Opportunities

**CfA**: Department I (Prof. Stefan Vogenauer) is looking to recruit **Two Doctoral Students (m/f/d)** for the research programme *The History of European Union Employment Law*. Click **here** for the complete job description. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2020**.

Upcoming events

**13.01., 14:15, Seminar**: *Master and Servant Regulations and Labour Laws in the Post-Emancipation British West Indies*, Matilde Cazzola (Università di Bologna)

**14.01., 14:15, Colloquium**: *Decolonial Comparative Law*, Ralf Michaels / Lena Salaymeh (MPI for Comparative and

Further details

International Private Law, Hamburg)

**15.01., 14:30, Salamanca Colloquium:** Melchor Cano, *De locis theologicis – some remarks on concept and reception of the Loci*, Boris Hogenmüller (Universität Würzburg)

**15.01., 18:15, Rechtshistorisches Abendgespräch:** Einige vergleichende Bemerkungen zum frühneuzeitlichen Kolonialrecht: England, Portugal, Spanien, Heikki Pihjalamäki (Helsinki University), Goethe Universität, Casino, rm 1.801

**16.01., 16:30, Research Colloquium:** Not Quite Brothers in Arms: Indigenous legal status during the Dutch expansion to the State of Maranhão, 1642, Gilberto Guerra (MPIeR)

**27.01., 14:15 - 15:15, Seminar:** American States of Nature. The Origins of Independence, 1761-1775, Mark Somos (MPI for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg)

More events

Publications

Looking at the Global Perspective: for a new Dialogue between “Storia del diritto” and “Rechtsgeschichte”.


Is there any chance for reinvigorating the dialogue between Italian and German legal historiographical traditions? Would it be possible to find a new meeting ground for a fruitful interaction that flourished in the last 60 years
and led to some great scientific achievement, but which has now clearly cooled down? In his contribution to a volume dedicated to the dialogue between Italian and German historiographies, Massimo Meccarelli shows how global legal history – as practised at the MPIeR – might be a field of fruitful interaction and renewed dialogue.

Manuela Bragagnolo

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**Featured Event**

**Colloquium Methods in Legal History: Decolonial Comparative Law**

**14 January, 14:15-16:30, MPIeR**

Ralf Michaels / Lena Salaymeh (MPI for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg)

We are particularly delighted that Ralf Michaels, who has recently been appointed as new director of the MPI for Comparative and International Private Law, will visit us together with Lena Salaymeh to discuss their new research agenda on *Decolonial Comparative Law* with us. This new approach to comparative law seeks to identify how certain discourses on modernity and coloniality structure prevalent understandings of law that in turn influence any comparative inquiry. Conventional comparative law rests on certain epistemic assumptions: using the nation-state as a category of analysis, privileging secular law over religious law, viewing modern law as superior to precolonial and anticolonial legal traditions. Michaels and Salaymeh's proposed new approach is simultaneously a call for decolonial alternatives: overcoming the center-periphery template by adopting a concept of pluriversality that emphasizes the legitimacy of multiple traditions and social orderings.

Our monthly colloquium is a space where our researchers come together to discuss methodological approaches to legal history and to the challenges of interdisciplinary research that open up different theoretical perspectives on their own research projects. We are looking forward to having Ralf Michaels and Lena Salaymeh with us, who will surely provide an inspiring start into the new year.
The Institute out and about

Our researchers are often travelling abroad to give talks and engage with the wider public. If you are interested and you happen to be in the area, feel free to stop by and attend the event.


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**Guests and Visiting Scholars**

- **Barbosa, Samuel** (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil): *Practical legal books and practical legal reading in 19th-century Brazilian law*, visiting December 2019 – February 2020
- **Barrera Aguilera, Óscar Javier** (Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico): *Territories in dispute: laws, intermediaries and Indian peoples in the political chiefdom of Comitán, Chiapas, Mexico, 1790-1875*, visiting January – March 2020
- **Bubello, Juan** (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina): *RISE Project*, visiting January – February 2020
- **Corrêa Santos, Douglas** (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil): *Homicidio y justicia criminal en Vila Rica de Ouro Preto y Buenos Aires en el ocaso del Antiguo Régimen*, visiting January – March 2020
- **Da Rocha Wanderley, Marcelo** (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil): *Vocations in the court: secular clergy and ecclesiastical justice in the archbishopric of Mexico and Puebla in the 17th century*, visiting January –
March 2020

