the 1990s, Manolo became more closely involved with the Oñati Institute. He was invited by scientific directors, such as Rogelio Pérez Perdomo, Roberto Bergalli and Johannes Feest, to give summer courses on such subjects as new perspectives in socio-legal research; research techniques and methods; cultural identities and human rights; politics, justice and judicial independence; implementation of social rights; and domestic violence.

Manolo was also appointed as one of the teachers for the International Master of the Sociology of Law. One of his courses was about "Empirical Research Methodology", and he gave various master's courses about the sociology of human rights. At the end of the 1990s, he was invited by the scientific director Pierre Guibentif to give courses on Rights and Globalization, and on Identities and Human Rights. In these courses, Manolo was critical of the lack of efficacy of the social, economic and cultural rights in a globalized

world (for example, the rights of immigrants, the right of women to a life without violence, the rights of children, and the rights concerning the work-life balance, among others).

In 2001, Manolo became scientific director jointly with Bill Felstiner, a position they held until 2003. During this time, Manolo coordinated the Master together with Bill and participated in the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) as a member of the Executive Committee. Manolo also directed many master's dissertations at the Institute and went on to direct the PhD theses of some of these students, who obtained excellent academic results. An example is Matías Cordero Arce (2022), whose dissertation on "The Ambiguity of the Rights of Children to Play" ("La ambigüedad del derecho de los niños al juego") Manolo directed. Subsequently, Maggy Barrère Unzueta and I directed Matías's doctoral thesis with the title "Towards an Emancipatory Discourse on Children's Rights" ("Hacia un discurso emancipador de los derechos de los niños y las niñas"), which he defended at the University of the Basque Country, obtaining the maximum mark.

Manolo took on the vice-presidency of the RCSL with great enthusiasm in 2018 and attended the first meeting in Oñati that year. He also took part in two congresses on international sociology of law in his capacity as vice-president of the RCSL, one of them held in Lisbon in September and the other in Sao Paulo in the same month. In Sao Paulo, he gave the inaugural lecture and participated in various panels. Unfortunately, he became ill towards the end of the same year. However, he continued working with the RCSL until shortly before his death in June 2020.

In addition to his work at the Oñati Institute and the University of Zaragoza, Manolo began working closely with various Latin American universities in 1996. For example, he started and coordinated the *Inter-Campus Teaching Network on Human Rights between Two Worlds: Rhetoric and Reality of Human Rights in Latin America and Europe*. The issues were directly connected with the political context of some of these countries which were attempting to build their democracies, for which the recognition and institutional guarantees of human rights was especially important. The teaching network organized courses on sociology of human rights; social, economic and cultural rights in Latin America and Europe; techniques of empirical research in the field of human rights; the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; democracy and the rule of law; and citizen safety and human rights.

This network involved several Spanish universities, including Valencia with Javier de Lucas, La Rioja with José Martínez de Pisón, and of course Zaragoza, with Manolo and

José Ignacio Lacasta; and several Latin American universities including the UNAM, México, with Óscar Correas and María Angélica Cuellar; the National University of Colombia with Víctor Moncayo; and the University of Buenos Aires with Carlos Cárcova and Alicia Ruiz. These teachers and researchers also took part in many activities, courses and workshops at the Oñati Institute, and some continue to do so.

One of the objectives of the *Inter-Campus Teaching Network* was to provide and to perfect the legal instruments for the defence and protection of human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective, that is, from socio, political and legal perspectives.<sup>2</sup>

In the following years, Manolo gave several conferences and courses in other Latin American universities joining the network, including the University Externado of Colombia with Germán Silva, the University De Vale Do Rio Dos Sinos in Brazil with Sandra Regina Martini, and the University of Sao Paulo with José Eduardo Faria. Some of these researchers have had close links with the Oñati Institute.

In these first years, I was unable to be part of the network, because my son Ramiro was born in 1996, and I was preparing for the official exams to become Senior Lecturer at the University of Zaragoza in 1999. My daughter Blanca was born in 2002, and while my children were very small, I could not give regular doctoral or post-graduate courses in Latin America until some years later. However, I was able to give a post-graduate course on “Gender and Family Models” (“Género y Modelos Familiares”) at the Institute of Anthropological Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in 2004, a seminar for the Master on Family Studies at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the Externado University of Colombia on “Transformaciones de la Familia y Políticas Familiares” (Transformations of the Family and Family Policies) in 2005, and another at the University De Vale Do Rio Dos Sinos in Brazil in 2007 about the rights of children and adolescents. A few years later, in 2011 and 2012, I gave a course on “Sociología de la Infancia y formulación de Políticas Públicas” (Sociology of Childhood and the Making of Public Policy) for the Diploma in the Rights of the Child and Adolescents at the José Simeón Cañas Central American University in El Salvador.

