History

The European Forum of Young Legal Historians originates from the first two international sessions of young researchers, which took place in Frankfurt am Main in 1992 and 1993 with the support of the Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte. Since then, the event has seen a significant growth in the number of participants and the range of themes. In 1995 in Halle an der Saale (Germany), the meeting took on the format which has lasted until the present day; calling itself for the first time “EUROPEAN FORUM OF YOUNG LEGAL HISTORIANS” and suggesting the new idea of a general theme. On that occasion, the adopted theme was “Legal History and the Enlightenment”. The next meetings took place in 1996, in Berlin and in 1997, in Graz (Austria). These meetings, boasting participants of various nationalities, went beyond the boundaries of the German-speaking countries for the first time, as is suggested by the proposed theme: “Laws without Borders – Borders without Laws”.

The definitive push towards internationalisation was brought about in the events held in Switzerland. In 1999, in Zurich, the Forum definitively adopted its European facet, having 120 participants from 13 countries, and in Lucerne in 2005, papers which dealt with themes of Turkish, Islamic and Caucasian legal history were presented for the first time. The progressive gain of higher numbers of participants from Central European countries gave rise to the initiative of holding the next Forums in said geographical region, leaving the German-speaking environment for the first time; an initiative reflected in the events in Budapest (2003) and Warsaw (2004). The incorporation of the Central European countries, however, seemed to coincide with a circumstantial distancing of Southern Europe, as was highlighted by the Budapest 2003 Forum review, which drew attention to the complete lack of participants from Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

The Forum’s expansive vocation is also reflected in the proposal to assume a wider general theme which, on the one hand, invites the participants to reflect upon theory and methodology, and on the other, allows the inclusion of the broad spectrum of legal history research in progress, with no chronological limits.

In recent years the Forum’s themes have ranged between explicitly mentioning the European identity and roots of the formation of this discipline and referencing, in a wider sense, the construction of the historiographic discourse. This could be seen in the last event in Frankfurt am Main in 2006, which proposed the theme “Remembering and forgetting” and in previous events in Lucerne, Vienna, Zurich and Munich in 2005, 2001, 1999 and 1998, when the themes were “Legal Transfer in History”, “Ad Fontes”, “Legal (Hi)stories?” and “Continuity and Rupture in European Legal History”, respectively. As in this last theme, the explicit mention of “Europe”, or its role in the construction of legal historiography, was the focus of the proposed themes of the Forums in Warsaw 2004: “The European Legal Community: between Tradition and Perspectives”, Budapest 2003: “The New Europe and its traditions” and the celebrated Osnabrück Forum in 2002: “Europe and its regions.”

Seville 2007 Forum Proposal

Following the trend mentioned above, the Seville Forum is proposing the theme “Crossing Legal Cultures”, which suggests and evokes the not always harmonious but potentially enriching confluence of different legal cultures within the extensive European area. It refers to the problems of so-called cross-cultural encounters throughout history and the role that Law and its institutions play when creating the mechanisms of exclusion/inclusion, segregation/cooperation; of establishing rules for and/or normalising, limiting and/or favouring meetings, points of contact, interactions or exchanges between different cultures, which are established by the circulation of people, institutions, books and ideas lato sensu.

It is intended that on this occasion, the Mediterranean area of Europe will be given a special – though not exclusive – importance. The coexistence of the three main Mediterranean cultures – Christian, Jewish and Muslim – has been crucial in the development of each one of them and the rate of transfer of traditions, texts and ideas between the three groups figures is among the highest known in history. The city of Seville – the stage for meetings and conflicts in historical processes as diverse as the formation and dissolution of empires (Roman, Gothic and Arabic), the so-called Reconquest, the foundation of the Spanish Inquisition and the start of colonial expansion which led to interaction with American people and cultures for more than four centuries – serves, once more, as a paradigmatic meeting point, to show off the history which traditionally makes it “a melting pot of cultures”. Far, however, from celebrating tradition, taking the cross-cultural encounters perspective invites reflection upon the selfsame construction of the Western European historiographical discourse.

