



An innovative experience of normative production

The decrees of the Roman congregations and their potential in legal-historical research

Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt
22-23.04.2024



Organisers: Benedetta Albani (Research Group [Normative knowledge in the praxis of the Congregation of the Council. The production of normative categories and models for the post-Tridentine world](#), mpilht), Matteo Al Kalak (Research Group “Digital Inquisition. Tools for Multimedia Access and Exploitation of the Archive of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith” PRIN 2022), Nicoletta Bazzano, Vittoria Fiorelli and Massimo Carlo Giannini (Research Group “Netex. NETworks and EXchanges within the Congregations of the Roman Curia: a Digital Analysis of the Early Roman Church Archives” PRIN PNRR 2022).

The systematic issuance of decrees by the permanent cardinals' congregations of the Roman Curia undoubtedly marked an important turning point in the normative production of the Apostolic See, in the conduct of internal decision-making processes within the curia, in the definition of relations with local institutions and actors. Additionally, it contributed to the evolution of Canon Law in the early modern and contemporary age.

New research groups, recent scientific projects and publishing initiatives show the renewed interest in these topics in recent years. The idea of these workshops stems precisely from the desire for exchange and discussion among specialists in the history of various Roman congregations and their normative production through the issuance, publication, and use of decrees in the practice of administering justice.

Both workshops are also open to other research groups and scholars. However, given the specific nature of the topics and discussion, we encourage the participation of persons and groups actively involved in investigation related to the decrees of the Roman congregations and data modelling in the specific legal-historical context outlined above. For more information, and to propose your participation (in-presence or online), please write to Benedetta Albani albani@lht.mpg.de.

The decrees of the Roman congregations between past and future. State of the art and research perspectives

22.04.2024

Turmcarrée, Bleichstraße 59, 15:00-19:00

Starting from an open discussion on the state of research on the decrees of the Roman congregations from the perspective of an archival and historiographical investigation, the seminar will first of all look at the decrees in the broader context of Canon Law, the normative production of the Apostolic See and secular law. The different types of decrees issued in the course of time will therefore be explored, and the procedures for the formulation and approval of decrees will be analysed, with an attempt to identify recurrent practices among the different congregations and patterns in their formulation. The media used for the dissemination of decrees and the role of manuscript and printed compilations of decrees in the context of the administration of justice will also be discussed. Finally, the weight and role of the decrees of Roman congregations in local contexts will be examined and the main recipients of the decrees will be identified, analysing the actors and institutions involved. The meeting will end with an interactive activity to explore together the structure of the decrees from an archival and legal-historical perspective. This activity is preparatory to the seminar on the following day dedicated to the comparison and discussion of the data models of the participating research groups and scholars.

Roundtable discussion

The Decrees of the Roman Congregations. Round Table in the Perspective of an Archival and Historiographical Survey (moderated by Benedetta Albani and Massimo Carlo Giannini)

Talks

The Decrees of the Congregation of the Council: a Mirror of the Creation of Normative Knowledge/Normative Production and Decision-Making Processes in the Roman Curia (Benedetta Albani, mpilhlt)

The Congregation of the Council and the Alienation of Church Property: The Decrees Si in evidentem utilitatem (XVII c.) (Francesco Giuliani, mpilhlt)

The Decrees of the Congregation of the Council and the Process of Categorising Cases by Matter: The Example of the Migration of the Secular Clergy (19th-20th Centuries) (Anna Clara Lehmann Martins, mpilhlt)

The Decrees of the Congregation of the Holy Office (Matteo Al Kalak, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia)

The Decrees of the Congregations of the Roman Curia as Tools for Historical Research (Massimo Carlo Giannini, Università di Teramo – Universidad Complutense, Madrid)

Activities

But ... What Does a Decree Look Like? Characteristics, Parts, Mediality of Decrees between Papal Diplomats and Legal History (Benedetta Albani and Francesco Giuliani, mpilhlt)

The decrees of the Roman congregations from the archives to the web. Experiments in data modelling with a view to interoperability

23.04.2024

Turmcarrée, Bleichstraße 59, 09:30-15:30

The seminar focuses on the application of innovative approaches for modelling data on decrees of Roman congregations, with the aim of improving interoperability between research projects. We will explore the challenges and opportunities in modelling decrees data, discussing how we can accurately and comprehensively represent such data in a conceptual model. We will also examine strategies for functionally comparing the different data models used for decrees of Roman congregations, exploring tools and resources that can facilitate this comparison. We will also present approaches for designing interoperable tools that enable smooth transitions from one project to another and link decrees to other decrees or related events. Finally, we will address the challenge of linguistic plurality in the sources and our digital tools, exploring how to effectively manage this linguistic diversity to ensure accurate data accessibility and interpretation. The aim of the seminar is also providing a solid basis for future developments and interdisciplinary collaborations in historical and digital research.

Talks

Between Abstraction and Concretisation: Data Modelling in a Nutshell (Yohan Park, mpilhlt)

Methods and Tools for (Collaborative) Data Modelling (Andreas Wagner, mpilhlt)

Data Modelling As an Interpretative Exercise. A Historian's Perspective (Benedetta Albani, mpilhlt)

Activities

From Archives to Data Models. Interactive Data Modelling Experience (Benedetta Albani and Yohan Park, mpilhlt)

Active participants in the workshops

Digital Inquisition Research group: Matteo Al Kalak, José Javier Alvarez Garcia, Nico Bortoletto, Greta Spinetti (Università di Teramo), Silvia Toppetta

Netex Research Group: Eleonora Anedda (Università di Cagliari), Nicoletta Bazzano (Università di Cagliari), Maria Teresa Fattori (Università di Teramo), Vittoria Fiorelli (Università Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli), Massimo Carlo Giannini (Università di Teramo), Federica Guerrini (Università di Teramo), Riccarda Suitner (Università Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli)

Max Planck Institut for Legal History and Legal Theory: Benedetta Albani, Rômulo Da Silva Ehalt, Francesco Giuliani, Anna Clara Lehmann Martins, Haochen Ku, Yohan Park, Andreas Wagner

Goethe Universität: Elisa Frei, Christoph Nebgen