Within the framework of the *Inter-Campus Teaching Network*, several researchers and professionals from Latin America made doctoral research visits to the University of Zaragoza. In fact, Manolo directed more than 15 doctoral theses for students from Brazil,

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<sup>2</sup> The documentation relating to the *Inter-Campus teaching Network on Human Rights between Two Worlds* is available in an e-file kindly provided by Professor José Martínez de Pisón Caverro of the University of La Rioja.

Colombia, Argentina, Mexico and Peru. These included María Palma Wolff, Sinara Porto Fajardo, María José Azevedo do Canto, Caroline Vaz, Miriam Vilamil Balestro, Carlos Cesar D'Elia, Amaro Bossi and Marlon Jacinto Reis in Brazil; Mariana Sánchez Busso and Fernando Arlettaz in Argentina; Angel Nemesio Barba Rincón and Rafael Velandia Montes in Colombia, and several others.

Manolo continued working with Latin American universities for the rest of his life<sup>3</sup>, directing many doctoral theses, giving courses, publishing articles and books and giving his advice and expertise to students. At the end of 2018, the Brazilian Association of Researchers in the Sociology of Law invited him to give the inaugural address at the IX International Congress of the Sociology of Law in Sao Paulo. The academic contacts and friendships he enjoyed with several Brazilian sociologists of law went back more than twenty years.

Back in 1995, on the initiative of Roberto Bergalli when he was scientific director of the Institute, and later Johannes Feest, some Spanish and a few Latin American sociologists of law began to join the Oñati Institute, where they formed the Derecho y Sociedad (Rights and Society) Research Group.<sup>4</sup> From 1995–1998, we held many workshops and meetings. Some of our research was published by the Tirant lo Blanch publishers in a book coedited by María José Añón, Pompeu Casanova, Manolo and Roberto Bergalli (Añón *et al.* 1998). My interest at that time was to research about family law and family policy in Spain and Europe. I presented my research on the legal sociology of the family: legislative change and social policies in Spain in the European context of family policies, which was subsequently published in the book. Other issues addressed in the book included: openings, crises and transformations in the law; the legal and political problems of multicultural societies, legal pluralism, nationalism and crises of the state; the contradictions of regulatory law in the interventionist state, rights and social needs; gender, family and human rights; methodology of legal research; and others of an empirical nature on law and social control, legal professions and institutions.

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<sup>3</sup> Some of the most relevant of Manolo's contributions to the development of the sociology of law in Latin America are described in the monograph issue of the *Revista Latinoamericana de Sociología Jurídica. Número especial en Honor y Homenaje al Dr. Manuel Calvo García* (Silva 2021b).

<sup>4</sup> The last meeting of this Research Group (Network) took place in 2014 in Zaragoza to confer *Doctor Honoris Causa* on Vincenzo Ferrari. A meeting organized by Ignacio Aymerich was planned for 2020 (I Congreso de la Asociación Iberoamericana Derechos y Sociedad, Casa de Iberoamérica, Cádiz 16-17 April 2020) but was suspended owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognition of Manolo's work on the development of the sociology of law in Latin America was given in a special monograph dedicated exclusively to him, published in September 2021 by the *Revista Latinoamericana de Sociología Jurídica*.<sup>5</sup> This publication collected many contributions from his colleagues and students, the majority of them from Latin American countries, together with an article by Vincenzo Ferrari. The first article, written by Germán Silva, is entitled: "The History of Latin American Sociology of Law: he who has left and his legacy: Manuel Calvo García" (Silva 2021a).

