

Happiness Law Review n° 2026/8

Call for papers

Right to happiness and Work

The **Happiness Law Review** is an annual open-access electronic journal (<https://www.oib-france.com/-La-revue->) focusing on the right to happiness.

It aims to publish reflections from legal professionals, as well as researchers from other disciplines, in order to disseminate innovative solutions formulated by international, national, and local bodies worldwide, whether through regulations, legislation, constitutional law, case law, customary law, or soft law tools. Contributions developing theoretical aspects of this emerging right are also welcome.

The **Happiness Law Review** accepts proposals for contributions to its thematic file, as well as on other topics, including doctrinal reflections, case studies, and reviews of current legislative and/or case law developments. It is also possible to submit reviews of books or articles related to law and happiness.

To allow broad participation, the **Happiness Law Review** accepts contributions in French, English, and Spanish. Submissions from young researchers (Master's students, PhD candidates) are also welcome.

Introducing the thematic file of issue no. 2026/8: "The Right to Happiness and Work"

The **Happiness Law Review** dedicates the thematic file of its next issue to the theme "**The Right to Happiness and Work**" in order to explore the legal, institutional, and social conditions under which professional activity can contribute to—or, conversely, undermine—the well-being and fulfillment of individuals.

While the concept of happiness may sometimes seem distant to classical legal language, it is nonetheless rooted in a long philosophical and legal tradition: from the pursuit of the common good in Aristotelian thought to modern formulations such as the "*pursuit of happiness*" in the American Declaration of Independence, or contemporary approaches to **well-being at work**, **quality of working life** and **fundamental human rights in the workplace**.

In a context marked by profound transformations in the professional world—the increasing precariousness of certain employment statuses, the intensification of work rhythms, the restructuring of work collectives, crises and global changes, and the impact of new technologies—the inquiry into the legal conditions of professional happiness appears particularly fruitful.

This thematic file aims to bring together contributions from **law**, as well as from **other disciplines** (philosophy, sociology, economics, political science, work psychology, management, history, and anthropology), in order to examine how legal norms structure the experience of work and its effects on well-being.

Thematic Areas (non-exhaustive)

Proposals may focus on the following environments or situations:

1. Professional Status and Precariousness

- Performing arts professionals and discontinuous forms of employment
- Precarious, self-employed, or gig economy workers
- Trade unions and collective labor relations
- Transformations in labor law and work organization in the face of the search for professional meaning
- Work, economic security, and subjective well-being

2. University and Academic Freedom

- Job satisfaction of teaching and research staff
- Academic freedom, professional autonomy, and intellectual fulfillment
- Evaluation, bureaucratization, and workplace suffering in higher education
- Institutional conditions for happiness in scientific research

3. Hospitals and Healthcare Professions

- Working conditions of hospital professionals
- Burnout, institutional responsibility, and labor law
- Ethics of care and professional well-being
- Hospital organization and quality of work life

4. Agricultural Professions and Territories

- Farmers and the right to Professional well-being
- Agricultural crises, debt, and suffering at work
- Legal and territorial approaches to rural well-being

5. Political work and public engagement

- Political and parliamentary assistants and atypical employment statuses
- Ethics of political work and job satisfaction
- Legal conditions of public engagement

6. Associations, NGOs, and the social economy

- Community and humanitarian workers
- Activist engagement and legal recognition of work
- Tension between vocation, volunteering, and professionalization
- Professionalization of activist work

7. Social work and relational professions

- Social workers, educators, mediators
- Burnout and institutional responsibility
- Legalization of social practices and professional well-being

Expected Approaches

Contributions may adopt various perspectives:

- **Doctrinal analysis in law** (labor law, public law, fundamental rights, social law)
- **Comparative approach** (comparison between legal systems)
- **Interdisciplinary analysis** (law and sociology, law and philosophy, law and psychology)
- **Empirical or socio-legal studies**
- **Normative or prospective reflections**

Submission Guidelines – Article Proposal

Authors are invited to submit a proposal (maximum 2 pages), including the following elements:

1. Provisional title of the article

2. Project Summary (approximately 500 words)

The summary should specify:

- the **research question**
- the **scientific and legal interest**
- the proposed analytical approach

3. Scientific framework and methodology

Authors should indicate, in particular :

- the **primary discipline** (law, sociology, philosophy, economics, etc.)
- the proposed **methodology** (doctrinal analysis, empirical study, comparative approach, qualitative research, etc.)
- the **legal or empirical sources** used

4. Indicative plan of the article

A **structured plan** (headings and subheadings) that clearly identifies the structure of the argument

5. Sample of doctrinal references

Authors should indicate a few key bibliographic references (books, articles, case law).

6. Five Keywords

Submission requirements

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF file containing :

1. **The paper proposal** (maximum 2 pages)
2. **An academic CV and a list of relevant publications** (2 pages)

Calendar

- Deadline for submission of proposal : **August 31, 2026**
- Notification to authors : **September 30, 2026 the latest**
- Submission of full papers: **January 31, 2027**
- Publication of the issue: **March 20, 2027**

Authors guidelines

Accepted articles must:

- Be written in **French, Spanish or English**
- Be approximately **[30 000 à 60 000 characters / 20 to 30 pages]**
- Be formatted in **Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing**
- Include **footnotes and a final bibliography**

All editorial guidelines are available on the journal website.

Submissions will be evaluated using a double-blind peer-review process.

Scientific Direction of the Issue

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