CONCEPTUALIZING LEGAL INQUIRY: THE IMPERATIVE OF INTEGRATING CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS IN LEGAL RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to elucidate the significance of incorporating conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research. By examining the role of these frameworks in structuring research questions, guiding methodologies, and analyzing legal issues, this paper demonstrates the advantages of a well-founded and coherent legal inquiry. Drawing on examples from various legal disciplines, the paper emphasizes the necessity of grounding legal research in robust conceptual and theoretical foundations to ensure accurate interpretation of legal phenomena, enhance interdisciplinary dialogue, and facilitate the development of legal knowledge. Ultimately, this paper argues that incorporating conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research is vital to advancing the understanding and application of law in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

*Keywords***:** Legal Study, Theoretical Frameworks, Legal Systems

INTRODUCTION

Legal studies have been evolving constantly to address the increasingly complex and multifaceted legal issues that are surfacing in modern society[i]. The need for a more comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to legal study has been highlighted by the expansion of international legal concerns and the globalisation of legal systems[ii]. Scholars have underlined the significance of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in this progression since they aid in providing structure, clarity, and rigour to legal research[iii].

The application of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research not only facilitates the understanding and interpretation of legal phenomena but also promotes the development of more informed and effective legal policy[iv]. By promoting multidisciplinary communication and collaboration, the fusion of these frameworks can aid in bridging the gap between academic research and practical implementation[v].

The purpose of this research is to elucidate the significance of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research. The paper will centre on the application of these frameworks in organising research topics, guiding methodology, and analysing legal issues. Additionally, the advantages these frameworks offer in promoting a comprehensive and well-organised legal inquiry will be discussed. Using examples from a variety of legal disciplines and examining case studies of successful integration, this paper will demonstrate the need for providing sound conceptual and theoretical underpinnings for legal research in order to ensure accurate interpretation of legal phenomena, foster interdisciplinary dialogue, and facilitate the development of legal knowledge.

The main argument of the paper is that conceptual and theoretical frameworks should be included in legal research in order to increase the coherence, rigour, and application of legal study. By employing sound and persuasive frameworks, legal scholars can carry out more extensive, relevant, and important research that advances legal theory and practice. This essay highlights the unique functions that conceptual and theoretical frameworks play in the field of legal research while examining the challenges and limitations associated with using them. It also highlights the importance of resolving these difficulties and offers guidance for scholars

and decision-makers in order to facilitate the successful integration of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research.

The relevance and rationale of this study are based on the significance of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in guiding and impacting legal research. First of all, it raises the bar for legal research by emphasising the need for coherence and rigour in legal research—achievable traits that can be obtained by adopting appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks. Secondly, gaining a better understanding of these frameworks could lead to more trustworthy research, which would eventually improve legal theory and practice. This understanding is essential for handling complex legal situations that require expertise in numerous domains.

Thirdly, it discusses the challenges and restrictions associated with using conceptual and theoretical frameworks, such as overcoming prejudices, finding a balance between the depth and breadth of research, and combining different or conflicting frameworks. By being aware of these challenges, legal researchers can more skillfully manage the research process and generate pertinent, thoroughly studied legal work. Fourthly, the results of this study can be used to inform legal education, training, and professional practice by emphasising the importance of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research and encouraging critical thought and examination of the frameworks applied. Fifthly, it assists policymakers by emphasising the significance of considering the findings and implications of legal research grounded in cogent conceptual and theoretical frameworks when formulating and implementing legal policies and reforms.

This work is supported by the present 21st century global trend in legal research, especially in terms of technique. First, there's a growing trend towards multidisciplinary methods of legal study that incorporate insights from political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and other fields. Consequently, there is now a greater comprehension of legal matters and their broader implications. Second, there is a growing demand for legal studies that make use of methods from empirical research. Both quantitative and qualitative data must be collected and examined in order to understand the actions of legal actors, the workings of legal institutions, and the results of legal laws and policies. Third, the rapid advancement of digital technology and its easy availability of data have led to an increase in the use of computational approaches

in legal studies. Methods like network analysis, machine learning, and natural language processing are being used to analyse large datasets, identify trends, and predict legal outcomes. Fourth, the field of comparative legal studies—which examines the similarities and differences between different legal systems and traditions—is gaining popularity as the world becomes more interconnected.

By highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of different legal systems, this tactic can assist in directing efforts towards legal reform. Fifth, the growing emphasis on innovation in the legal sector has led to the development of new research approaches targeted at improving the availability and accessibility of legal services. Legal design thinking is one method that combines design thinking elements with legal expertise in an effort to develop user-centred legal solutions. Sixth, given the impact of new technologies on the legal sector and society at large, legal researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the ethical and sociological implications of their work.

Consequently, the creation of ethical frameworks and regulations to address possible issues has gained increased attention. The continued development of legal research will probably lead to the emergence of new trends and methods. The following trends provide an overview of the general direction that legal academia is going in the early 21st century. This introduction sets the setting for a thorough and in-depth discussion on the significance of using conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research by outlining the study's history, motivation, and goals. This foundation makes it possible to thoroughly examine all of these frameworks' features as well as the opportunities and problems they bring for legal study. This study seeks to advance a more thorough understanding of the function of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the creation and application of legal knowledge by interacting with a variety of sources and viewpoints.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS IN LEGAL RESEARCH

As the cornerstone of a study, important concepts, variables, and their relationships are identified and defined using a conceptual framework, an analytical method used in research[vi]. A conceptual framework acts as a road map for legal researchers, assisting them in

comprehending the legal matter under investigation and guaranteeing a cogent and methodical examination of the subject[vii]. In addition to helping researchers focus, explain their assumptions, and provide a shared language for discussing the research issue, conceptual frameworks are crucial[viii].

The role of conceptual frameworks in legal research:

Identifying and defining key concepts

Hutchinson (2018) states that conceptual frameworks must be used to identify and characterise the fundamental concepts of a legal research endeavour. By giving these notions clear definitions and boundaries, researchers can remove uncertainty, enhance the accuracy of their research, and ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the legal issues being addressed[ix]. Furthermore, conceptual clarity makes it possible for researchers to differentiate between similar but distinct legal concepts and helps them avoid mistakes in their studies[x].

Structuring research questions

In legal research, conceptual frameworks play a crucial role in directing the creation of precise, narrowly focused, and relevant research questions[xi]. By outlining the relationships between important concepts, a conceptual framework helps researchers identify knowledge gaps and formulate research questions that address them[xii]. Furthermore, a solid conceptual framework guarantees that the research questions are grounded in a coherent and consistent comprehension of the legal subject under investigation[xiii].

Facilitating interdisciplinary understanding

The use of conceptual frameworks in legal research could facilitate interdisciplinary understanding by providing scholars from different academic backgrounds with a shared language and conceptual framework[xiv]. When researchers have a clear and well-defined conceptual framework, they can better understand complex legal issues by incorporating concepts from other fields—such as sociology, economics, or political science—into their legal analysis[xv]. Furthermore, the application of conceptual frameworks can aid in bridging the gap between academic legal research and the practical application of law by making the study more relevant and comprehensible for practitioners and policymakers[xvi].

Examples of prominent conceptual frameworks in legal research:

Legal pluralism

Griffiths (1986) and Tamanaha (2008) define legal pluralism as a theoretical construct that acknowledges the coexistence and interplay of multiple legal systems or normative norms within a particular social context. This perspective has greatly influenced our comprehension of the ways in which state law, common law, and religious law interact across different nations and how these interactions influence legal theory and practise[xvii].

Procedural justice

The conceptual framework of procedural justice, Thibaut & Walker and Tyler states that impartial, fair, and transparent decision-making should characterise the process of making legal decisions[xviii]. This framework has been used in empirical legal research to examine the factors that affect people's perceptions of the fairness of legal processes and the implications of these perceptions for legal adherence, confidence in legal institutions, and the legitimacy of the legal system[xix].

Law and economics

Law and economics is a conceptual framework that applies economic ideas and methodology to the analysis of legal issues, with a focus on the efficiency and welfare implications of legal norms and institutions[xx]. This framework, which provides information on the costs, advantages, and incentives associated with different legal arrangements, has had a significant impact on legal research in a number of different legal areas, such as criminal law, property law, contract law, and tort law[xxi].