During his life, Manolo made a significant contribution to both theoretical and empirical studies. He published many books and articles,<sup>6</sup> some of them in first class journals in Spain and in other countries. His work was recognised in several obituaries which appeared in the months following his death, including those published by the Oñati institute (IISJ 2020) and by the RCSL (Ferrari 2020, Maclean 2020) and by many publications in Spain (Lacasta 2021) and Latin America (Silva 2021b)

For reasons of space, it is obviously not possible to list all his publications, but mention can at least be made of those which have a direct connection with Oñati. These include contributions to the following books: R. Bergalli (ed.), *El desarrollo y las aplicaciones de la Sociología Jurídica en España (The Development and Applications of the Sociology of Law in Spain)*, Oñati Proceedings (1995) nº 19, which contains Manolo's article "La investigación socio-jurídica en España: estado actual y perspectivas" ("Socio-legal Research in Spain: State of Affairs and Perspectives"; pp. 17–46); and I. Muñagorri (ed.), *La protección de la seguridad ciudadana (The Protection of Public Security)*, Oñati Proceedings nº 18 (1995), which includes his chapter "Políticas de seguridad y transformaciones del Derecho" ("Security Policies and Legal Change"; pp. 95–134). Manolo also edited *Identidades culturales y Derechos Humanos (Cultural Identities and Human Rights)*, IISJ de Oñati/ Dykinson (2002) and was joint editor with W.L.F. Felstiner of *Federalismo (Federalism)*, IISJ de Oñati/Dykinson (2004). He also published "Positivism Jurídico y Teoría Sociológica del Derecho" ("Legal Positivism and Socio-Legal Theory") in the journal *Sortuz* (Volume 6, No 1, 2014).

One of Manolo's greatest achievements is the establishment of the Laboratory of Legal Sociology at the University of Zaragoza,<sup>7</sup> which he created during the academic year of

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<sup>5</sup> See footnote 4.

<sup>6</sup> I hope to compile a bibliography of these publications at a later date.

<sup>7</sup> See the website of the Laboratorio Sociología Jurídica de la Universidad de Zaragoza: <https://sociologiajuridica.unizar.es>



2000–2001, and which he promoted and directed until his death in June 2020. This Laboratory emerged as a result of the activity of a joint research group from the universities of Zaragoza and La Rioja. It has been closely connected, right from the start, with the Oñati Institute. The Laboratory has involved many researchers (including me) carrying out extensive socio-legal research in several very problematic areas, such as gender and domestic violence, the protection of children and young people, social law and human rights, security and public order policies, the rights relating to family, personal and working lives, and so on.

We had already been cooperating with some colleagues on several research projects since the second half of the 1990s. I had participated first with a project on the regulatory impact of new legislation on minors. Subsequently, I also participated in projects on the institutional response to violence against the elderly and the impact of violence on the effectiveness of rights, among others.

Manolo also conducted careful analyses of all these social problems from socio-legal theoretical perspectives. In this sense, we can say that he contributed to both theoretical and empirical studies. The Laboratory also served to consolidate links with other universities and research groups in Spain, Europe and Latin America. For example, the Laboratory is a member of the network *El Tiempo de los Derechos (The Age of Human Rights Journal)* which includes 15 research groups from various Spanish universities, active from 2007 until today.

Even before setting up the Laboratory, Manolo was instrumental in initiating and managing numerous research projects, for which he obtained grants from institutions such as the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary, the Government of Aragon or the Basque Government. The majority of these research projects were carried out from an empirical perspective over a wide range of issues including migration (Arletazz 2021), children's rights, youth justice, minimum income schemes, domestic and gender violence (Gracia Ibáñez 2021), equality between women and men, and the effectiveness of public policies and social rights (Vilá 2021). Within the framework of some of these projects, Manolo directed a large number of doctoral theses over the years for students including Raúl Susín Betrán, María José Bernuz Benéitez, José Alberto Andrés Lacasta and David Vilá Viñas, and co-directed others with me, including theses by Laura Gómez Pardos, Jorge Gracia Ibáñez, Paz Olaciregui, Elena Pilcher and Alicia Brox (the last three were defended in November 2020, April 2021 and May 2022, respectively).

The results of many of these research works on gender violence or the Spanish justice system and the work-life balance have been collected in several publications. An example is *Valoración de las medidas de conciliación de la vida personal, familiar y laboral según la regulación de la Ley Orgánica 3/2007, para la igualdad efectiva de mujeres y hombres* (Assessment of Measures to Reconcile Personal, Family and Working Life According to the Regulation of Organic Law 3/2007 for the Effective Equality of Women and Men; ed. M. Calvo García and T. Picontó Novales), published by the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary, Madrid, 2016.

