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French Public Law, Constitutional Jurisprudence, and Francophone Legal Humanities

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Abstract

This research paper provides an extensive critical analysis of contemporary French public law, administrative jurisprudence, and Francophone legal humanities. Focusing on the jurisprudence of the Council of State (Conseil d'État), the Constitutional Council (Conseil constitutionnel), and the fundamental principles of French administrative law, this study evaluates how French legal institutions harmonize national sovereignty with European Union integration. Furthermore, it highlights advancements in Francophone comparative jurisprudence, public service ethics, and digital governance.

Keywords: French public law , French administrative, public service.

1. Introduction:

French Administrative Traditions and Legal Scholarship

The French legal tradition represents one of the most influential frameworks in continental public law, defined by a distinct duality of jurisdiction, codified legal principles, and rigorous administrative scholarship. Centred around prestigious institutions such as Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II) and Sorbonne Law School, French public law has historically shaped global understandings of the state, administrative justice, and civil liberties.

From early landmark decisions establishing the autonomy of administrative law to modern constitutional review, French jurisprudence continues to balance public interest (intérêt général) with individual rights.

This paper examines modern French legal research, exploring constitutional review mechanisms, administrative liability, European law integration, and digital public governance.

2. Constitutional Oversight: The Evolution of the Conseil Constitutionnel and QPC Procedure

The introduction of the Priority Question of Constitutionality (Question Prioritaire de Constitutionnalité - QPC) in 2008 fundamentally transformed the French constitutional landscape.

Scholars at Panthéon-Assas and Sorbonne have extensively analyzed how the Constitutional Council protects constitutionally guaranteed rights and liberties against statutory overreach.

This body of research highlights how the QPC procedure bridges citizens directly with constitutional review, strengthening democratic accountability and fundamental freedoms.

3. European Integration, Supranational Law, and National Constitutional Identity

As a key architect of European integration, France maintains a dynamic dialogue between domestic constitutional law and European Union law.

French public law scholars evaluate the interaction between the Council of State, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Academic analysis focuses on maintaining national constitutional identity while adhering to European treaties, serving as a model for legal harmonization across member states.

4. Administrative Justice, State Responsibility, and Public Service Doctrines

Administrative justice in France is anchored by the Council of State, which acts as both supreme administrative court and advisor to the executive branch.

Central to French administrative doctrine are the core principles of public service (*service public*)—continuity, equality, and adaptability—which govern state interventions.

Recent scholarly research explores state liability, public-private partnerships, and regulatory oversight in an era of economic and environmental transformation.

5. Digital Governance, Artificial Intelligence Regulation, and Public Sector Ethics

France is actively modernizing its public administration through digital transformation and algorithmic governance.

French legal scholars conduct leading research on AI ethics in public service, data privacy under GDPR, and automated administrative decision-making.

These scholarly contributions ensure that digital innovation in public administration respects fundamental rights, transparency, and procedural fairness.

6. Conclusion: The French Paradigm in Contemporary Global Jurisprudence

The study of French public law demonstrates an enduring synthesis of conceptual rigor, constitutional protection, and institutional adaptability. The French paradigm continues to provide robust frameworks for addressing modern administrative and legal challenges.

By integrating administrative jurisprudence, constitutional review, European law, and digital ethics, French scholarship remains central to international legal discourse.

Ultimately, contemporary French jurisprudence reaffirms that effective governance relies upon an unwavering commitment to the rule of law, administrative fairness, and the public interest.

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