It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing away, after a short illness, of its long-term Director Michael Stolleis in Frankfurt on 18 March 2021. He had been Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt since 1974 and a Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society and Director at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History since 1991.

During his long career, Michael Stolleis made a decisive impact on the discipline of German and European legal history. His work on the history of public law was truly pioneering. It included a comprehensive four-volume overview of the subject, translated into a variety of languages, groundbreaking research on the so-called
police ordinances (Polizeiordnungen) of early modern administrative law, and a
deep engagement with the legal history of the national socialist era, including the
destiny of German lawyers of Jewish origin in exile. He was one of the first to
explore the history of social law, as well as the legal history of the German
Democratic Republic and Eastern Europe.

Our Institute owes him a great deal. Since joining the Max Planck Society in 1991, he
shaped our Institute like no other. He led it alone for many years, and even after his
retirement, he took on the responsibility again. His approachability, his unconditional
reliability and his rhetorical elegance have been exemplary for many members of
staff. Without Michael Stolleis, we would not have this new building on the Westend
Campus, something he was always quite pleased about – and without him, we
would likely no longer exist as an Institute.

Michael Stolleis had a formative influence on generations of junior scholars. He was
a mentor, an initiator and a doer, seeing himself primarily as an observer and
narrator of legal history. The Institute bids farewell, with gratitude and deep sorrow.

Obituary

We have placed a book of condolence in the foyer of the Institute, which staff
members are invited to sign. The book will remain available until 16 April
2021, after which it will be presented to the Stolleis family. As the pandemic
precludes travel, we will also include in the book any letters of
condolence you would like to send. These can be addressed to the Managing
Director Thomas Duve, FAO Nicole Pasakarnis.

Opportunities

CfA: The Max Planck Research
Group 'Legal Connectivities and Colonial Cultures in Africa' is offering three PhD
student positions to work on the following themes: Legal connectivities and

Events

12.04. 14:00, Common Law Research
Seminar: Reflections on Writing the Slave Trade into Histories of International
Criminal Law. Emily Haslam (University of Kent). Video conference. For further
concession regimes; Legal connectivities and colonial labour regimes; Legal connectivities with respect to gender and reproductive rights. **Deadline 1 May 2021**

**CfA:** The translation project 'China - Norms, Ideas, Practices' is looking for **qualified academic translators** to translate Chinese academic monographs into German. The project is supported by the [Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Theory](https://www.mpi-giessen.mpg.de/en), the [Max Weber Foundation](https://www.maxweber-ferdienst.de/en) and the [Werner Reimers Foundation](https://www.werner-reimers.de). Click [here](https://www.mpi-giessen.mpg.de/en) for further Information. **Deadline 6 April 2021**

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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](https://listserv.gwdg.de/mailman/listinfo/mpierg_news). Needless to say that seeing you leave would make us very sad.

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**Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory**

Hansaallee 41, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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