Legal realism

Legal realism opposes the formalist theory that holds that decisions made by courts are only dependent on the objective application of laws and legal principles[xxii]. Legal realists, however, assert that in addition to the greater social, economic, and political context in which judges and other legal actors operate, personal beliefs, social backgrounds, and policy preferences also play a role[xxiii]. This paradigm has had a major influence on the advancement of empirical and multidisciplinary approaches to legal studies by emphasising the need to look at how legal systems actually function and the real-world implications of court decisions[xxiv].

Critical legal studies

The conceptual framework of critical legal studies challenges the conventional understanding of the law as unbiased, objective, and independent of politics and power[xxv]. This theoretical framework holds that the law is fundamentally political and often perpetuates social inequality and power structures that already exist[xxvi]. Critical legal scholars employ a variety of critical approaches, including feminist legal theory, critical race theory, and postcolonial legal theory, to expose and demolish the biases and injustices embedded in legal institutions[xxvii]. By engaging with these critical perspectives, legal researchers can get a deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics of power, oppression, and resistance within the legal system, ultimately contributing to the development of more just and equitable legal practices.

Law and society

A conceptual framework that emphasises the relationship between law and its social setting is called "law and society" (Macaulay, 1963)[xxviii]. Understanding how social actors use, interpret, and contest legal norms is the goal of this method. It also seeks to understand how the law reflects, shapes, and reacts to societal norms, values, and institutions[xxix]. An interdisciplinary approach is often used to analyse the intricate and dynamic relationship between law and society, using ideas from political science, sociology, anthropology, and history[xxx]. By using this method, legal academics will be able to better comprehend the social aspects of the law and create legal practices and policies that are more sensible and effective.

Comparative law

Comparative law is a conceptual framework that systematically compares legal systems, institutions, and doctrines from different legal traditions and jurisdictions[xxxi]. This paradigm attempts to identify the similarities and differences amongst legal systems, understand the reasons for these modifications, and evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of different legal approaches in addressing shared problems[xxxii]. Comparative legal research, which can encourage cooperation and learning between various jurisdictions, can inform initiatives for law reform. Insightful data regarding the variety and flexibility of legal systems can also be obtained from it[xxxiii]. By engaging in comparative law, legal researchers can add to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the law in a worldwide setting.

By including these additional conceptual frameworks in legal studies, scholars can deepen their investigation and comprehension of legal topics. These frameworks offer a range of

perspectives and methods to investigate the intricacies of the law, connect with multidisciplinary findings, and ultimately contribute to stronger, more significant legal studies.

Conclusively, conceptual frameworks play a crucial role in legal research as they facilitate the clarification of basic ideas, the arrangement of research problems, and the advancement of multidisciplinary comprehension. By integrating well-developed conceptual frameworks into their research, legal scholars can ensure a cogent and methodical examination of legal issues, enhance the rigour and relevance of their work, and contribute to the growth of legal knowledge and practice. These examples of well-known conceptual frameworks used in legal studies demonstrate the variety and depth of approaches available to academics.

By accepting and making use of these frameworks, legal researchers can navigate difficult legal issues and expand our understanding of how the law impacts society. Using conceptual frameworks also improves legal study, encourages multidisciplinary dialogue, and helps people understand legal issues more deeply. In summary, the incorporation of conceptual frameworks into legal research is crucial for generating robust, methodically precise, and perceptive legal analyses that will ultimately benefit both the scholarly community and the broader legal landscape.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS IN LEGAL RESEARCH

According to Grant and Osanloo[xxxiv], theoretical frameworks are sets of related concepts, assumptions, and assertions that provide a methodical explanation of a particular event. In legal research, theoretical frameworks offer explanatory or normative lenses through which scholars can evaluate legal problems and produce persuasive, well-supported arguments[xxxv]. The use of theoretical frameworks aids researchers in identifying relevant variables, elucidating their relationships, and formulating verifiable theories that advance the legal sciences[xxxvi].

