

---

## Overview Articles

An Overview Article must present a thoughtful, and thorough analysis of the state of knowledge within a particular subfield of law. This could include areas of public and private law; for instance, law and society, law and cyberspace, law regarding the environment and the climate crisis, legal theory and jurisprudence.

A detailed analysis of key literature in the field, significant cases and judgements, along with an overview of core debates will help paint a picture of the field's evolution and also serve as a comprehensive introduction to beginners and interested non-specialists. These articles should offer critical perspectives on the state of a subfield of law to stimulate further discussion and research.

## Submission Guidelines

Word limit: 10,000 words (inclusive of notes)

Overview Articles are generally solicited by the journal's Editorial Board. Interested authors are strongly encouraged to submit a 200-300 word abstract in advance. Abstracts should be submitted to the NLSJ Editorial Board at [nlsj@nls.ac.in](mailto:nlsj@nls.ac.in).

## Core Requirements

1. *Original Contribution*: While an Overview Article is not strictly required to make a novel contribution to scholarship in the field, we expect originality in the curation of core debates and approaches. This is in furtherance of the NLSJ's commitment to "encourage established and emerging scholars to develop new knowledge and perspectives on developing world concerns". This can take the form of new conceptual frameworks, research approaches or methodologies, and novel research questions that can help reorient and anchor future research.
2. *Critical Engagement*: These articles are expected to take a critical look at the evolution of the field, core debates and academic approaches taken. In short, Overview Articles do not merely *track* the development or evolution of the concerned subfield. They are primarily concerned with interrogating this evolution, with a view to highlight problem-solving approaches, analytical innovations, persistent problems and research gaps.
3. *Charting a Future Path*: Another critical function of overview articles is to reflect on the future of the concerned field. Authors may critique issues like the direction of the

field, the primary research focus of scholars, any issues of representation or trends in academia with respect to the types of research gaining relevance. The article can also outline alternative visions for the field, including research questions, and approaches where further research would significantly enrich the field.

### **Suggested Structure**

Authors are encouraged to include these elements, though not necessarily in this order:

1. **A snapshot of the evolution of the subfield in a clearly defined time period**, with a focus on the core problems addressed and the major research approaches taken by scholars.
2. **Literature review:** A critical, and synthesized comparison of various key publications that are indispensable to understanding the subfield.
3. **Conceptual framework:** The article should outline the framework for studying or reflecting on the evolution of the field and its major issues. This could involve a critical discussion of the various available frameworks including the one endorsed by the author.
4. A critical analysis of the major **debates** within the subfield, on substantive and methodological issues.
5. Indications for areas of **future research**.