It is abundantly clear that Manolo's teaching and research work was always based on a commitment to reality but also to the social and democratic state of the law and the effectiveness of fundamental rights, particularly the rights of the most vulnerable people and groups including children, migrants, women victims of gender violence, and dependent elderly people. He was a tireless defender of these rights.

As Germán Silva has so rightly written: "In life, there are people of ideas and people of action. It is very difficult to find someone who combines both virtues, but Manolo was one of them (...). Besides Italy, England was another destination for some of his academic stays. Between stays, courses and international conferences, Manolo walked the world nourishing himself at each stop".<sup>8</sup>

Having given some information about the work of our shared lives in the sociology of law, I will now go on to say something about my own experiences and career in the field.

## **My own experience, research and teaching in Sociology of Law**

In my student days, I was basically interested in the Philosophy of Law. However, after attending Manolo's doctoral course in Sociology of Law in 1989–1990 at the University of Zaragoza, my interest turned towards the new possibilities offered by the sociological perspective in the study of law as opposed to the traditional formal approaches.

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<sup>8</sup> "En la vida hay personas de ideas y personas de realizaciones. Es muy difícil encontrar a alguien que reúna las dos virtudes y Manolo lo hacía... Además de Italia, Inglaterra fue también otro destino de algunas de sus estancias académicas. Entre estancias, cursos y conferencias internacionales, Manolo camino el mundo nutriéndose en cada estación" (G. Silva 2021a, 9)

In fact, from the 1990s until Manolo's passing, it was very difficult to separate my academic and personal life from that of Manolo's, as was guided by our mutual interest in the sociology of law and the afore-mentioned empirical and theoretical socio-legal problems. What started as an academic and research interest soon became one of the fundamentals of our personal and, later, family life, as we had so many joint experiences in Oñati, Oxford, London, Milan, Florence, Mexico City, Porto Alegre, Bogotá and Coimbra, among other places, where we met so many colleagues who rapidly became our friends.

I finished my law studies at the University of Zaragoza in 1988 and began working on my PhD at the same university. I obtained my doctorate in 1994 with a socio-legal research study on the Spanish child welfare law, co-directed by Manolo and the sociologist Angela López (Professor of the University of Zaragoza). Manolo and Angela were right to advise me to direct my studies towards the socio-legal area, which at that time was very new in Spain. In fact, I think my doctoral thesis was probably the first in the field of the sociology of law to be presented in Spain. It included empirical research on the application of the new Spanish Law of Child Protection 1987 Law, and its publication in 1996 was extensively cited both in Spain and in some Latin American studies. The results were taken into account in the Aragonese Social Policies of the time.

In 1993, while working on my thesis, I enjoyed a research stay at the State University of Milan with Vincenzo Ferrari who, together with Paola Ronfani, helped and encouraged me with my empirical research about the application of the new Spanish Law of Child Protection. I remember that Vincenzo spoke to me with great enthusiasm about the Oñati Institute of the Sociology of Law and encouraged me to go there and take part in its interesting workshops. I started by presenting a paper about minors in state protection centres in Spain at one of the workshops held during an international congress, organised by the Institute in July 1993. The main thing that I remember was the motivation to continue with my research into the protection of children, because in Spanish universities there was very little attention paid to this. There I made friends with an Italian student, Daniela Cichella, who suggested that I contact Mavis Maclean, who was teaching in the Master programme. Daniela said Mavis would be very interested in my work on child welfare in Spain. So, that winter I wrote to Mavis (by post in those days) with a summary of my thesis. She replied by return, saying "Dear Teresa, come to Oxford as soon as possible for a research stay, we are very interested in your research". I replied very happily, saying that I would go as soon as I could to be with her at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, but first I had to finish my thesis.

Mavis then invited me to take part in a workshop in Oñati in May 1994. This workshop on “Family Policy and the Law” was organised by Mavis and Jacek Kurczewski. Besides Mavis and Jacek, I met Malgorzata Fuszara and other colleagues. The result of this workshop was the publication of the book *Family Law and Family Policy in the New Europe*, in 1998, to which I contributed with a chapter: “Notes on the Development of Family Law and Politics in Spain”, my second publication in English. A few months earlier, I had published “The application of Spanish Child Welfare Law” in the *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, with the help and under the supervision of John Eekelaar of the University of Oxford.

