

LEGAL HISTORY & LEGAL THEORY

Newsletter of the Max Planck Institute, April
2021 # 44



Michael Stolleis (1941 – 2021)



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 (*Policeyordnungen*) 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](#), the [Max Weber Foundation](#) and the [Werner Reimers Foundation](#). [Click here](#) for further Information. **Deadline 6 April 2021**

information please contact: cazzola@rg.mpg.de

19.04. 14:00, Common Law Research Seminar: *A History of Privileged Inventing in Bengal: A Study of the Patenting System in India, 1856-1888*. Subhadeep Chowdhury (Ambedkar University). Video conference. For further information please contact: cazzola@rg.mpg.de

21.4. 14:30, Salamanca-Kolloquium: *Maleficium*. Christiane Birr, José Luis Egío, Andreas Wagner. Video conference. For further information please contact salamanca@rg.mpg.de

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