We are delighted to welcome you to our newsletter. It is designed for everyone with an interest in legal history, global history, or legal studies. Our institute - the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History - investigates the history and development of law in Europe and beyond. In our monthly newsletter, we keep you updated about events at the institute, new publications by our fellows, and other news about the field. For comments, suggestions, and general feedback please email us: media@rg.mpg.de. We hope you enjoy this month's issue.

Opportunities

- CfP: Rechtskultur - European Journal of Legal History,

Events

11.01.2018, 14:00, Meeting of the "Translation Group", guest speaker Clair Gilbert (St. Louis)
22.01.2018, 14:15, Research Seminar "Legal Transfer in the Common Law World"
Job: The MPI's IT department is looking for a **student assistant**, to start work as soon as possible, [link](#).

**Featured Event**

**Workshop: The Circulation and Organisation of Normative Knowledge in Early Modern Times**

*30.01.2018, 14:30-18:00, Z01*

Book studies, on the other side, have experienced a methodological turn thanks to new insights in the history of reading, the social history of education, media history and the like. These new approaches have barely penetrated legal history so far. The attention payed by legal historians to the materiality of legal books is relatively recent.

Aiming to connect legal historians and scholars in the history of books, this workshop focuses on the organisation and circulation of normative knowledge in early modern times. We are lucky to have with us Nikolaus Weichselbaumer (department of book studies, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz) and Alessandra Panzanelli (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford).

We look forward to discussing the impact of the printing press on both the organisation and circulation of legal knowledge, looking at the new perspectives that can be opened by intertwining the study of the materiality of legal books and digital humanities.
Lectures and conferences provide a stage for researchers to shine and impress. Most of the work presented on such occasions, however, is prepared in research seminars or colloquia. They form an important part of a research institute’s routine. Individual researchers, whether they are PhD students or senior research fellows, use the opportunity to conjoinly read core texts with their colleagues, engage in methodological discussions and receive feedback on their work. Our institute runs multiple such research seminars: “Legal Transfer in the Common Law World”, the Seminar on Ibero-American Legal History, and the School of Salamanca Research Colloquium. There are furthermore regular workshops on a variety of other topics: “guest workshops” provide the institute’s visiting researchers with a forum and the “digital humanities interest group” discusses new methods and techniques – to name but a few. You can check the dates and schedule on our webpage [http://www.rg.mpg.de/events](http://www.rg.mpg.de/events). Unless otherwise indicated, research seminars and workshops are open to students of the university and researchers from other institutes. Do come along! (Though you may want to check in advance whether or not the seminar is run in one of your languages.)

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**New Publications**

**Hans-Peter Haferkamp: Die Historische Rechtsschule**

*Studien zur europäischen Rechtsgeschichte 310, Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann 2018. IX, 396 p.*

The historical method, which dominated German legal historiography in the 20th century for quite some time, left marks that are still visible today. Entire periods have been interpreted through leading figures
that supposedly matched the respective zeitgeist; think of the towering figure of Friedrich Carl von Savigny. Yet as a group phenomenon, the German Historical School remains an amazing terra incognita to this day. This work attempts to reconstruct the German Historical School for the first time as an academic school and thereby as a context of communication for a great number of legal scholars. Three fields of legal activity within which the German Historical School presented itself as a unified whole will be examined: the jurist as a teacher, as a legal scholar and as a judge.

Karl Härter: Strafrechts- und Kriminalitätsgeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit

Criminality, criminal law and criminal justice have gained recognition internationally as important fields of historical research. This volume surveys the rich variety of relevant sources and methods as well as the associated topics, concepts and controversies in recent scholarship on the history of criminal law and historical criminology. Typical approaches to research are introduced from an interdisciplinary perspective and with reference to current debates in transnational, cultural and communications history.

Gunnar Folke Schuppert (ed.): The World of Rules. A Somewhat Different Measurement of the World

A gradual decoupling of state and law is observable – not least because of globalisation, which inevitably entails a pluralisation of legal regulations.
Jurisprudence has to react to this, if it wants to remain relevant. This can happen through a broadening of its horizon towards a more far-reaching “science of regulation”, in order to grasp the increasing “Variety of Rules” adequately. State law remains an important and central type of law, yet it is no longer the sole type. This book analyses three spheres: (1) the plurality of normative orders, especially those of non-state character; (2) the plurality of norm producers, from state legislature to transnational networks; (3) finally, the plurality of norm enforcement regimes, from states’ judiciaries to the exercise of social pressure (e. g. political correctness).