Invited by Mavis, I enjoyed two research stays, one quite short and the other for more than a year, at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford, with a post-doc grant from the Government of Aragon to research about “Family Mediation and Divorce”. It was there and then that my academic relationship with Mavis began, which has lasted until today. Even more important to me is the deep friendship that evolved, which included Manolo and Mavis’s family, Robert, Sarah and Caroline. Some years and many meetings later, the friendship continued with the next generation – my children Ramiro and Blanca and Mavis’s grandchildren Edie and Arthur. Since the first moment we met at the Antia residence in Oñati, Mavis has given me her generous support and affection.

While at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies as a visiting scholar in 1994, I shared an office with Fareda Banda who, as well as being a good colleague, also became one of my best friends. I am also lucky enough to have enjoyed the support of John Eekelaar during all these years. Both Fareda and John have participated in some workshops in Oñati, and I have been fortunate to have been able to attend and benefit from many of them. I was very interested in Fareda's gender research, especially on forced marriages of girls in some African countries. Later, I incorporated the gender perspective in my studies on children's rights, which was very useful to make visible the double discrimination as minors and as women, suffered by girls and young women in many contexts (family, work, education). I am deeply grateful to Professor J. Eekelaar, and over the years, I have been able to contribute to some of his collective publications and seminars. It gave me great satisfaction to be invited to contribute to a book that his colleagues and friends published in his honour in 2022. My chapter “Developments in the Protection of Children's Rights in Spain: With Special Reference in the Protection Children's Rights in the Context of Gender Violence” appeared in S. Gilmore (Ed.) and J. Scherpe (Ed.), *Family Matters: Essays in Honour of John Eekelaar*, Cambridge, Intersentia, 2022, pp. 789–800.

My experience with Mavis and her colleagues at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford extended my research subjects from children's rights to Family Law and Policy. I also learned a new way of working, using a specific case method for future investigations, as exemplified in my book published by Dykinson in 2000: "En las fronteras del derecho: Un estudio de casos y reflexiones generales" (At the frontiers of law: case studies and reflections).

My research on the protection and welfare of children and my contacts with the research group led by Mavis and John Eekelaar in the area of family policy, together with workshops in Oñati and seminars at the Centre for Family Law and Family Policy/Department of Social Policy and Intervention at the University of Oxford, led to many publications, several of which were coedited by Mavis and John, including, among others, the following: "Cohabitation: the ideological debate in Spain", in Maclean, M. (ed.), *Family Law and Family Values*, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2005, pp. 221–240; "The equality rights of parents and the protection of the best interests of the child after partnership breakdown in Spain", *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, 26(3), pp. 378–400, 2012; "Religious Freedom and Protection of the Right to Life in Minors: A case study", in Maclean, M., Eekelaar, J. (eds.), *Managing Family Justice in Diverse Societies*, Oxford, United Kingdom, Hart Publishing, 2013, pp. 137–151; "Parenting issues after separation in Spain and Southern Europe", in Eekelaar, J., George, R., (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Family Law and Policy*, 1st ed. Routledge, UK, 2014, pp. 228–234; and "*The development of 'shared custody' in Spain and southern Europe*", in Eekelaar, J., George, R., (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Family Law and Policy*, 2nd ed., Routledge, UK, 2020, pp. 229–237.

In the second half of the 1990s, several meetings of young legal sociologists were held at the Oñati Institute, supported first by Roberto Bergalli and then Johannes Feest. This led to the publication of a monograph in the Oñati Papers Journal, entitled *La joven sociología jurídica en España* (Young Legal Sociology in Spain), and an essay collection, coedited by my friend and colleague Encarna Bodelón and myself, titled *Transformaciones del Estado y del Derecho Contemporáneo* (Transformations of the State and Contemporary Law). Most of the participants were doing or had recently completed their PhD studies in the sociology of law at various Spanish universities. These meetings led to many other meetings, round tables, conferences and friendships which continue today, including my long friendship with Encarna Bodelón, which started at the Oñati Institute more than 25 years ago, and during which we have worked together on numerous research and teaching projects.

