

Helen Xanthaki

h.xanthaki@ucl.ac.uk

<https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/55791-helen-xanthaki>

Biosketch

Prof. Dr. Helen Xanthaki is Dean of Postgraduate Laws Programmes at the University of London Worldwide and the first UK Professor in Law and Legislative Drafting. She is one of the top experts in legislation, legislative drafting, legislative quality in the UK, the Commonwealth and the EU, and serves as Honorary President of the International Association for Legislation and Co-Editor in Chief of the Statute Law Review. She has authored leading legal texts, including recent editions of Thornton's Legislative Drafting and Drafting Legislation. She is now leading projects on legislative scrutiny in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Her research on statutory effectiveness drives the basis for drafting manuals as well as her activity as a consultant to governments, international and regional organisations, both as a trainer and a drafter.

Title

Let the linguists teach the drafters: easification as a tool for better legislation

Abstract

Easification is a well-documented principle in the field of language. However, it has not been incorporated in the legislative studies debate, at least not fully. Yet, applied to legislative drafting, easification can revolutionise the way in which legislation is drafted. The concept of pitching communication to the topical and legal sophistication of legislative audiences demands identification of the legislative audiences, prioritisation of legislative messages as per the legislative audiences, and adaptability of linguistic expression to these audiences. Combined with the empirical results of the good law initiative in the UK and the revelation, that legislation is read mainly by lay users, and also by the regulated professions, plus lawyers and judges, easification leads to better legislative design via a layered structure in legislation, and easified language in each of the three parts of legislative provisions for a better understanding amongst audiences.