**Previous FYLH (Forum of Young Legal Historians) meetings**

2006 12th FYHL, Frankfurt am Main: “Remembering and Forgetting”
2005 11th FYHL, Lucerne: “Legal Transfer in History”
2004 10th FYHL, Warsaw: “The European Legal Community: Between Tradition and Perspectives”
2002 8th FYHL, Osnabrück: “Europe and its Regions”
2001 7th FYHL, Vienna: “Ad Fontes”
1999 5th FYHL, Zurich: “Legal (Hi)stories?”
1998 4th - Munich, “Continuity and Rupture in European Legal History”
1996 2nd FYHL, Berlin: “Law and Social Transformation”
1995, 1st FYHL, Halle/Salle: “Legal History and Enlightenment”
1994 – no conference –
1993 Frankfurt meeting of young legal historians
1992 Frankfurt meeting of young legal historians

**Publications and Reviews:**

Reviews:


Reviews on-line:

Publications:


Institutional Support

The event will be organised and sponsored by the following institutions:

- Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo - Foundation Three Cultures of the Mediterranean (Seville, Spain)
- Universidad de Sevilla – University of Seville, Department of Basic Legal Sciences and the Department of American History (Seville, Spain)

The collaborating entities are:

- Università degli studi di Firenze, Centro per la storia del pensiero giuridico moderno (Florence, Italy)
- University of Bar-Ilan (Ramat-Gan, Israel)
- Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
General information for participants

Ways to participate in the Forum

1) Speakers – “Young people” in a broad sense (no age limit), such as professors starting their careers, recently graduated and current PhD students (preferably in their 2nd year of post-graduate studies.)

2) Spectators

Presentation of papers

In accordance with the structure followed in previous events, two sessions will be held simultaneously. Participants will have a total of 45 minutes to present their paper orally, with a maximum of 25 minutes for the presentation, leaving 20 minutes for discussion.

Speakers will have audiovisual equipment (spotlight, overhead projector, etc.) at their disposal. When filling in the registration form, speakers are asked to inform the organisational committee of the equipment they will need for their speech.

Speeches may be given in the following languages: English, Spanish, German, French and Italian.

No simultaneous translation is available during the Forum.

Abstracts

The proposed general theme for this year, “Crossing Legal Cultures”, does not exclude the presentation of summaries (abstracts) with a different theme or focus. Proposals which deal with topics related to legal history in general, with no chronological limit, from ancient to contemporary history, will also be accepted.

It is recommended that authors specifically formulate at least one question, for the end of the abstract, which will serve as a starting point for discussion on the theme of theoretical/methodological problems in the research being undertaken.

Abstracts should be presented in two formats: one version must be in English and the other in one of the following languages: German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese (and eventually in Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish or Russian).

In exceptional cases, only one version of the abstract may be presented, as long as it is in English.

Each abstract should have a maximum length of 1000 words.

Format specifications: Word document, Times New Roman Font, Size 12, justified, single line spacing. Keywords must be included.

Deadline for submission: 25th April 2007

Submission address: laurabeckvarela@gmail.com

Grants/Financial assistance
Financial assistance will be given to those participants who do not receive travel grants to this conference from their universities or any other institutions.

The organisational committee will decide the number of grants to be awarded as well as the value of each, in accordance with the number of requests received and the final available budget. The present figures are therefore purely provisional. The final list of beneficiaries will be announced to interested parties in May 2007. For each case, the exceptional possibility of receiving a grant for accommodation will be considered.

Travel Grants:
- 100 € - participants from Spain and Portugal
- 200 € - participants from the rest of Europe
- 300 € - participants from non-European countries

In no cases will an advance sum be paid: payments will be made by bank transfer into the beneficiary’s account in the days immediately after the conference. The method of payment will be announced to the beneficiaries in advance.

No financial assistance will be provided to spectators.

**Registration fees – for spectators only**

Conference registration fee: 70 € (includes trip to Cordoba, welcome drinks and dinner on the 5th and 6th September – to be confirmed)

Guests must also register using this method so that they may participate in the complementary activities of the conference.

The deadline for registration as a spectator is **5th July 2007**.

**Speakers are exempt from the registration fee.**

Bank details for fee payment:

Bank: MONTE DE PIEDAD y CAJA DE AHORROS DE HUELVA Y SEVILLA

Account’s holder: Forum Europeo de Jovenes Historiadores del Derecho

For payments from abroad:

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For payments in Spain:

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Participants must present proof of payment on the first day of the conference.
Documents needed for registration

Documents needed for registration as a speaker:

1) On-line Registration Form
2) Abstract (up to 1000 words)
3) Curriculum vitae summary (up to 2000 words)

Address for document submission: laurabeckvarela@gmail.com

Documents needed for registration as a spectator:

1) On-line Registration Form
2) Proof of payment of 70 € fee

Programme (provisional)
The definitive programme will be published in May 2007

05.09 – Wednesday (Location: Foundation Three Cultures of the Mediterranean)
18.30 Submission of credentials
19.00 Official opening of the event: Dr. Antonio Merchán, Professor of Legal History and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Seville; Mr Enrique Ojeda, Director of the Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo.
Inaugural conference led by Dr. Bartolomé Clavero Salvador, Professor of Legal History, University of Seville
20:30 Welcome drinks– Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo.

