

Digital Methods and Resources in Legal History (DLH2020)

An international Conference at the
Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt/M.
19/20 March 2020

Book of Abstracts

(2019-11-28)

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Talks

[Nga Bellis-Phan \(University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas\): Mapping, Quantitative and Network Analysis methods for the legal history of private credit networks](#)

From the 16th century to the Napoleonic codifications in France, movable assets are important means to obtain credit for consumption or investment. Networks of private credit based on pawns are remarkably present in all social levels: from the Italian court and banking circles around Catherine de Médicis, to the wealthy clients of notary public offices in Paris, but also the most precarious among daily wage earners and housewives. Certain types of primary sources are particularly adapted to an analysis by digital humanities tools in order to provide more general and systematic insights of an important mass of manuscripts. This paper discusses the application of some popular historical and geographic digital methods to legal history, with their outcomes and limits. It includes case studies of GIS (geographic information system) applied to the historical mapping of private credit institutions, quantitative analysis of historical data collected in notarial acts and private bookkeeping records, and network analysis with relational databases of people and juridical transactions.

[Rowan Dorin \(Stanford University\): *Corpus Synodarium*. Medieval Canon Law in the Digital Age](#)

This paper will discuss *Corpus Synodarium*, a new online database of diocesan statutes, provincial canons, and other local ecclesiastical legislation issued in late medieval Europe (c. 1200-c. 1500). At present, the corpus contains more than 1,300 fully searchable texts, many of them transcribed directly from manuscripts or rare early printed editions. The online web interface allows users to explore these texts using a variety of simple analysis tools. In addition, users can export search results to the first-ever digital atlas of medieval European dioceses and ecclesiastical provinces, in order to look for spatial patterns within the text corpus.

The paper will present the development of the database, ongoing challenges, and potential for future work. In particular, it will present three examples of preliminary research findings that show how the systematic analysis of this text corpus challenges conventional legal-historical assumptions about the function and scope of local legislation within the broader framework of late medieval canon law.

[Kellen Funk \(Columbia Law School\): The Making of Modern Law. Digital Computation and the Search for Anglo-American Legal Modernity](#)

Taking up 25,000 treatises from nineteenth-century British and American law, my collaborators and I use digital methods to demonstrate in detail how the discursive categories of Anglo-American law evolved into its modern form. My presentation uses

this study to comment on the promising possibilities of digital analysis for legal history more broadly, as well as the challenges to a more widespread adoption of digital-legal techniques.

Jairo Antonio Melo Flórez (El Colegio de Michoacán): *Glosae digitalibus*. An approach to automatized analysis of marginalia in Modern Era legal sources

This lecture aims to discuss the complexities involved in the construction of a model for the automatized analysis of marginalia in Modern Era legal sources. Marginalia constitute a particular source of information from legal history, which can be analysed by digital methods to find patterns, create visualizations, and even correct mistakes in the original references or transcriptions. The complexity of the marginalia is grounded in characteristics that separate them from the "natural" text, such as the continuous use of abbreviations or the ambiguous references of works. For that reason, the information needs to be parsed with a different approach as with the natural language, creating dictionaries that help the machine to disambiguate when a token refers to a specific author or work. In this presentation, we want to present not a final model, but the challenges involved in the construction of machine-readable data, handling texts with multilingual and archaic languages, disambiguation of non-standardized tokens, and preliminary results in the parsing of unstructured data.