In November 1999 I was appointed lecturer in the Philosophy of Law and Sociology of Law at the University of Zaragoza. I was the first teacher on the new elective course of Sociology of Law during 2002 to 2003, finally approved in the new Law Studies curriculum, for which Manolo and I had fought so hard as members of the committee which manages the law curriculum at our university. Several publications resulted from our joint teaching for undergraduate law studies. The last of these was *Introducción y perspectivas actuales de la sociología jurídica* (Introduction to and Current Perspectives of Legal Sociology) by M. Calvo García and T. Picontó Novales, UOC, Barcelona, 2017. This is a widely used textbook for undergraduate students in some Spanish universities, such as the University of Zaragoza and the Universidad Oberta de Catalunya.

During this time, I gave two courses for the Oñati Master about *Family Policies and Family Regulations* (1997–1998 and 1998–1999). I have very happy memories of the weeks I was living at the Antia residence with the students. I also supervised some of the Oñati master's students' dissertations. I fondly remember all of them, especially Arantxa Líbano, who was the first IISL student whose master's thesis I supervised, together with Encarna Bodelón. I also have fond memories of Mara Thorsen, whose master's thesis on children's rights in the USA I supervised some years later. It was a great experience to share so many moments with the students. Living in the Antia residence enabled us to relate socially as well as academically.

During the last few years, I have given several postgraduate, master's and doctoral courses at various Spanish and Latin American universities including the UNAM, Mexico; the Universidad Externado y Autónoma de Bucaramanga, Colombia; and the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador. The first of these courses took place in the early 2000s. At the UAB Bucaramanga, I gave a course as part of the postgraduate course in Gender and Law in 2014, on "Effective equality between men and women: reconciling personal, family and working life". I have continued to strengthen my teaching and research links with several other Colombian universities as well as the UAB.

I have given numerous courses and sessions in various master's degrees in Spanish universities over the last 15 years: in the master's degree in Migration and Social Mediation at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona since 2009, in the Master in International Human Rights Protection at the University of Alcalá de Henares, also since 2009, where I am still teaching, and in the master in Family and Childhood at the University of Barcelona, among others. This is in addition to the courses I have been

teaching at the University of Zaragoza for the Master in Sociology of Public Policy and the Master in Gender Relations, since their inception until today.

For some time, I have also participated in working groups of the Laboratory of the Sociology of Law at the University of Zaragoza and also of the International Working Group for Comparative Studies of Legal Professions based in Oñati (coordinated by Lisa Webley). The latter currently has 13 subgroups, the second of which I have been a member since 2010. This group, “Family, Policy and the Law”, is coordinated by Mavis Maclean and Benoit Bastard and has given rise to several publications, some of them resulting from workshops in Oñati. The publications include “Access to Justice in Spain in times of austerity, with special reference to Family Justice”, in Bastard, B., Eekelaar, J., Maclean, M., (eds.), *Delivering Family Justice in the 21st Century*, ed. Hart-Bloomsbury Publishing, United Kingdom, 2015, pp. 199–213; “Contact disputes and allegations of gender violence in Spain”, *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*.40 – 4, 2018, pp. 441–458; “Different Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution: The Framework for Family Mediation in Spain”, with Lauroba, E., Merino, C., Loreda Colunga, M., in *Digital Family Justice: From Alternative Dispute Resolution to Online Dispute Resolution?*, Maclean, M., Dijksterhuis, B., (ed.), Hart Publishing, 2019, pp. 103–123; “Family Justice and ADR in Spain: Which Cases Go Beyond ADR to the Courts? What Is the Impact of the Current COVID-19 Crisis?”, in Maclean Mavis, Treloar Rachel and Bregje Dijksterhuis, (eds.), *What is a Family Justice System For?*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022. From 2006 to 2010, I was a member of the Governing Board of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL), and during this time I was also on the board of the Oñati Institute. It was a very interesting experience, and I remember with special affection Johannes Feest and Bill Felstiner, who were very attentive to me when I joined. I already knew the other members of the Board, except for Luigi Cominelli, with whom I have had a good friendship ever since, and who allowed me to strengthen my ties with the State University of Milan from that moment on. At that time, when Carlos Lista was the scientific director of the Institute, there were immense difficulties due to the economic recession. All of us were very occupied with the problems of financing because of the financial crisis, which badly affected the Institute.

