



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI



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Instrumente Structurale
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Axa prioritară: 1. Educația și formarea profesională în sprijinul creșterii economice și dezvoltării societății bazate pe cunoaștere

Domeniul major de intervenție: 1.2. Calitate în învățământul superior

Titlul proiectului: *ȘCOALA PRACTICĂ: Inovare în învățământul superior și succes pe piața muncii*

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THE NEW HAVEN APPROACH: AN INTEGRATIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK TO SOLVING SOCIETAL PROBLEMS

~WORKSHOP~

The New Haven School (the Yale University's Decision-Making School based on a specific research methodology) is a policy-oriented perspective on international politics pioneered by [Myres S. McDougal](#), [Harold D. Lasswell](#), and [W. Michael Reisman](#). Its intellectual antecedents lie in sociological [jurisprudence](#) of [Roscoe Pound](#) and the reformist ambitions of the [American Legal Realists](#).

From the standpoint of the New Haven approach, jurisprudence is a theory about making social choices. International politics itself reflects the expectations of relevant community members about stable patterns of behavior created by assertions of control by legal authorities. The primary jurisprudential and intellectual tasks are the prescription and application of policy in ways that maintain community order and simultaneously achieve the best possible approximation of the community's social goals.

These [normative](#) social goals or values of the New Haven approach include maximizing shared community values, such as wealth, enlightenment, skill, well-being, affection, respect and



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rectitude. The teleological goal of New Haven School jurisprudence is the interpretation of international politics as a system of creating minimum world public order, with continued progress toward the development of shared values into an optimum order.

The New Haven Approach, to analyzing and resolving societal problems of all kinds, has been developed in the 20th century at the Yale Law School by Professors [Myres S. McDougal](#), [Harold D. Lasswell](#), and [W. Michael Reisman](#).¹

It defines **law as an ongoing process of authoritative and controlling decision in any given community**. As one of its principal representatives, [Professor Siegfried Wiessner](#), has stated, this innovative approach views the proper role of a lawyer as a “*doctor of the social order.*” As such, he or she has to delimit and analyze a problem from the perspective of all relevant disciplines, true to their respective methods, ideally in teamwork with the respective experts, and to identify the conflicting claims, claimants, their perspectives, identifications, and bases of power, before explaining the past trends in decision -- legal responses to the conflicting claims couched in the form of statutes, court decisions, treaties, etc. – in the light of their conditioning factors, be they environmental or predispositional.

Projecting future decisions then precedes the appraisal of those decisions, both past and future, the invention of alternatives, and the development of recommendations guided by the ideal of a world order of human dignity in which the closest possible realization of the aspirations of all is achieved. This intellectual framework is universal in its applicability and its values.² It lies at the foundation of this interdisciplinary workshop.

¹ For details, see Harold D. Lasswell & Myres S. McDougal, *Jurisprudence for a Free Society: Studies in Law, Science and Policy* (1992); W. Michael Reisman, Siegfried Wiessner & Andrew R. Willard, *The New Haven School: A Brief Introduction*, 32 *Yale Journal of International Law* 575 (2007).

² Siegfried Wiessner, *The New Haven School of Jurisprudence: A Universal Toolkit for Understanding and Shaping the Law*, 18 *Asia Pacific Law Review* 45 (2010).