Welcome to our newsletter. We have a new name and a new design. This newsletter seeks to address legal historians, legal theorists as well as others interested in global history, social sciences, humanities and legal studies more broadly. We keep you updated about events, new publications by our researchers and other news from our Institute. Following the Institute's name change we are still in the process of updating all our channels such as our webpage, social media and this newsletter. We welcome feedback regarding our name change and its implementation. We hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Opportunities

**CfA:** Our library is looking for a **Library and Information Manager.** **Deadline 14 February 2021**

**CfA:** The Department 'Historical Regimes of Normativity' is offering a **PhD student** position for a law graduate (with Staatsexamen) to work on the project **Non-state law of the economy. The normative order of industrial relations in the metal industry from the**

Events

**08.02. 14:00, Seminar:** *Law reporting in mandatory palestine.* Yair Sagy. Video conference. For further information please contact: [cazzola@rg.mpg.de](mailto:cazzola@rg.mpg.de)

**15.02. 14:00, Seminar:** *Transdemocracia: um projeto em andammento.* Marcelo Neves. Video conference. For further information please contact [mejia@rg.mpg.de](mailto:mejia@rg.mpg.de)
17.02. 09:30, Reading Seminar: Jürgen Osterhammel's 'The Transformation of the World. A Global History of the Nineteenth Century', Lena Foljanty. Video conference. For further information please contact hkt-translations-transitions@rg.mpg.de

26.02. 11:00, Lecture: First women lawyers: A pan-European struggle, Lena Foljanty. Video conference. For further information please contact minervalawnet@rg.mpg.de

01.–05.03., Conference: Digital methods and resources in legal history. Video conference. For further information please contact dlh@rg.mpg.de

---

New Publications

Robert von Friedeburg

Luthers Vermächtnis: Der Dreißigjährige Krieg und das moderne Verständnis vom ›Staat‹ im Alten Reich. Klostermann, 2021

The concept of 'state' that developed in the early modern German-speaking Reich was not based on the model of the Holy Roman Empire, nor was it understood to describe the consolidation of princely power over land and people. Instead, it emerged in the context of conflicts between princes and estates in the aftermath of the devastation of the Thirty Years' War. Taking up the contemporary polemics against criminal princes dating back to Luther, Veit Ludwig von Seckendorff in his Teutscher Fürstenstaat (1656) conceived of a ‘German princely state’ as a unit of land, people and laws that allegedly reached far back into the Middle Ages. The legal system and lawful administration (Policay) of this particular type of territorial state were to protect its inhabitants from the incompetence and wickedness of princes. From the late 17th century onward, these ideas, the development of which the book traces on the basis of a broad range of sources, increasingly found favour also with many princes and their advisors in both Protestant and Catholic German states.

Gunnar Folke Schuppert


This book is based on the observation that the study of the global history of ideas is currently dominated by
historians, philosophers and political theorists. Scholars of law play almost no role in this context. This neglect of the perspectives of legal history and legal sociology conflicts with the easily established finding that many central concepts of the history of political ideas – such as natural law, human rights, constitution, and the rule of law – are at the same time legal concepts. Moreover, many key figures in the history of ideas engaged deeply with the world of law and some, like Kant, Hegel, and Weber, for example, developed their own philosophy or sociology of law.

From this point of departure, the book explores the global history of ideas by asking to what extent the history of political ideas can also be told in the language of law. The result, unsurprisingly, is that a global history of political ideas not only can but should be written in the language of law. This book wants to make a small contribution to that end.

---

**Recent Events**

**21 January**

**History of Labour Law Initiative**

Together with the Hugo Sinzheimer Institut, the mpihlit organises a working group on the history of labour law which meets twice a year. At its meeting on 21 January 2021, Wolfgang Däubler (Universität Bremen) spoke on ‘Researching labour law without history?’ (‘Arbeitsrechtswissenschaft ohne Geschichte?’). Däubler has been an influential figure in the scholarship of labour law for many decades. Particularly his book *Das Arbeitsrecht* shaped the discussion on the collective law institutions of German labour law. As an affordable soft-cover book, it went through 16 editions between 1976 and 2006 and also became an important source of information for a non-specialist audience. Taken together, the 16 editions present an overview of the contemporary history of collective labour law in Germany the importance of which cannot be overestimated. In his talk to the working group, Däubler emphasised the need for fundamental research on the history of labour law, particularly also for the scholarship of labour law at a time when the normative order of work and labour face severe challenges.

