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**Research Statement** *(please write a brief statement about the research you have carried out at The University of Edinburgh during your visit)*

Québec's Private Law has a number of shared characteristics with the Scottish Legal system, and our visit was the occasion to discuss topics related to Private with a view of comparing those two systems. More precisely, our first talk was on Legal Theories in Québec Private Law. This conference was based on an ongoing research on legal discourse and terminology. Civilian jurists can be generally described as enamored of legal theories. As a by-product of legal scholarship, legal theories offer a logical structure to civilian discourse and provide a basis for the systematization of law. They also have a significant impact on the representation of a juridical system in that they show that it is more than a collection of enacted rules or jurisprudential principles. Somewhere *above* the Law, there stand abstract statements which are used to organize legal information and to implement legal rules. Often presented as a genuine characteristic of the Civilian tradition, the influence and the function of various legal theories are not directly addressed in Quebec Civil Law. By comparing French and Quebec linguistic usages, this talk aimed to show that when Quebec writers describe their legal system, they are less likely to use the expression "legal theory". Furthermore, civilian jurists in Quebec seldom present their own opinions as the formulation of a "theory". Lastly, we note that among the doctrinal propositions expressly referred to as "theories", few of them have been formulated by Quebec writers. These characteristics of Québec's linguistic legal usages reveal the role "legal theories" play in the manner in which this civilian community thinks and describes its legal system. Our second presentation was held on the origins and history of Québec's Private Law.