Maciej Mikuła (Jagiellonian University Krakow): IURA. Sources from Laws of the Past

"IURA. Sources from Laws of the Past" is a project aimed not only at facilitating access to sources of law from the past, its purpose is to build a database of critical editions of sources, organized into thematic collections. The project also aims to accelerate work on editing historical and legal sources and to provide a platform for the implementation of tools useful in the research work of legal historians. In "IURA" the basic unit is the source text. It may be a code, a judgment or even only a part of it. For example, within the collection of "Magdeburger Weichbildrecht in Poland" there will be critical editions of manuscripts containing this collection of law, which can be viewed in two ways. The first of them, traditional, is an access to the full edition in a text file. The second method allows, due to the use of extensive indexing, to display only the article needed, for example, concerning city councillors. The search engine takes into account both the content of the texts as well as metadata, including keywords in English and Polish. The instability of Latin, Polish, German and other languages' spelling over the centuries has caused the need to include in the search tool a mechanism that takes into account spelling variants. Units are connected with one another not only in the metadata system, but also through hyperlinks located in the units, e.g. from Articles in a code, to judgments issued on the basis of this code. The text comparison tool allows to automatically indicate differences in texts' variants. Up to ten texts can be compared at the same time.

Cindarella Petz (Bavarian School for Public Policy at Technical University Munich): A mixed methods approach to political judiciary

In this talk, we analyse networks of political judiciary during the autocratic Austrian corporate state with a mixed methods approach that combines historical network research with quantitative and qualitative evaluation. There we work with a dataset of more than 1,800 cases, which were brought to trial in 1935 at both Viennese courts. This dataset originated from a project on political repression of the University of Vienna. We examine the structural forms of political judiciary in these courts and address the following questions: Were biases evident against specific political factions? Can we recognize a systematic or a subjective predisposition of these Viennese courts to convictions? What are the chances and pitfalls of the proposed mixed-methods approach to modeling big data in digital legal history?

Franziska Quaas (University of Hamburg): Analysing formulaic writing of early medieval legal documents based on database-driven digital research infrastructures emerging from a new hybrid-edition of the *formulae*

Within the framework of digital editions, it is now possible to embed the edited texts in larger digital research environments that can be used for the investigation of further issues. In the case of early medieval legal documents, this includes not only the clarification of the mechanisms of formulaic writing in normative texts, but also the still unanswered question of the exact relationship of early medieval charters and *formulae* to each other. While former research, which had to rely on manual comparisons of selected formulations, had no possibilities to analyse this question comprehensively, a new database-driven digital research infrastructure created in the course of the new edition of the early medieval *formulae* offers the possibility of approaching a solution to this problem. It turns out that earlier positions of research, according to which the scribes of early medieval charters were dependent on the usage of templates such as *formulae*, prove untenable. Instead, a manifold creativity of formulaic writing in early medieval normative texts, exhibiting a higher complexity, can be observed.

Stephen Robertson (George Mason University): Disorder in the Courts. Using Data, Visualizations, and Hypertext to Create a Legal History of the 1935 Harlem ‘Riot’

Taking up Amanda Seligman’s call to focus on the behavior and targets of the crowds in American race riots rather than their underlying grievances, this project uses digital methods to analyze the disorder in Harlem in 1935 – the purported pivot point between the two patterns of rioting – that center the legal record, and relate it to prosecutions of the acts that occurred during the riot at other times, in order to examine just how out of the ordinary the events of the disorder and their legal sanction was. A focus on events aligns with the legal response to disorder. Although the crime of riot in American jurisdictions derives from the common law offense that emphasizes a group

disturbing the peace with violence or force, courts focus on individual participants. Moreover, New York City was one of a number of municipalities whose laws made the city liable for damage by mobs; more than one hundred property owners who suffered losses in the Harlem riot sought compensation through this mechanism. Creating and visualizing data and presenting the analysis using hypertext enables a fine-grained analysis that foregrounds the complexity of the disorder. The foundation for these digital methods is a dataset of events in the riot created from newspaper reports, Magistrates Court docket books, the District Attorney's case files, Probation department case files, and material gathered by the city government investigation of the riot. Creating data from historical sources allows for quantitative analysis not just of events, but also of the sources of information about specific facets of the riot, and for mapping the spatial dimensions of the disorder. To weave together events that spiral out in multiple different directions and change shape over the course of time, the project will present its analysis in a digital form that links narrative, sources and interpretation.

