



Guest Workshop
Law and Diversity: Legal Categories and Identity

Abstracts

Stefan Cristian Ionescu

Economic Justice after Genocide:

Restitution of Jewish Property in Post-Holocaust Bucharest, 1944-1950

Abstract

My research project explores the reversal of the Romanianization (local equivalent of Nazi Aryanization) of Jewish property in Bucharest during the first post-Holocaust years (1944-1950), including the responses of bureaucrats, gentile beneficiaries, and Jewish community and individual Jews. Overall, restitution proved to be a difficult and problematic process involving Jewish survivors, individual profiteers, and political and social groups. Although the new regime formally repealed previous racial legislation rather rapidly, mainly due to foreign policy considerations, reversing its effect did not go smoothly. Romanianization profiteers and various antisemitic groups opposed the restitution of real estate and businesses. The countermand process was also affected by war destruction, lack of registers, contradictory court decisions, and insufficient personnel in Romanianization agencies. In spite of these obstacles, the Jewish litigation and petitioning campaign was largely successful in the short term and many survivors recuperated their houses and businesses. However, this was a short-lived victory, and many Jews lost their properties due to the nationalization policies implemented by the postwar communist regime in 1948 and 1950.



Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko

Space, Law and Spatial Justice in Leibniz

Abstract

In this presentation I will address only one albeit central aspect of my research undertaken at the Institute. This presentation will argue that conceptualization of law is influenced by conceptualization of space using the example of Leibniz. In addition it will look more specifically at the law's ability to accommodate diversity as being predetermined by the underlying conceptualization of space. In this regard it will be argued that Leibniz's conceptualization of space allows him to conceptualize law in a way that places diversity as a foundation of its unity. In order to prove this thesis Leibniz's conceptualization of law and space are tested against the idea of spatial justice as articulated by Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos. In order to supply additional proof of the link between the conceptualization of space and the conceptualization of law references to the contrasting views of space and law, in particular in Hobbes will be made.

Ana Díaz Serrano

Political intermediaries in the Iberian Worlds: Indigenous Communities and Religious Orders in the Americas, 16th and 17th Centuries

About the project

Our project is set in the reflection on the functioning of the multiterritorial political entities in the Early Modern Period based on the understanding of the interactions between the imperial frameworks and the local contexts. We propound a comparative study about the formulation and development of the 'republics of Indians' to analyse the incorporation of the indigenous communities into the political body of the Hispanic Monarchy. As it was stated in a royal law issued in 1549, these new American republics were part of the Crown plans to regulate the New World according with the Castilian municipal system. However, this only legal and institutional form led to many variations of governance across the Indies. We could explain these variations delving into the indigenous communities political life under



the Spanish rule in several regions of the American domains. Especially we are interested in the transmission and improvement of concepts, notions, categories and ideas related to the exercise of power, considering different Prehispanic and European traditions and ideologies. Therefore, we pay attention to the thought and actions of the indigenous elites and the religious orders to formulate a reflection about the mediation as cornerstone of the modern politics.

Our research involves a wide typology of primary sources, kept in European and American archives and libraries. On one hand, we will take in account the literary outputs of the men who made the spiritual conquest, looking for reconstructing their individual and collective ideas and plans about the governance of the Indies, in accordance or not with the model spread from the Crown. On the other, we analysis sources originated in the local sphere: by the cabildos of Indians and by the local courts, as well as in the higher levels of the royal administration: by the royal officials and by the King and his representatives; and sources that were created by the indigenous elites with a personal or familiar sense.

Our analysis is mainly made from the Political History and the Cultural History, expecting to be a critical contribution for the methodological reflections about the comparative and transnational perspectives, and about the concepts and categories that are used to analyse the First Modernity in a historiographical context influenced by the elements that define the world today: circulation, multiculturalism and multicentrism.