

“Legal Heritage Lab” at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University

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Słowa kluczowe: dziedzictwo prawne, badanie, MOOC, współpraca międzynarodowa

In June 2020, the first meeting of the “Legal Heritage and Diversity of Legal Cultures” team took place. The team included representatives of several units of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University: Prof. Iwona Barwicka-Tylek (Department of the History of Political and Legal Doctrines); Prof. Krzysztof Fokt (Department of Source Publications); Prof. Jan Halberda (Department of the Common History of State and Law); Dr. Mariusz Krawczyk (Department of Administrative Law); Prof. Łukasz Marzec (Department of Roman Law); Dr. Jakob Maziarz (Department of Polish Law History); Prof. Maciej Mikuła (Department of Administrative History and Law on Religious Denominations, coordinator of the Heritage Priority Research Area at the Faculty of Law and Administration); Prof. Mateusz Stępień (Department of Sociology of Law); Dr. Bohdan Widła (Department of Copyright). In 2022, the team adopted a new name – the “Legal Heritage Lab” (LHL). The LHL is an openly collaborative research and education team whose activities focus on legal heritage in the broadest sense. It is worth mentioning that legal heritage, as a priority research domain, was indicated in the Strategy for the Development of the Legal Sciences Discipline, adopted by the Council of the Legal Sciences Discipline of the Jagiellonian University. Activities undertaken within the Lab are mainly financed by the Strategic Program “Initiative of Excellence. Jagiellonian University” (ID.UJ). A detailed list of activities and current events, along with descriptions of legal heritage research projects funded under ID.UJ, are posted on the team’s website (<https://lhlab.wpia.uj.edu.pl>). Only selected team activities are listed below.

A series of research meetings on legal heritage was initiated in the 2020/2021 academic year. The initiative of the meetings originated in the framework of the faculty

research team “Legal heritage and diversity of legal cultures”. The first series was led by Prof. M. Mikuła, and the next two by Prof. J. Halberda and Prof. M. Mikuła with the prominent assistance of Ms. Izabela Wasik MA. Detailed reports of the first two cycles of meetings have already appeared in *Cracow Studies of Constitutional and Legal History* (in issue 4/2021 and issue 4/2022).

A recent accomplishment of the LHL was the organization of a three-day interdisciplinary conference “Legal Heritage. Ideas – Research – Education” (May 26–28, 2021). The conference was held under the patronage of the Rector of the Jagiellonian University. 60 people were in attendance at the conference, and 28 papers were delivered. Articles were subsequently published in the journal *Cracow Studies of Constitutional and Legal History*.

An important task of the LHL is international research cooperation. To this end, with financial support from the Strategic Program “Initiative of Excellence. Jagiellonian University”, the research platform “HECTOR: HERitage, CulTure, nORms” was established. Seminars and research workshops are planned as part of the platform starting in 2023. There are also plans to publish a collective monograph in English in a recognized international publishing house, and to record a series of lectures. The task is coordinated by Prof. J. Halberda.

The LHL focuses not only on research, but also on popularizing legal heritage. The first task in this regard is the development of a series of online lectures (MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses) on legal heritage, which will be addressed to a wide audience, including high school students. The task is coordinated by Prof. Ł. Marzec.

The LHL is the result of cooperation that goes beyond a single legal sub-discipline, as evidenced by the topics of academic meetings in the “Legal Heritage” series and the planned seminars within the HECTOR research platform. In addition to the interdisciplinary value of the activities undertaken and the focus on international cooperation, another feature of the Lab’s activity is its focus on innovative projects – one of many examples of which is the online base of legal sources “IURA. Sources of Law from the Past” (<https://www.iura.uj.edu.pl/>). In addition, the LHL places a strong emphasis on popularizing knowledge of legal heritage. This is accomplished through the integration of research, education, and cooperation with the broader socio-economic environment of the University.

Reports on the activities undertaken in the Legal Heritage Lab will be published successively in the pages of *Cracow Studies of Constitutional and Legal History*.



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