[Christoph Schöch \(University of Trier\): Lost in Beccaria, or: Building and Exploring a Corpus of Eighteenth-Century Editions and Translations of Beccaria's *Dei delitti e delle pene* \(1764\) in the *MetaLex* project](#)

How do the languages of law evolve over time? It is this question that is at the heart of our interest in Beccaria's work and its translations into different European languages in the last third of the 18th century. These texts are obviously not the only ones that document and make accessible the legal languages of that time. But they lend themselves particularly well to such a questioning because of the many editions that the Milanese thinker's treatise has seen in only a few decades and the speed with which it has spread throughout Europe, from Italy to France, Germany and England, then to Sweden, Poland or Spain. And there is a third reason: the very richness of the themes dealt with by Beccaria. His text does not only refer to criminal law, but also to civil law and procedure, the honour and morals of contemporaries and their relationship to the law. In other words: far from being reduced to a single criticism of the old criminal justice system, it constitutes a kind of European reservoir of legal concepts and languages.

This is the context in which « Les mots du droit. *Dei delitti e delle pene* de Cesare Beccaria et ses traductions en Europe » (*MetaLex*) has recently been launched as a franco-german project. Our first objective is to gather and make available as digital, machine-readable full texts all Eighteenth-century Italian editions of Cesare Beccaria's *Dei delitti e delle pene*, first published in 1764, as well as all Eighteenth-century translations into German, French and English. Our second objective is to annotate this multilingual corpus in such a way that it can be searched for legal concepts, irrespective of their form of expression in the text, across all languages and editions. Our ultimate objective is to use this capability for an investigation into the collective process of European transmission, reception and evolution of the legal concepts described by Beccaria across the words used to convey them. In this way, the project

combines research interests and methods from legal history, digital lexicography, Computational Linguistics and Digital Humanities.

[Moshe Schorr \(University of Haifa\): Mapping Rabbinic *Responsa*. Metadata Analysis in Legal History](#)

Whereas the “law of the land” is determined by political sovereignty and its borders, halakhic determinations are made and applied in a far more unstructured, informal, and spontaneous matter. Cultural borders are more salient than political borders, and the flow of knowledge and authority does not hinge on the power of enforcement. We will outline the methodology we are developing to investigate and map the Jewish “oligarchy of letters” in Central and Eastern Europe, especially during the period between the Partition of Poland in the late 18th century and World War I. Our research focuses on two corpora, each of which has its own characteristics, but which together, we hypothesize, can complement one another to provide a robust view of the topography of rabbinic authority and halakhic cultures and subcultures throughout the era under study. We will focus primarily on rabbinic *responsa*. *Responsa*, originating in a legal system without clearly defined structures, allow a unique view on the emergent structures in the Jewish legal system. We can leverage metadata analysis over thousands of data points to learn more about the system as it was, not merely as it was presented by the legal theories promulgated by the elites. Our talk will discuss some specific findings in the history of *responsa* and *halakhah*, but we will also discuss in length our technical methods and how elements of what we are doing can generalize to the field of legal history as a whole. With the rise of realist and sociological theories of law, the question of emergent order in the legal system is no longer confined to non-state methods. We think our methods and concepts, as well the challenges we face – among which: dealing with Hebrew and other languages not dealt with by the cutting edge of natural language processing research; handling creation of gazetteers and other parsing tools needed to assemble adequate datasets; and achieving synergies between humanities scholarship and computer science – will be of interest to scholars of legal history.

[Pascale Sutter \(Law Sources Foundation of the Swiss Lawyers Society, Zürich\) & Adrien Wyssbrod \(Cambridge University\): Collection of Swiss Law Sources online](#)

Since 1898, the *Law Sources Foundation of the Swiss Lawyers Society* provides a unique range of law sources from each of Switzerland’s linguistic regions in its « Collection of Swiss Law Sources » (*Sammlung Schweizerischer Rechtsquellen, SSRQ*). The Collection contains materials from the early Middle Ages, through the early modern period, to 1798. From the start, this publication project has organized the sources by *canton* and then subdivided them in areas of jurisdiction such as towns, old regional entities and bailiwicks (municipal law, rural law).