The role of theoretical frameworks in legal research:

Guiding research methodologies

Since they give researchers a logical and consistent way of gathering, analysing, and interpreting data, theoretical frameworks are significant in influencing research procedures in

legal research[xxxvii]. Legal researchers can guarantee that their procedures are based on a solid understanding of the legal topic at hand by aligning their research methodologies with an appropriate theoretical framework, boosting the rigour, validity, and dependability of their findings[xxxviii].

<u>Analyzing and interpreting legal phenomena</u>

Theoretical frameworks allow legal scholars to study and understand legal events in a methodical and meaningful way by providing them with the conceptual tools necessary to make sense of complex legal concerns[xxxix]. By adopting a particular theoretical framework, researchers can focus on relevant aspects of the legal issue, identify underlying patterns and correlations, and produce persuasive and well-supported arguments that contribute to the academic conversation[xl].

<u>Enhancing the development of legal knowledge</u>

Theoretical frameworks are essential for the evolution of legal knowledge because they provide researchers with the means to generate new theories and discoveries, as well as to build upon and refine current ones[xli]. By interacting with theoretical frameworks, legal scholars can add to a fuller comprehension of legal issues, identify knowledge gaps, and offer innovative solutions to pressing legal concerns[xlii].

Examples of prominent theoretical frameworks in legal research:

<u>Legal positivism</u>

Legal positivism is a theoretical idea that holds that law is a bundle of rules and norms that derive their legitimacy from social events such as legislation or judicial rulings, as opposed to morality or natural law[xliii]. Legal positivism has greatly influenced the growth of legal scholarship in areas such as jurisprudence, constitutional law, and international law by providing a clear and systematic approach to the study of legal norms and institutions[xliv].

<u>Legal formalism</u>

"Legal formalism" is a theoretical framework that highlights the logic and systematic components of the law[xlv]. It maintains that using legal principles and rules can lead to objective legal conclusions. This framework has been especially influential in the development of legal scholarship in areas such as contract law, property law, and tort law because it provides a comprehensive and persuasive method for the study of legal doctrines and their underlying principles[xlvi].

Law and society

As was previously said, the concept of law and society highlights the relationship between the law and its social context. It can also be seen as a theoretical framework, according to Ewick & Silbey[xlvii], since it integrates several concepts, such as legal pluralism, legal realism, and socio-legal theories, that explain how laws function in society. Using these theories, legal scholars can investigate the social dimensions of law, the impact of legal institutions on society, and the ways in which social actors engage with and shape the law[xlviii].

Law and economics

A theoretical framework called Law and Economics holds that legal rules and institutions can be analysed using economic principles, with a focus on efficiency and welfare implications[xlix]. Because it offers incisive information on the benefits, costs, and advantages of various legal frameworks and helps evaluate the efficacy of judicial decisions, this approach has been essential in shaping legal studies in a number of domains[l].

Critical legal theories

Feminist, postcolonial, and critical race theories are some examples of critical legal theories. These theories question the idea that the law is neutral and objective by showing the unfairness and biases in legal systems[li]. By engaging with these opposing perspectives, legal researchers can explore the complex connections between oppression, power, and resistance within the legal system and contribute to the advancement of more equitable and just legal practices.

Theoretical frameworks are essential to legal study because they guide research methods, analyse and interpret legal events, and boost the body of legal knowledge. By integrating well-developed theoretical frameworks into their research, legal scholars can ensure a cogent and methodical examination of legal issues, enhance the rigour and relevance of their work, and contribute to the growth of legal knowledge and practice. By delving into these well-known theoretical frameworks in legal research, academics can improve their understanding of complex legal matters and further the legal profession. By interacting with these frameworks, legal scholars can take a multidisciplinary approach to legal problems, which can help generate new legal ideas and foster interdisciplinary dialogue. Theoretical frameworks must be included in legal research in order to provide perceptive, accurate, and persuasive legal analysis that ultimately serves the interests of the academic community as well as the greater legal environment.

