



MAX PLANCK LAW



Max Planck Institute
LUXEMBOURG
for Procedural Law



CALL FOR PAPERS

Methodological Pluralism in European Law

First Max Planck Law Conference for Young European Scholars 2022

The Max Planck European Law Group invites to the First Max Planck Conference for Young European Scholars, hosted by the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law in cooperation with the Arbeitskreis Europäische Integration e.V., on **31 March and 1 April 2022** at the **Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law**.

Europe and European Law is a many-headed creature, highly compound as a field of research inquiry. It embraces multiple questions related not only to law as such but also to other domains, such as economics, sociology, history, anthropology and political studies. For this reason, analysis of European law necessitates developing peculiar methodological designs that would grasp the idiosyncrasies of this field. First, such methodological architecture calls for inherent interdisciplinarity, which departs from a purely black letter law-oriented approach. Secondly, it requires a strongly functional attitude, able to grapple with and address the constant fluidity characterising the field of European law, with its boundaries being persistently re-examined. Recent occurrences (such as the pandemic, the rule of law crisis and migration) entailed an even more pressing need for a well-developed analytical framework.

The methodology of European law research has recently faced a multi-prong crisis. First of all, as the European law attempts to address new types of social and economic issues (such as sustainability, digital communication, gender equality and mounting migration concerns), it often uses a new regulatory toolbox, as well as builds on new sets of values and policy considerations. These issues require new analytical methods, often more comprehensive and interdisciplinary than before. Secondly, also the normative landscape of European law evolves quite rapidly in a few dimensions. To an increasing degree, it is underpinned by fundamental rights and the specific values they convey. European law has also been visibly shifting the proportion between public and private rule-setting where the private market and social entities take over a considerable scope of regulatory tasks. Finally, these developments in European law necessitate – more than ever – rethinking the role of the classical doctrinal methodology and its visible demise in the legal scholarship in Europe and globally.

The conference attempts to delve more deeply into the question of contemporary European law research methodologies and map the multiplicity of approaches that are applied (or possibly may be applied) in this domain. It will focus not merely on the European Union law, but it will also consider other orders that function in the European

legal sphere – especially the European Convention of Human Rights and the case-law of the Strasbourg Court.

The conference wants to bring together young scholars and create a forum for “new voices” of European legal research. The issue of methodology is one of the most prominent uniting factors for all researchers in this field, regardless of their particular thematic interests. The conference will cluster together various methodological issues faced by researchers in this field and will make it possible to discuss them collectively and from various vantage points.

Abstract submission

We welcome abstract submissions on all the topics within the array of European law studies that discuss methodological issues, both in general terms and through case studies and other more specific insights.

The conference is addressed to Postdocs and PhD Candidates who work on European law topics, as well as the late-stage students who want to pursue a PhD in European law. The call is open to all such researchers interested in European law research and (legal) methodology, including (but not limited to) affiliates of Max Planck Institutes. The conference language is English.

We invite all researchers interested in presenting at the conference to submit **(1) an anonymised abstract** of no more than **500 words** and **(2) a short CV**, both in separate documents, to europe@law.mpg.de by **30 November 2021**. The selection will be communicated in the first weeks of December 2021. The first drafts of the papers will be due **by 24 March 2022**. A publication possibility will be provided for all selected papers.

At present, we hope that the conference can take place in person in Luxembourg. If the pandemic does not permit this, we will communicate another solution early on.

Organisers: The Max Planck European Law Group

Dr. Mateusz Grochowski, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law

Dr. Lena Hornkohl, Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law

Dr. Alice Margaria, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Dr. Sigfrido Ramírez Pérez, Max Planck Institut for Legal History and Legal Theory

Supervising Professor: Prof. Dr. Burkhard Hess, Direktor Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law