After almost 100 volumes published in print, the Foundation has decided to enter the digital age with *SSRQ online*. All volumes are digitized and are available as page images

(facsimiles) as well as downloadable PDFs, processed by OCR in the case of old volumes. The new projects are realized in TEI/XML, linked with databases. The portal gives free access to transcriptions of many Swiss law sources and their facsimiles, but also to databases of persons, organizations, places and historical and technical terms. The use of XML permits direct access to all this information.

To enhance the efficiency of this network, our databases are linked with other projects using compatible data. Together we are creating a huge interactive map of prosopography, typography and lexicography in Switzerland (*histHub*).

One of our strengths is the multilingualism of our portal and databases. The keywords to locate information (people's jobs, types of place etc.) within the website are always available in three languages (German, French and Italian). This permanent challenge for us facilitates the work of users and opens up great research possibilities.

[Alice Taylor \(King's College London\): Introducing the 'dynamic edition' as a model and method for medieval legal history. *Regiam Maiestatem* and 'the community of the realm in Scotland' project.](#)

This paper introduces a new model for editing medieval legal texts, called the 'dynamic edition', being developed by the AHRC-funded project 'The community of the realm in Scotland, 1249-1424: history, law and charters in a recreated kingdom'. The 'dynamic edition' aims to represent the extent of textual movement a particular medieval legal work might have experienced across its entire manuscript tradition. Legal works offer many examples of this kind of movement as they often survive in multiple manuscript copies and the text within these copies often changes quite dramatically according to time and space. The project is developing its model by using the fourteenth-century Scottish legal tractate *Regiam Maiestatem* as a case study, which survives in multiple manuscript copies with many significant variant readings. This paper will introduce the concepts key to their model of the dynamic edition, what software it is developing, how the concepts are employed within the model, how the 'dynamics' in the work will be visualised, and what the project plans to do in the future.

[Dominik Trump \(University of Cologne\): Digital Methods in Early Medieval Legal History. The New Edition of the Frankish Capitularies](#)

The Academy-funded project “Edition of the Frankish Capitularies” at the University of Cologne works on a hybrid edition of the so-called capitularies (lat. *capitularia*), which, as decrees of the Frankish kings and emperors, are very important sources for the history of the early medieval Frankish realm. The term “hybrid edition” refers to the double aim of the project to provide both, a digital and a printed scholarly edition of the capitularies. The digital edition provides transcriptions of all texts of capitularies transmitted in the manuscripts, while the printed edition will be published as a scholarly edition within the *Leges* series of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* (MGH). The digital edition will be created entirely in TEI/XML. The printed edition, on the other hand, will be produced with the *Classical Text Editor* software (CTE). On

the one hand, the paper will present the project architecture and discuss the role of digital methods and tools. On the other hand, it will show how these methods influence the handling and the understanding of the sources. Furthermore, problems will be addressed that have arisen during the work or that will have to be addressed in the future, e.g. the linking of digital and printed editions, which are currently created in different technical frameworks.

[Otto Vervaart \(The Utrecht Archives\): Approaching early legal glosses and the uses of Digital Humanities](#)

In this paper, multiple uses of tools and methods within Digital Humanities will be discussed. Early legal glosses to the main texts of the *Corpus Iuris Civilis* form an established field of research. Glosses are an example of a hypertext, and it is only natural to invoke the assistance of digital tools. However, the question of which tools looms large. First, there is a need for visual tools to make textual layers and connections more visible. Second, the connection(s) between a gloss and the commented text need to be clearly discernible in digital transcriptions and/or editions. Third, the absolute need to view glosses not in isolation, but as part of a hypertext means it becomes necessary to think about the building of a digital network of these glosses, and possibly also a network of scholars studying them. The aims of creating visibility of the results and of establishing standards for presentation, exchange and durable preservation pose their own questions which need to be addressed adequately.