INTEGRATION OF CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

The necessity for coherence between conceptual and theoretical frameworks

Legal research needs to incorporate conceptual and theoretical frameworks in order to maintain consistency and rigour[lii]. While conceptual frameworks give the research the necessary structure and organisation by defining and identifying key concepts and relationships, theoretical frameworks provide researchers with explanatory or normative lenses through which they can analyse and interpret legal phenomena[liii]. Coherence across these frameworks allows for a deeper understanding of the legal matter at hand by ensuring that the research is grounded in a sound theoretical framework and that the methodology, analysis, and interpretation are congruent with the chosen frameworks[liv].

Steps for integrating conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research

Choosing the appropriate framework

The first stage in integrating conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research is to select the appropriate frameworks that most closely align with the study's goals and issues[lv]. Researchers should do a thorough examination of the relevant literature in order to identify frameworks that have previously been used to handle similar legal challenges or to develop new frameworks that can address the specific aspects of their research[lvi]. Each framework has underlying ontological and epistemological assumptions that must be considered since they will affect how the study is conducted and the findings are interpreted (Guba & Lincoln, 1994).

Aligning the research question, methodology, and analysis

Researchers must make sure that their research questions, techniques, and analyses are in line with these conceptual and theoretical frameworks once they have chosen them[lvii]. To make sure that both the conceptual and theoretical frameworks guide the data analysis and interpretation, the research questions need to be changed to include the key ideas and relationships found in the conceptual framework. It is also important to choose research methods that are in line with the theoretical assumptions and approach[lviii]. For the research process to remain coherent and rigorous, this alignment is essential[lix].

Adapting frameworks for interdisciplinary research

When doing interdisciplinary legal research, researchers may need to modify or combine conceptual and theoretical frameworks from several academic fields in order to adequately

handle the complexities of the legal topic[lx]. This necessitates both a deep understanding of the ontological and epistemological tenets of each framework and a convincing argument for their integration[lxi]. Researchers should critically reflect on their work and participate in debate in order to overcome any potential conflicts or contradictions within frameworks[lxii].

Case studies: successful integration of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research

Law and economics in intellectual property law

There is a better understanding of the effects of intellectual property law on society and the economy because of the successful combination of law and economics as theoretical frameworks with intellectual property rights as a conceptual framework. By matching the research topics, methodology, and analysis with these frameworks, academics have been able to produce persuasive and solid arguments that promote the development of intellectual property law and policy[lxiii].

Feminist legal theory in family law

The integration of feminist legal theory as a theoretical framework with the conceptual framework of family law has allowed researchers to investigate the gendered dynamics and power relations within family law institutions and practices (Bartlett, 1990)[lxiv]. By including feminist perspectives, academics have been able to identify and challenge the biases and injustices inherent in family law and propose more just and equitable legislative changes[lxv]. By aligning the study themes, methodology, and analysis with these frameworks, feminist family law studies have maintained consistency and rigour, which has benefited the legal community and academia alike.

Critical race theory in constitutional law

The integration of critical race theory as a theoretical framework with the conceptual framework of constitutional law has allowed legal scholars to study the ways in which race and racism impact and influence constitutional law and interpretation[lxvi]. By basing their research on critical race theory, academics have been able to pinpoint racial biases and structural inequalities in constitutional law (Harris, 1993). More inclusive and egalitarian legal ideas have been created as a result. These frameworks have been crucial to the consistency and rigour of critical race legal studies' research themes, methodology, and analysis.

Thus, conceptual and theoretical frameworks need to be incorporated into legal research in order to guarantee consistency, rigour, and relevance in the study of legal topics. By carefully selecting and combining the appropriate frameworks with their research objectives, technique, and analysis, legal researchers can produce important and well-founded legal scholarship that advances legal knowledge and practice. Furthermore, the inclusion of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in interdisciplinary legal research can help to promote successful cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration, which will eventually be advantageous to both the legal system and the greater academic community. To sum up, the utilisation of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research has the potential to enhance the calibre, precision, and relevance of legal analysis.