In 2015, I attended the International Conference in Canoas, Brazil, entitled “Sociology of Law on the Move: Perspectives from Latin America”. I was a “representative” of the Institute of Oñati and the Oñati Community. I have fond memories of the Oñati Community Seminar, held during the Conference, and the personal contacts in Canoas with Mavis, Masayuki Murayama, María Angélica Cuellar, and others.

In March 2021, I became a full Professor of the Philosophy of Law at the University of Zaragoza. In the Philosophy of Law area, legal sociology is an optional subject in the Bachelor's Degree in Law, as well as being present in some of the other subjects that I teach in this and other universities in master's and postgraduate courses. Likewise, most of my research over the last 30 years has been carried out from the perspective and with the methodology of legal sociology.

My most immediate concerns now are to continue with my socio-legal research in the areas of family law, family justice, mediation and other forms of ADR, the rights of children in general – and, in particular, the right of children to live freely in a violence-free family or social environment – and access to justice and legal incapacity. For example, I have participated in the virtual workshop on Access to Family Justice and Mental Incapacity in June 2022 at the IISJ in Oñati, organised by Mavis Maclean and Bregje Dijksterhuis. My interest is to investigate the rights of people with disabilities after the important legal reform of 2021 in Spain. With the new Law 8/2021 the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in Spain can no longer be deprived or adjusted. They have full legal capacity and its exercise will require support or assistance, to a greater or lesser extent, based on the will or preferences of the person with disabilities. This legal change will require a change in the mentality of legal operators who are used to working with the idea of "incapacitation". The application of this Law is generating a great deal of controversy and in some cases, there could be a certain degree of rejection among legal professionals (notaries, judges, lawyers) or social operators who work with disabled persons.

I would like to see a greater presence of the sociology of law not only at undergraduate level but also at postgraduate and research levels. I hope to dedicate my work and efforts to this in the coming years. I share the worries of Vincenzo Ferrari and José Ignacio Lacasta that while we are witnessing a tremendous growth of legal sociology in Latin America, in Europe we are at risk of seeing this field beginning to languish.

It just remains for me to thank all those who have accompanied me on this career in the sociology of law, especially, of course, Manolo Calvo for all I learnt from him both professionally and personally. And of course, I wish to thank the Oñati Institute for all these years of hospitality, work and affection extended to me and Manolo. Special thanks are due to the scientific director, Martin Ramstedt, for giving me the opportunity to take part in the interesting Memory Lectures at the Institute and to Leire Kortabarria for her help in the preparation of this chapter. I would also like to thank the members of the Oñati



Community network for their initiative in establishing and financing the Manolo Calvo Grant for students of the Master's and for financing it.

## Final thoughts

Throughout this chapter I have tried to summarise Manolo Calvo's dedication and contributions to both Spanish and Latin American legal sociology. I have also tried to reflect the presence of legal sociology in our professional and personal lives, as well as how we enjoyed this shared passion for almost 30 years. Finally, I have wanted to give a brief account of my dedication and journey in legal sociology up to the present day.

If I had to describe what my contribution may have been, I would say, first of all, that I have contributed to incorporating a form or methodology of interdisciplinary work in legal sociology both in the field of public policies on childhood and adolescence, family and gender violence, and in the field of justice and family law in Spanish universities and in some Latin American universities, which is much more widely accepted today than at the beginning of my academic career.

Secondly, it is possible that, with some of my research carried out in the various research groups and projects led by Mavis Maclean since 2001, I have also initiated new research topics in the field of family policies and family justice in Spanish and Portuguese universities. In this regard, I would highlight my colleagues at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, with whom I have been working since 2008 in a mutually fruitful collaboration (in particular with Boaventura de Sousa Santos, João Pedroso, António Casimiro Ferreira, Patrícia Branco and Paula Casaleiro), with whom there has been a close collaboration from the very beginning in research objectives and work methodology, as well as a reciprocal influence, so that working with them has been and continues to be a great incentive for me.

Finally, If I had to express what may be my international contribution, I would remember the words of my colleague and friend Belinda Fehlberg, who I met in 1995 at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford. At the Zumarraga train station, where we had arrived together after a workshop in Oñati in 2018, Belinda said to me: "Teresa, your work and participation during all these years has enabled us to understand the family justice system in Spain". It was then that I realised that as well as learning so much from others, I, too, was able to contribute to my colleagues. I don't think I could have thought in this way if Belinda hadn't spoken to me so kindly that Saturday morning in April.

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