[Marlene Weck \(University of Freiburg\): Digital Methods for a Narrative Analysis of Historical Narratives in the Archives of the ICTY](#)

The project to be presented is a methodological (mixed-methods) approach in the context of my PhD project “Erzählte Geschichte vor dem Jugoslawientribunal. Eine narratologische Analyse der Gerichtsprotokolle des Internationalen Strafgerichtshof für das ehemalige Jugoslawien”. In my PhD project, I investigate the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) as a historiographic actor and explore its narration and categorization of the violent acts and hostile events that occurred during the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s. The aim is to learn about the ways in which the terminology of International Law – put into practice by the ICTY – has influenced historiography and vice versa. I understand my project as being located within the field of Digital Humanities since its sources are only existing in digital form and my methods include the use of digital analysing tools and machine learning.

Posters

Wieland Carls (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Leipzig) & Marija Lazar (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Leipzig): *Weichbild digital*. An interdisciplinary research platform on *Das Sächsische Weichbild* (The Saxon Municipal Law)

Das Sächsische Weichbild (The Saxon Municipal Law) has been witnessed over several centuries on a particularly large territory, including, along with East Central, parts of Northern and Western Europe. This remarkable chronological and territorial spread as well as by comparison early translations of this legal source into vernacular languages and its flexibility under differing conditions and requirements explain the interest of both legal historians and linguists in researching this text. The planned database is expected to offer advanced opportunities for research and presentation of the relevant content. In particular, it is supposed to foster research on the development and network of this legal text from the point of view of both disciplines: legal history and linguistics. Along with adjustable representation of the legal sources, the database enables accumulation of previous findings in legal history of more than three hundred years of research and thus ensures the sustainable access to them in the future.

Piroska Lendvai (University of Basel): Hierarchical Multi-label Classification of Legislative Concepts in Constitutional Documents

Our goal is to create resources for programmatically finding mentions of legislative concepts. To this end, we use text classification as a content labeling technique from the language technology field, which we apply to passages of 206 national constitution texts. A major challenge is that legislative documents are known to be conceptually complex and ambiguous even for human interpretation, which is reflected by our data as well. Our dataset is provided by the CCP project that hosts the world's constitution documents in English, based on which domain experts inventorized concept descriptors in constitutional design. These domain-specific metadata were taxonomically organized into broad and narrow concepts: 322 narrow concepts pertain to one or more of 53 broad concepts in the taxonomy. Our aim is to train a classifier that can correctly assign all narrow and all broad concept labels applicable to a document passage. We have nearly 100,000 passages to classify, with on average two labels to assign per passage but also with passages where more than 10 labels are applicable. We aim to tackle this complex task with a hierarchical multi-label classification approach.

[Annemieke Romein \(Ghent University\): Entangled Histories of Early Modern Ordinances. Segmentation of text and machine-learned meta-dating](#)

Entangled Histories aims to broaden the scope of digitisation of the KB National Library of the Netherlands towards the early modern period. It involves the (1) improvement of the currently applied OCR-technique to a much higher recognition-standard with HTR(+). It (2) enhances readability by systematically segmenting individual texts, recognising text-sections – beginning or end, columns, titles, dates, summaries, the body of the text. In order to improve the searchability, I suggest the (3) application of a standard categorisation (metadata) with a machine-learned algorithm. A categorisation by a machine-learned algorithm will offer ample possibilities to computer-search for similar topics within texts and do content-based longitudinal searches, whereas the actual title may not be so helpful to modern readers.

The project is working with a collection of 108 digitised *plakkaatboeken* (bundles of normative texts, ca. 1540s–1800s). These texts contain indications of how governments of burgeoning states dealt with unexpected threats to safety, security, and order through home-invented measures, borrowed rules, or adjustments of what had been established elsewhere. The hundreds of texts within these books are frequently consulted by researchers of various disciplines in order to unravel rules for controlling society. Having the possibility of a longitudinal search based upon contents rather than the index or title, as well as having an overview over several states (e.g. provinces) has been impossible so far. It will disclose the entangled histories of neighbouring provinces, due to synchronic and diachronic comparisons of approximately 15,000 texts on location – allowing a wider search and implementation in other projects Europe-wide.