- **García Aguilar, María Idalia** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico): *Order and agreement in a new space: circulation of legal literature in New Spain, 1585-1640*, visiting January – June 2020
- **Godfrey, Katherine** (Pennsylvania State University, USA): *Negotiating law, justice, and ethnic identities in the New Kingdom of Granada, 1538-1680*, visiting January – March 2020
- **Guevara Gil, Jorge Armando** (Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru): *Transgression, abjection and unfruitful pain. The case of Sister Dominga Gutierrez de Cossio (Arequipa, Peru, 1831)*, visiting October 2019 – September 2020
- **Ijeoma, Winner** (Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany): *Contracts, trade and British legal transplants in 19th-century Nigeria and Ghana*, visiting October 2019 – March 2020
- **Kaczka, Mariusz** (European University Institute, Florence, Italy): *A cross-border Islamic-Christian court of justice: an Ottoman–Polish example*, visiting January – June 2020
- **Lu, Sheng-Yen** (Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan): *Women's rights under the small house policy in Hong Kong*, visiting January – March 2020
- **Massuchetto, Vanessa** (Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil): *Criminal legal culture and women's status in 18th-century Curitiba (1750-1800)*, visiting November 2019 – January 2020
- **Sarmiento, Jacqueline** (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina): *Resistencias cotidianas y género a través de fuentes criminales*, visiting January – March 2020
- **Zilberszac, Nicole** (Universität Wien, Austria): *Reconceptualising legal objectivity according to the concept of embodied, embedded, enacted, and extended cognition*, visiting October 2019 – March 2020
Happy New Year

Dear Readers,

The new year has already commenced, and we are eagerly looking forward to a number of interesting events and publications.

We are particularly pleased about the upcoming conference ‘Digital Humanities in Legal History’ in March as well as about our colloquia series in which we learn more about the methods employed by other disciplines and assess their potential for legal history. In the coming months, contributors to this series include Ralf Michaels and Lena Salaymeh, Martin Mulsow, Luigi Lacchè, Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger. As part of our Frankfurt Legal History Evening Lecture (in cooperation with the Goethe University), we are pleased to welcome Heikki Pihlajamäki in January and Michele Luminati in April. As spring gives way to summer, the annual meeting of the Research Field Legal History of the EU (Dept. I) – this year focusing on the relation between law and politics – will take place. A further institutional highlight is the annual Summer Academy for Legal History at the end of August. Moreover, the research being carried out within the context of Glocalizing Normativities (Dept. II) will offer plenty of opportunities for lively discussion as part of a series of workshops.

Our long-term projects, such as the joint School of Salamanca project, continue to make headway in their work on digital

Head of Administration visits township on her trip to South Africa

South Africa is beautiful, and a country of stark contrasts, something that can neither be ignored on a visible level – mountain meeting ocean, smiling beggars, townships with a sea view – nor on a visceral one. When our Head of Administration, Carola Schurzmann, visited the country in November 2019, she encountered its many faces: wealthy, underprivileged, hopeful, deprived, strong, communal, segregated. Khayalethu, a township located along the eastern coast, has a crèche and pre-school, a shoemaker, hairdresser and a library, mud streets lined with corrugated iron shacks, and a community who welcomed Mrs Schurzmann right in. She had brought with her stationery from the Max Planck Society, which she gave to the pre-school children and to her local guide. Just across the way, the town of Knysna, with a coastline of white beaches and renowned for its fine oysters, also has a school, library and community. However, here the buildings are made from brick and concrete and the roads are tarred. These two faces of South Africa, of course, have a history. The very word for ‘separateness’ or ‘apartness’ was not only systematised into a political, legal, economic, social, and ideological agenda, but it became the people’s very condition of existence. You could not be part of South Africa without being apart. Apartheid lasted roughly 50 years from
editions. We are also looking forward to the first volume of the new book series *Max Planck Studies in Global Legal History of the Iberian Worlds*, which summarises the key findings of our research project dealing with pragmatic literature in early modern Ibero-America. The *American Journal of Legal History* welcomes Felice Batlan, who joins Stefan Vogenauer as co-editor in chief. And the upcoming issue of the Institute's journal *Rechtsgeschichte – Legal History* promises to be thought-provoking, including contributions from the memorial colloquium held in honour of Knut Wolfgang Nörr.

As the events above hopefully show, we have renewed our commitment in 2020 to remaining a place of reflection about law – reflections underpinned by observations from a multitude of historical perspectives, in no small part due to our diverse and international guests. Let us hope for a healthy, productive and prosperous new year!

Yours truly,

*Thomas Duve*

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**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](#).

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https://listserv.gwdg.de/mailman/listinfo/mpierg_news. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and to the row 'To unsubscribe from MPIeRg_news (...'). Needless to say, seeing you leave would make us very sad.