06.09 – Thursday (Location: Foundation Three Cultures of the Mediterranean)
9:00 – 10:30: 2 x 2 Paper presentations (there will always be two sessions at the same time)
10:30 – 11:00: Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30: 2 x 2 Presentations
13:30 - 15:30: Lunch
15:30 – 17:00: 2 x 2 Presentations
17:00 – 17:30: Coffee break
17:30 – 19:00: 2 x 2 Presentations
20:30 – Forum Welcome dinner – to be confirmed
07.09 – Friday (Location: Universidad de Sevilla, Facultad de Derecho – University of Seville, Faculty of Law, Lecture theatres I and II, to be confirmed)

9:00 – 10:30: 2 x 2 Presentations (there will always be two sessions at the same time)
10:30- 11:00: Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30: 2 x 2 Presentations
13:30 – 15:30: Lunch
15:30 – 17:00: 2 x 2 Presentations
17:00 – 17:30: Coffee break
17:30 – 19:00: 2 x 2 Presentations

08.09 – Saturday (Location: Universidad de Sevilla, Facultad de Derecho, Lecture theatres I and II, to be confirmed)

9:00 – 11:15: 3 Presentations – 2 sessions simultaneously. 6 presentations in total
11:15 – 11:45: Coffee break
11:45 – 13:00: Final evaluation/discussion and first Association of Young Legal Historians (AYLH) constituent general assembly.
13:30 – 15:00: Lunch
15:00 – Trip to Cordoba leaves
Guided visit of the Mezquita (Mosque)/historic centre – to be confirmed

How to get to Seville

Information for participants coming from abroad:
In the case of flights which do not arrive directly in Seville, we recommend flying to one of the following cities, which are well connected with Seville by train and coach.

Madrid: the cost of a return ticket on the AVE (high speed train) ranges between 80€ and 120€ and the journey time is approximately 2h 30mins. By bus, the coach company which travels to Seville is called Socibus: www.socibus.es

Jerez de la Frontera: cost of train journey from Jerez to Seville (one way): about 7€. Journey time: 1h 30mins. By bus, the company which runs the service to Seville is called Comes: www.tgcomes.es

Malaga: cost of train journey from Malaga to Seville (one way): about 30€. Journey time 2-3 hours. The coach company which travels to Seville is called Alsina: www.alsinagraells.es

For more information about train times and ticket prices in 2007 consult www.renfe.es
The following airline companies offer cheap flights to Seville, Malaga, Madrid and Jerez de la Frontera:

www.hlx.com
www.condor.com
www.ryanair.com
www.airberlin.com
www.vueling.es
www.easyjet.com
www.germanwings.com
www.clickair.es

Accommodation

The organisational committee is not responsible for finding accommodation for participants. Each participant must make reservations directly with the hotel/youth hostel.

We recommend the Seville Youth Hostel, which offers good rooms at reasonable prices (from 13€ to 20€, including breakfast) with the possibility of a special discount for Forum participants. Participants must let the youth hostel's management know they are at the Forum of Young Legal Historians. Reservations can be made online.

Youth Hostel address:
Calle Isaac Peral, 2 (Reina Mercedes)
41012 Sevilla – Spain
Telephone: +34 955056500, +34 902510000
Fax: +34 955056508
E-mail: sevilla.itj@juntadeandalucia.es
Website: http://www.inturjoven.com

IMPORTANT: Participants who wish to stay in the youth hostel should pay their expenses directly to the hostel's management until August 10, 2007.

Detailed information regarding hotels and guest houses can be found on the Andalusia Tourism website:

http://www.andalucia.org/modulos.php?modulo=Index
IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION: We recommend to all Forum participants, whether they are speakers or listeners, to make their lodging reservations in advance.

Organisational Committee

- Laura Beck Varela, Department of Basic Legal Sciences, University of Seville/Max-Planck International Research School for Comparative Legal History (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- José Luis Cañó Ortigosa, Department of American History, University of Seville (Seville, Spain)
- Pablo Gutiérrez Vega, Department of Basic Legal Sciences, University of Seville (Seville, Spain)
- Dr. Nir Kedar, Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University (Ramat-Gan, Israel)
- Dr. Seldag Ceylan, Faculty of Law, Gazi University (Ankara, Turkey)
- Alberto Spinosa, University of Florence (Florence, Italy)
- Thilo Engel, Max Planck-Institut for European Legal History (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

Address for submission of documents:

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Fax: +34-954-55-1300
laurabeckvarela@gmail.com

Association of Young Legal Historians (AYLH)

On the 8th of September, after the Seville Forum’s final discussion, the Association of Young Legal Historians (AYLH) will hold its first constituent general assembly. The AYLH is an international network of researchers which is in the process of being established as an institution, thanks to the initiative of our Swiss colleagues. More information regarding the AYLH will shortly be available online.