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**Guests and Visiting Scholars**

- **Barbosa, Samuel** (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil): *Diccionario Histórico de Derecho Canónico en Hispanoamérica y Filipinas. Siglos XVI-XVIII.*, visiting January - February, 2018
- **Di Stefano, Alessia Maria** (Università degli Studi di Catania, Italy): *Justice and emigration: the judgments of the Arbitral Commissions for emigration in Italy between the 19th and 20th centuries*, visiting January - March 2018
- **Frühauf Garcia, Elisa** (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rio de
Janeiro, Brazil): The categories of conquest: slavery, Indians, and mestizaje in the River Plate Basin in the sixteenth century, visiting January - March 2018

- Pintos Iacono, Gaston (National University of Córdoba, Argentina): Foreign legal solutions and local legal culture: Legal Translation and the case of The Labour Accidents Law in Argentina (1880 - 1943), visiting January - February, 2018

- Pletch, Andrés (University of Michigan, USA): Isle of Exceptions: Race, Law, and Governance in Cuba, 1825 – 1856, visiting January - March 2018

- Poczynok, Cristian Miguel (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina): Los derechos de propiedad de la tierra en Hispanoamérica entre los siglos XVIII y XIX: un balance desde los aportes de la historia cultural y crítica del derecho, visiting January - March 2018

- Sáenz Castro, Marcela (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina): Cambio y continuidad en la sociedad indígena e hispanacriolla, visiting January - March 2018

- Tudini, Flavia (University of Trient, Italy): “Monarquía Hispánica and the Governance of the Lima Diocese (1580 - 1606), visiting January - March 2018

- Zustrassen, Dimitri (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium / University Paris-Sorbonne [Paris IV], France): ECSC Competition Law and Policy during the steel crisis of the 1970’s and 1980’s, visiting December 2017 - February 2018

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Happy New Year!

As is the German custom on the first work day after epiphany, the Christmas tree was being cleared out from the foyer this monday, so the Institute is slowly gearing up for a new year.

In fact the pace is not so slow at all.
Nearly all our junior and more senior scholars have now returned from their holidays. On Monday’s Institute Conference, a monthly feature, they showcased their recent publications and reported from the conferences they attended in December. The editorial department gave a brief overview of the impressive amount of Institute publications they produced in 2017. The library announced extended opening hours for external visitors. The administration reported on the continuation of the inhouse German language classes for foreign staff members.

Also this Monday, our Director Emeritus, Michael Stolleis, presented his new book on writing constitutional and administrative history. It appeared in *methodica*, the Institute series dedicated to introducing readers to the state of the art in selected areas of legal history, with a particular focus on sources and methodology.

In the afternoon of the same day, our internal seminar series – on which more above – picked up again, both on the common law and on the Ibero-American side. The monthly meet-and-greet session with the Institute’s incoming visitors saw 15 PhD students, postdocs and senior academics from near (Belgium) and far (Argentina) and in between (Italy, Spain, UK, Brazil, …), working on an amazing variety of topics from the early modern period (the bishop of Lima) to the year 2000 (the European Commission).

And this was just the first Monday.

Obviously, there is much more to come in 2018: lots of reading and writing; research trips to archives and libraries around the globe; a multitude of conferences, symposia, workshops and guest lectures throughout the year; the Away Day in May; the two week Summer Academy with some 20 promising PhD students from all over the world in July; the triannual evaluation by the Advisory Board in October; more reading and writing; and, I sincerely hope, a Christmas party that will be as successful as the one
three weeks ago.

On that note, I would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year 2018! We hope to see as many as possible of them in the course of the coming twelve months.

*Stefan Vogenauer*

*Managing Director of the Institute*

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**Our Library ...**

... is constantly growing and now comprises more than 460,000 items. For more information, please visit the library's [website](#). For regular updates on new acquisitions, visit the [opac-catalogue](#).

**Max Planck Newsletter for Ibero-American Legal History**

If you find this newsletter interesting, you might also be interested in the special newsletter for Ibero-American Legal History, which is published monthly by our research group "Legal History of Ibero-America". You can subscribe under the following [link](#).