New forms of employment and the restructuring of work processes due to new technologies, the decline in union influence and in the coherence of employers’ associations, the continuing trend towards the decentralisation of collective norm-setting with its consequences for the legitimacy of sectoral rule formation, and new developments in the relationship between the state and both workers’ and employers’ associations — all this calls for approaches to legal history that see themselves as contributions to the history of the key social institutions.
Taking up this call, in its upcoming Annual Meeting on the 'History of the Betriebsverfassung' (18 June 2021, 9:00 – 17:00, via video conference) the Initiative Labour History will discuss the historicity of decentralised labour relations. The conference also marks last year's centenary of the Weimar Republic's Works Council Law (Betriebsrätegesetz) of 1920, which normatively configured the German 'dual system of interest representation' based on the concepts of collective bargaining autonomy (Tarifautonomie) and the autonomy of companies (Betriebsautonomie).

Gerd Bender

Digital Humanities

Online Survey

What do you like about virtual conferences?

After roughly one year of the Covid-19 pandemic, academic conferences – like many other meetings – are increasingly organised as virtual events. These can take a myriad of forms, and so far no set of best practices has emerged. What are the benefits of video conferences? What challenges come with vlogs and pre-recorded presentations? Under what circumstances is a hybrid event useful?

To start to answer such questions, we have launched an online survey asking for the experiences and opinions of the academic community. We cordially invite scholars of law from any discipline to share their experiences, expectations and ideas. The survey should take roughly 15 minutes to complete and we will be very grateful for every response. You can find the questionnaire at this address: https://s.gwdg.de/jPr7wK

The survey will remain open throughout February, closing on Feb 28 at 23:59:59 UTC. If you have any questions about the survey, feel free to send a message to dlb@rg.mpg.de.

Andreas Wagner

Hansaallee 41

We are an international research institute with members from all over the world. The pandemic has affected our researchers' ability to travel back and forth between their home countries and Frankfurt. Some of us were unable to see our friends and families for many months. At the same time, the effects of the pandemic have been felt very differently in different parts of the world. Victoria Barnes and Raquel Sirotti teamed up to send us a comparative perspective of how the pandemic has impacted life in their respective home countries.

Researchers around the world

The Pandemic in Brazil and in UK
In the global COVID-19 pandemic, Brazil and the United Kingdom are two of the most affected countries worldwide. Currently, the coronavirus death toll in Brazil is around 220,000. The United Kingdom’s figure is around half that of Brazil; it has just surpassed the 100,000 mark. However, the population in the United Kingdom is less than a third the size of Brazil’s.

The variant most prevalent in the United Kingdom is known to be more infectious than previous versions of the virus, while the new strain in Brazil is thought to be more deadly. The focus of the British and Brazilian governments is on containing new variants coming in from abroad. Brazil has recently imposed travel bans on non-citizens travelling from countries where other variants of the virus have been detected, such as the United Kingdom.

The economic impact of the pandemic on business and trade has been significant. Economic policies have attempted to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro has declared himself to be against the closure of shops and the imposition of restrictive measures in bars and restaurants. Decisions on these matters were left to the individual states and municipalities, making the economic impact of the pandemic very erratic and unequal. In the United Kingdom, after the end of the first lockdown the government funded the ‘Eat out to help out’ scheme in summer 2020, which provided discounts to those eating at restaurants. This was part of a wider government policy to encourage shoppers to return to the high street and city centres. Prime Minister Boris Johnson now admits that this policy may have been a mistake.

Britain’s decision to leave the European Union has been hailed in some of the German news media because of the ease and speed at which the country has begun vaccinating its citizens. Britain was able to sign a contract with the vaccine provider AstraZeneca three months before the EU member states and to work through the problems in scaling up the manufacturing process quickly. Around 10% of the British population has now received the first of two jabs. Despite the speed of vaccination, increasing public spending, especially on health care, has not been the aim of the successive Conservative governments in the last decade.

With regard to vaccination, British and Brazilian policy couldn’t be more different. President Bolsonaro continues to deny the need for vaccination, affirming that there is not enough scientific evidence that COVID-19 vaccines actually work. His attitude has had a significant impact on the Brazilian policy of vaccinating the population. Brazil currently has received around 12 million doses of vaccine and has vaccinated 0.9% of its population. On January 23, the Minister of Health admitted that the federal government in September 2020 refused an offer from Pfizer for two million doses. In a country with a population of around 210 million, these figures warrant concern.

Victoria Barnes & Raquel Sirotti
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.

You would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter?

We have all been there: signing up to as many interesting newsletters as possible and now the inbox is cluttered with them. In case you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter, that can easily be done visiting the page where you signed up for it: https://listserv.gwdg.de/mailman/listinfo/mpierg_news. Needless to say that seeing you leave would make us very sad.

Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory
Hansaallee 41,
60323 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

You received this email because you signed up on our website. To unsubscribe, please go back to the original subscription site.

Unsubscribe