

Eric Gilder and Mervyn Hagger

“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

**I STARTED A JOKE
TEXT, COTEXT, CONTEXT:
THE ROUGE RENDERING OF “PIRACY”
*AS A VEXED LEGAL CONSTRUCT OVER TIME AND PLACE***

Keywords: *piracy, law (maritime, broadcasting, commercial), free speech, licensing, intellectual property*

Abstract. *In the “co-text-ed” areas of maritime law, broadcasting law and commercial trade law, the word of “piracy” has been “overdetermined” by a number of varied historical, political, economic and social forces, both national and international. The proposed presentation and paper will seek to untangle the individual “determining” factors “context-ing” this rouge word, hoping to distinguish the proper sphere of state control of illegal activities with obvious ill consequences (such as in the regulation of false-label trade goods) from the improper control of free speech social and political rights, via the bothersome constructs of “licensing” and “intellectual property” (as in the restricting of the dissemination of cultural, “intangible” goods), terms both at odds with the ultimate goals of an open society.*