The newsletter from the department "Historical Regimes of Normativity" at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory highlights what we are doing every month.

**Project of the Month**

‘Legal History Meets Digital Humanities’ Seminar Launches its YouTube Channel

Missed a seminar lecture? Want to go back to a particularly interesting presentation? Now it is easy to keep up to date with the seminar’s activities. Our YouTube channel already features five lectures on different methodological aspects of DH approaches to legal history research.

The seminar was launched last year: with the growing number of projects in our department that rely on digital tools and methods in their research, we felt the need for a
common space to talk about DH-related aspects of our work and to establish a dialogue between different projects and experts in the field.

Our first video lectures cover a range of topics, from the basics of network analysis for history, to digital editions of historical texts, to questions of sustainability and longevity of DH projects. New videos will be added after each seminar session. If you find our channel interesting, please like and subscribe!

Polina Solonets

Visit our channel here

Publication of the Month

Karla Luzmer Escobar Hernández

Camino y Ruptura: Una historia gráfica de las prácticas jurídicas indígenas a principios del siglo XX, Ediciones Uniandes, 2024


In it, the author reconstructs the process of creating Law 89 of 1890 "which determines how the savages who reduce themselves to civilized life should be governed". This law had a dual purpose; while it aimed to divide the reserves in the long term, it also provided tools to delay their dissolution. The analyzed cases highlight the relevance of local political relationships in shaping possible interpretations of the law in different contexts.

"Camino y Ruptura" is the product of collective work: writer and novelist Óscar Pantoja was responsible for adapting it into a comic, graphic artist Miguel Ángel Vallejo created the illustrations, and art historian María Juliana Vargas conducted the image research. In addition, various guest artists from the southwestern Colombian region contributed illustrations for each chapter’s cover. The work of this entire team aimed to pluralize the narratives of this history. This exercise of deindividualizing historical narratives is part of the Transmedia HistoryTelling project.

More information

... even more to read
Event of the Month

In April, our Research Group: Normative knowledge in the praxis of the Congregation of the Council organised two events that impelled us to reflect on bridges between examining historical sources and working with digital tools.

Our workshop on the decrees of the Roman congregations, organised together with two external research groups, meant to foster accessibility, interoperability and reusability of data between the projects. For this, first we sought to outline the aspects that decrees of different congregations have in common from the perspectives of legal history, diplomatics, and actors involved. Afterwards, we shared our experiences on representing a decree with metadata and conceptual models such as CIDOC-CRM and
In our event on complex geographies and jurisdictions, several challenges of transposing historical spaces and institutions to digital environments were debated. This included dealing with uncertain and incomplete data, territorial and governance changes, and the multiple understandings of what a border is. The participants were also invited to model data on the historical-legal evolution of dioceses using Montessori-like cardboards developed by the members of the OrDi project. Take a look at our recent posts to get a more vivid idea of the activities!

Benedetta Albani

More Department Events

Legal History Meets Digital Humanities
Francesco Beretta, Modelling Social and Legal Facts in the Context of the Semantic Data for Humanities and Social Sciences (SDHSS) Ontology Ecosystem, Z01 and online, 16.05.2024, 15:00-17:00

Research Group Global History On The Ground
Lukamba, Paulino and Agostinho, Adlézio, Building Legal Knowledge: Reflections on the History of Law in Angola, Z02, 21.05.2024, 10:00-12:00

Seminar on Legal History in the Iberian Worlds
Marcos Paredes-Sadler, John Mair y la justificación de la conquista de América, Turmcarrée, 28.05.2024, 13:00-14:00
Ya se encuentra disponible en nuestro portal Digital Libraries Connected una nueva colección de fuentes: las Tesis Doctorales en Derecho (INHIDE). Compuesta por 287 tesis doctorales defendidas en la Universidad de Buenos Aires entre 1866 y 1903.

Las 21.444 páginas de la colección digital ofrecen un directo acceso a la producción del pensamiento jurídico de la Universidad de Buenos Aires durante la segunda mitad del siglo XIX, un periodo de transición cargado de reformas institucionales en la historia argentina. A lo largo de las tesis será posible explorar materias novedosas, cambios en las instituciones judiciales, las exigencias académicas, los debates políticos, los planes de estudio, la extensión, la originalidad de los textos y la circulación de los saberes. Si bien la colección del INHIDE es solo una muestra del total de tesis que fueron defendidas en este periodo, son las únicas accesibles en Open Access y con texto completo.

La digitalización ha permitido enriquecer el material impreso con contenidos, metadatos, visualizadores, opciones de citación en varios formatos, vinculación de contenidos y el texto completo, garantizando un acceso estable a largo plazo.

Explore the collection

Last but not least

CfA: Max Planck-ASLH Dissertation Prize for European Legal History in Global Perspective

Open to exceptional dissertations in English presented for PhD or JSD degrees awarded in the previous calendar year.

Possible topics: European legal interactions with people or places outside Europe, legal processes spanning Europe and other world regions, and developments in legal theory closely related to imperial, transnational, or trans-regional trends.

Deadline for submissions: June 1, 2024.