



CONVENOR REPORT ON ALTA INTEREST GROUP SESSION

1. Conference Location (tab once):
(eg University of Waikato) The University of Waikato
2. Interest Group Name (tab once):
(eg Legal Education) Jurisprudence & Legal Philosophy
3. Name of Convener (tab once):
(**Note:** if you are an alternate
convener, please also fill-in #4) Gay Morgan
4. Standing-In For (tab once): Michelle Sanson
5. Title of Paper(s) and Name of Presenter(s):
(**Note:** Please specify what University/Organisation the Presenter is from)
(eg Law in Australia, Michael Smith, UTS)

- (1) Legal References in NZ Fiction: The NZ Law in Literature Project, Grant Morris, Victoria University of Wellington
 - (2) The Tort of Seduction? Law and the Devaluation of Human Relations, Michael Stokes, University of Tasmania
 - (3) Forbidding Dwarf Tossing: Defending Dignity or Discrimination Based on Size?, Julia Davis, University of Tasmania

6. Number of Attendees at the Session: _____

7. General:

(Comments, Suggestions, or Additional Activities that took place outside the session)

Grant proposed to bridge the current gap in jurisprudence in New Zealand in the area of law and literature through giving an overview of the New Zealand Law in Literature Project and in using case studies to highlight key legal themes in New Zealand literature.

Michael proposed the creation of a new tort, the tort of seduction. His approach is based on treating human relationships as a resource to inform an approach to the nature of the legal person and to legal decision making as one which attempts to repair and improve the relationship between the parties.

Julia referred to three principles boundaries for criminal liability, namely the harm principle, the principle of autonomy, and the idea of human dignity. Whilst the former two have traditionally been recognized, the third has more recently been accorded legislative recognition, and Julia used the example of liability for persons who organize dwarf tossing competitions. Julia suggested that it may be preferable on closer analysis to refrain from criminalizing controversial kinds of conduct such as this.

8. In the space below please summarise what happened in this Interest Group session

Thank you for your time and thoughts.

Sincerely,
ALTA