[Blanca Sáenz de Santa María Gómez-Mampaso \(Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid\): Digital resources for the study of Spanish Law during the 19th Century. The formation of a database of judicial jurisprudence of the Spanish Supreme Court until the promulgation of the Civil Code in 1889.](#)

The analysis of sources for the study of Spanish Law in 19th Century presents many advantages in relation to previous periods, mainly due to the number of printed sources available and because the typography used is quite similar to the one we use today. However, one of its drawbacks, especially in relation to legal sources, is that the volume of information increased exponentially throughout the century because of the establishment of one of the constituent principles of the liberal regime in the countries belonging to the Civil Law System: the publicity of the law.

During this century, the bases of current archival and documentation techniques began to be laid in order to make consulting published legal sources easier, but the forms of cataloguing at that time were not always the most effective for retrieving the information. Today, many of these sources have been digitized and published openly, but the way for searching for information have not changed substantially since the 19th century. In other words, we have exchanged the physical format for the virtual one, but the form of consultation has hardly evolved. It is necessary to begin developing new

tools, based on a deep knowledge of the past, which in this case will be provided by the legal historians, with the support of experts in documentation and new technologies. This will improve the method of consultation and open the door to new research.

In this sense, at the *Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid*, we have been working for three years on the formation of a database on historical judicial jurisprudence — fundamentally in civil matters — of the Spanish Supreme Court in the 19th century, on the basis of the judicial jurisprudence reports that were carried out in the period, especially those formed by José María Pantoja for the famous *Revista General de Legislación y Jurisprudencia*.

[Anna Shadrova \(Humboldt University of Berlin\) & Alexander Tischbirek \(Humboldt University of Berlin\): A corpus of Federal Constitutional Court decisions](#)

The *Leibniz Linguistic Research into Constitutional Law (L.L.Con)* project presents as a resource a German Federal Constitutional Court corpus containing all roughly 3,200 decisions published in the official compendium (*Amtliche Sammlung*) between 1951 and 2017 and another roughly 3,000 chamber decisions from the years 1997-2017. The corpus will be made publicly available in 2020 and contains a number of linguistic and meta-linguistic as well as law-specific annotations such as parts of text or tagged references to fundamental rights. A model and implementation in a graph-database is currently under construction.

Complete and future work in the project aims at learning more about the development of the register and form of a Constitutional Court decision in terms of the types of legal figures used (such as the now common proportionality assessment), as well as the application (and applicability) of text mining, topic modeling and machine learning techniques for the automatic and semi-automatic extraction of relevant aspects of the Court's work. Our research is informed by a synthesis of quantitative and qualitative approaches, which allows for a deeper and more subject-specific modeling than purely surface-based quantification while at the same time requiring methodological rigor and clarity in terms of the operationalization of concepts and quantification of results. This in our view points to a way forward through the challenges of overwhelmingly large data in traditionally more qualitatively researched areas without losing the depth provided by hermeneutic and dialectic approaches.

[Fredrik Thomasson \(Uppsala University\): Swedish Caribbean Colonial \(Archival\) Justice in Digital Times](#)

When Sweden took possession of the Antilles island Saint Barthélemy in 1785, it became a slaving nation. Sweden had abolished servitude in the fourteenth century and there was no experience of managing a slavery society. The Swedish black population, both free and enslaved – though never reaching the proportions of the sugar islands – was still around 70 % of the inhabitants during the early decades of Swedish rule. Swedish slavery was abolished in 1847 and the island was sold to France in 1878 after almost a century of Swedish presence in the Caribbean. This Swedish

