

## *A Selection of Events in German Legal History in 2015*

**Key words:** Max Planck Institute, legal history, constitutional history.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Instytut Maxa Plancka, historia prawa, historia ustroju.

### Max Planck Institute

*Legal Space* [17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> September]: This international conference focused on defining what a ‘legal space’ originally was and now is: Its origins, sources of law, and the role of individuals in creating them. By analyzing the legal systems of dozens of states across the centuries, from ancient Greece and Rome to the mosaic of German states in the early Middle Ages, participants described the cultural, religious, and geographical origins of the various legal areas and factors that ensured their survival across centuries.

*Legal Argumentation and Constitutional Law. A Methodological Dialogue between Legal History and Constitutional Law* [16<sup>th</sup> October]: A workshop organized by the Max Planck Institute of European Legal History, discussing the historical development of constitutions and legal argumentation, with emphasis on its usage in managing conflicts in multicultural societies.

*Violent Political Conflicts and Legal Responses: A Transatlantic Perspective* [21<sup>st</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> October]: Covering the period of the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this workshop concentrated on Western Europe and Ibero-America. Lectures were divided into four panels: *Legal responses to social conflicts and political revolts in imperial contexts during the 18<sup>th</sup> century*, *Riots, upheaval and conspiracies: Legal discourses and criminal law in the Age of Revolution*, *From the ius commune world to the Independence Era: Conflicts, emancipation and constitutional arrangements* and *Constitutional and political answers to crises and conflicts in Ibero-America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century*.

*Labor law history conference* [December]: Organized by the Max Planck Institute in cooperation with the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute, the conference concentrated on examples of self-regulation in the area of industry and labor relationships in Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland.

## Other

*Our and Our Country's City – The Emperor, the Empire, and the Reichstadt Interact* [16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> February]: Organized in Mühlhausen, participants focused on the role of free imperial cities as intermediaries between the Emperor and other social classes. They focused in particular on the interaction between these cities and the nobility, where the cities acted as supporters and guarantees of the nobles' freedoms and privileges. The conference will be held again in 2016, focusing on the influence of free imperial cities on religion and economic development.

*Transitional Justice – The Role of Historical Narrative in Times of Transition* [15<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> May]: An interdisciplinary conference held in Heidelberg. The conference focused on the idea of finding the historical 'true truth' in times of transition and reconciling historical records of the different sides of the conflict. Although it used numerous examples from Europe and Asia, the largest contribution of legal historians to the subject was a tough discussion about the historical truth of World War II, especially in the context of the Nuremberg trials.

*German Reunification and the Law* [25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> September]: Held in Wustrau, participants of this conference analyzed the possible role that legal instruments could play in mending the divide between the former West and the former East in Germany, which persisted after the Reunification; in particular, the possibility of courts ordering compensation for acts of violence and abuse perpetrated under Communist rule.

*Politics and Justice Between the Empire and Its Land – Speyer as the Central Place of the Holy Roman Empire in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century* [15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> October]: During this conference, held in Speyer, participants analyzed the idea of a 'central place' where the influence of central institutions of the Empire was particularly deep. While metropolises of the Empire were major economic and cultural centers, the city of Speyer was the seat of the Reichskammergericht, the Reichstag, and other central institutions, making it a major center of domestic and foreign politics in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This centralization also influenced the institutions of the city proper, trading the autonomy of the city council and parishes for integration in central imperial and religious institutions.