However, legal researchers need to be mindful of the challenges and limitations presented by using different frameworks, including the need to identify and overcome biases, find a balance between the breadth and depth of analysis, and take into account frameworks that are incompatible or distinct. By critically evaluating the biases and assumptions of the frameworks they use, striking a balance between the breadth and depth of analysis, and carefully considering the integration of multiple or conflicting frameworks, legal researchers can overcome these challenges and produce valuable and well-founded legal research that advances legal knowledge and practice.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Introducing theoretical and conceptual frameworks into legal studies can be tough and demanding. First of all, legal scholars may inadvertently employ inadequate or partial frameworks, which might degrade the standard of their work. Through a critical analysis of the underlying opinions and assumptions of the frameworks they use, researchers can overcome these biases and constraints. Second, finding a balance in legal research between the depth of analysis—which demands a full comprehension of the legal topic—and the breadth of analysis—which entails considering other points of view—can be challenging. The right balance needs to be found in order to ensure that the study is solid and pertinent. Thirdly, legal study often focuses on intricate subjects that encompass several aspects of society and the law.

This complexity may require the integration of multiple, even conflicting, conceptual and theoretical frameworks.

Researchers need to work through these issues in order to reconcile or synthesise the data from different frameworks. Fourth, because there are so many conceptual and theoretical frameworks available, it might be challenging for legal researchers to select the most appropriate one for their research. Researchers need to have a solid understanding of the available frameworks and how they apply to different study contexts. Fifth, the integration of conceptual and theoretical frameworks requires consistency throughout the whole research process, including formulating research questions, selecting appropriate techniques, and conducting data analysis. Ensuring this congruence can be challenging, particularly when handling complex or transdisciplinary legal problems.

Sixth, political science, economics, sociology, and other related areas are regularly touched upon in legal studies. Since it could be challenging to adapt and integrate theoretical and conceptual frameworks from other disciplines, legal scholars need to become well-versed in the relevant theories and concepts. Seventh, legal academics may not have received adequate training or exposure to conceptual and theoretical frameworks during their academic or professional development. Due to their unfamiliarity, they could find it difficult to successfully integrate these frameworks into their studies. Notwithstanding these challenges, conceptual and theoretical frameworks are essential for enhancing the coherence, precision, and usefulness of legal research. By identifying and addressing these issues, legal scholars can carry out pertinent and well-founded research that advances legal theory and practice.

CONCLUSION

Recapitulation of key points

This study has addressed the importance of using conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research. Both the unique roles that theoretical frameworks play in guiding research methodologies, analysing and interpreting legal phenomena, and furthering the advancement of legal knowledge, as well as the roles that conceptual frameworks play in defining and

identifying key concepts, organising research questions, and fostering interdisciplinary understanding, have been highlighted. The study examined the challenges and limitations of using many frameworks in addition to removing biases, balancing the breadth and depth of research, and integrating multiple or conflicting frameworks.

Implications for future legal research

The use of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research has a significant impact on the future of legal study. By employing sound and persuasive frameworks, legal scholars can carry out more extensive, relevant, and important research that advances legal theory and practice. Consequently, legal research may become more significant and legitimate in the eyes of the legal system as well as the greater academic community. Additionally, interdisciplinary legal research that skillfully integrates conceptual and theoretical frameworks can foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and cooperation, which will ultimately benefit the legal system and the larger academic community.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCHERS AND POLICYMAKERS

The following recommendations for scholars and decision-makers can be made in light of the findings of this paper:

1. Stress the need to use strong, persuasive conceptual and theoretical frameworks in legal research for both academic and professional purposes.

2. Motivate legal researchers to critically assess the frameworks they employ, including the underlying assumptions and any potential biases that might affect their study.

3. Promote interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration in legal studies to address the complexity of legal issues and take into account a variety of points of view.

4. Provide resources and support to help legal scholars improve their skills in identifying, adjusting, and applying theoretical and conceptual frameworks to their work.

5. Promote the creation and implementation of legislative reforms and policies that consider the findings and implications of legal research grounded in cogent theoretical and conceptual frameworks. Legal research needs to incorporate theoretical and conceptual frameworks in order to increase its coherence, rigour, and relevance.

By addressing the challenges and constraints related to using these frameworks and following the above recommendations, legal researchers and policymakers can contribute to the development of more significant and useful legal research that benefits the legal landscape as well as the larger academic community.

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