colonial past is still not well known and not much researched. One of the several reasons for the lack of research is that the Swedish governmental archive was left on the island after Sweden sold the island to France. This archive, which only has a French name – *Le fonds suédois de Saint Barthélemy* – is now held at the French national archives' colonial division, *Archives nationales d'outre-mer* (ANOM) in Aix-en-Provence (c. 300,000 manuscript pages). The archive is impossible to consult – hors communication – because of its conservation state after being inadequately housed in the Caribbean for almost two centuries. It has never been ordered by archivists or historians and is in a state of profound disorder. A project to digitize the archive at ANOM and this work was accomplished in 2017. In 2018 I was awarded a grant from *Vetenskapsrådet* (The Swedish Research Council) to pursue the work with the digitized archive and to integrate *Le fonds suédois de Saint Barthélemy* with the smaller Saint Barthélemy holdings in *Riksarkivet* (The Swedish National Archives). Though divided between two countries these holdings are effectively parts of the same “archive”. The reconstituted digitally ordered archive will be published on-line.

Marjam Trautmann (Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz) & Amelie Tscheu (Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz): The "Hans Kelsen Werke" (HKW), a hybrid legal edition

Since March 2006, the Hans Kelsen Research Centre has been producing the historical-critical edition of the works of the important Austrian legal theorist Hans Kelsen. With its inclusion in the programme of the Academy of Sciences and Literature | Mainz in 2018, a further office for the digital component of the edition was established in Frankfurt am Main. In our poster, we present the extent to which established Digital Humanities workflows and standards are used for the "Hans Kelsen Werke".

Florenz Volkaert (Ghent University): Embedding free trade. The regulation of international trade in Belgium (1860-1865). Commercial treaties, professionalization and power

In the 1860s, a European-wide network of free trade agreements was created. Given the absence of a developed legal profession specialized in international economic law, vernacular legal and economic arguments abounded to (de)legitimise both free trade and protectionism. These argumentative practices are explored through the lens of various sources: archival material (diplomatic practice), digitalized newspapers and doctrinal treatises on international law. These sources are coded to construct a database in order to visualise competing discourse coalitions through the use of digital *discourse network analysis*. This poster will discuss the methods used for collection of the material as well as the challenges encountered in construction of the database.

Jörg Wettlaufer (Academy of Sciences and Humanities at Göttingen, and Göttingen University): Explaining the social use of shaming punishments cross-culturally. The shamestudies.de platform as digital resource and analytical tool in legal history

In recent years, a debate about the influence of church law on the development of public penal law in the European high and late Middle Ages has shed some light on the strong interconnections between theological discussion about penance and the practical execution of law in this period. It has become clear that secular penal law borrowed in many ways from ecclesiastical law, and that the emergence of some 'new' forms of punishment, for instance the institution of the pillory in the second half of the 12th century, can only be understood in this context.

In order to investigate this topic in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, an internet platform for data analysis and presentation has been created and published in 2007. The www.shamestudies.de platform was established as a mostly database-driven website to facilitate and enable this research project on the social usage of shame in different cultural contexts, namely Western Europe and East Asia. The basic goal is to collect primary and secondary source material, to encode the data for quantitative analysis and provide easy access to the content of the collection. On the analytical level, different types of punishments have been collected and encoded for date, place, offence, punishments, execution/executioner of the punishment, source type and context. The project integrates quantitative digital with qualitative hermeneutical methods. Over the years, several improvements and releases have been necessary to meet the requirements of new research questions and the developing infrastructure (relaunch 2017). Since 2007, over 25 presentations, articles and books have been published, drawing on the results provided by the platform and the collected material.

Roundtable

Benedetta Albani (Max Planck Institute for European Legal History), Jo Guldi (Southern Methodist University), Michael Kaiser (Max Weber Foundation), Adam Wyner (Swansea University): Perspectives on the Digital Turn in Law and Legal History

The concluding roundtable will discuss key elements that could be discerned during the conference's presentations and eventual remaining gaps that may have surfaced. In a general perspective, it will try to assess the current role of digital methods and resources in legal history – their facilitating as well as their inhibiting or simplifying aspects –, but also the role they could and should play in the expected further development of the discipline.