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2024 - 2025

Regulating AI in Europe – a new quest for democracy and human rights?

Prof. Anna-Sara Lind,
Professor of Public Law, Uppsala University

Tuesday, 22 October 2024
17.15-19.00

University of Fribourg, Beaugard, Room BQC 2.813
Avenue Beaugard 13

- The highly transformative, artificial intelligence (AI) is disrupting the basic conditions by which human beings interpret and make sense of the world. AI is continuing to evolve as a new and increasingly influential type of actor throughout almost every aspect of society. The profound changes brought by digitalization in general, and by AI in particular, directly impact social and institutional formation, operation and cohesion. The potential consequences are weighty and varied, ranging from disrupted human habits to a confused state in fundamental institutional structures such as law and politics. The AI technologies and the way they are integrated in society displace characteristic human abilities such as creativity, decision making, and critical thinking. The structural effects of the way we implement AI, such as through algorithmic administration, governance, and the curating of information flows, also affect the space, modes and meaning of democratic citizenship. Through challenging human agency and uniqueness, these developments call into question certain core values of worldviews, political philosophies and the foundations of law. In this lecture, this current development is explored. Since 2017, different initiatives have been taken both in Europe and globally to enact new rules regulating artificial intelligence, rules that will have an impact on how democracy and human rights are perceived, understood and realized.
- Anna-Sara Lind is Professor of Public Law at the Faculty of Law, Uppsala University. Her research focuses on public law, EU law and fundamental rights and on how EU law and international law interact in the fields of welfare state law and digitalization in a complex constitutional reality. She is Scientific leader of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Religion and Society, Uppsala University and member of the steering group at AI4Research. She has been involved in several multidisciplinary research projects investigating various fields such as citizenship, welfare and data protection. Since 2019, Anna-Sara Lind is member of the management team of WASP-HS, a ten-year-long research program running from 2019-2028. The vision of WASP-HS is to foster novel interdisciplinary knowledge in the humanities and social sciences about AI and autonomous systems and their impact on human and social development.

The European Court of Human Rights and Populism

Dr. Alain Zysset,
School of Law, University of Glasgow

Tuesday, 5 November 2024
17.15-19.00

University of Fribourg, Beaugregard, Room BQC 2.813,
Avenue Beaugregard 13

- The European Court of Human Rights is conventionally portrayed as the guardian of a right-based liberal democracy. The historical role assigned the Court's system as an 'alarm bell' against the return of totalitarianism prevails until today. Is the Court equally apt to prevent the rise of populism? In this lecture, I address this issue in three steps. First, I explain why populism poses a serious danger to deliberative and representative democracy. Second, I show that populists do not abolish institutions and rights, but distorts their functions, which makes populism difficult to detect at the supranational level. Third, I draw some implications for the Court's role. I claim that an enhanced proportionality test could detect and counter the populist assault.
- Alain Zysset is an Associate Professor at the School of Law, University of Glasgow, Scotland. His research focuses on the practice of regional and international courts from the perspective of legal and political theory. His most recent monograph, *Calibrating the Response to Populism at the European Court of Human Rights*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in late 2024. His research has also been published in leading international journals including *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Human Rights Law Review*, *Global Constitutionalism*, *Ratio Juris*, *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, *Transnational Legal Theory*, among others.

'Rights of Nature' in the EU – Colliding Cosmovisions on Non/Human Relations

Dr. Marie Petersmann,
LSE Law School

Tuesday, 19 November 2024
17.15-19.00

University of Fribourg, Beauregard, Room BQC 2.813,
Avenue Beauregard 13

- How are 'rights of nature' conceptualised in the proposed EU Charter on the Fundamental Rights of Nature, and how does this relate to Indigenous cosmovisions whom the experts invoke in their draft text? On the one hand, we find a relationality that focuses on entangled agencies between humans and non-humans. Embedded in particular Andean cosmologies that informed postcolonial, plurinational, and re-constitutional processes in Latin America, this relationality played a major role in advancing 'rights of nature' in Ecuador and Bolivia, which the EU experts take as examples when advocating for an EU Charter on Rights of Nature. On the other hand, we find a relationality that connects pre-existing human and non-human entities, aimed at enabling the former to better protect the latter. These different conceptualisations speak to distinct modes of living with non-humans, each inscribed in particular historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts. Both approaches open up opportunities but also warrant critical attention about inherent limitations of the 'rights' discourse now extended onto non-humans, and what this implies in terms of strategic legal and political organising to protect, care for, and repair anthropogenic harms rooted in structures of racial capitalism, neo-colonialism, and extractivism. Reckoning with these tensions and contradictions is key to make sense of the struggles behind 'rights of nature' today.
- Marie Petersmann is Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at LSE Law School in London (UK). Her research lies at the intersection between international environmental law, human rights, ecology and critical theory. Her research project *Anthropocene Legalities: Reconfiguring Legal Relations within More-than-human Worlds* is funded by a Dutch NWO grant. Her book *When Environmental Protection and Human Rights Collide* was published with Cambridge University Press in 2022.

Gender in Forced Migration in Europe

Prof. Dr. Cristina Zamora Gomez,
University of Alicante

Thursday, 5 December 2024

17.15-18.45

University of Fribourg, Miséricorde, Espace Guggi
(MIS 08 0101), Rue de Rome 6

- The gender perspective has a verifiable impact on the advancement of the rights of refugees and this highlights how the norms at different levels of analysis (universal international with the 1951 Geneva Convention, European regional with the Common European Asylum System and the regulation of asylum by the European Convention on Human Rights, and at the national level with a comparative approach) can and should accommodate the experiences of refuge traversed by gender-based violence. The iusfeminist analysis compels the *acquis* in International Refugee Law to protect people who are persecuted for gender-related reasons and/or whose form of persecution is through gender-based violence, in the case of refugee women: such as forced marriages, discrimination based on sexual orientation or cases of female genital mutilation.
- Cristina María Zamora-Gómez has a PhD in International Public Law and International Relations from the University of Seville. She is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Alicante. Cristina has published several publications in the following lines of research: international protection, gender, asylum, migrant participation in institutions, access to justice. She has conducted several research stays in prestigious centers, including the Institute of European Law at the University of Fribourg. She is a member of the Swiss Network of Young Migration Scholars (SNyMS). Cristina has been awarded the Rosario Valpuesta Research Award in 2019 and the Research Award in Gender Equality by the University of Seville in 2020.

Beziehungen Schweiz-EU aus Sicht eines ehemaligen Brüssel-Korrespondenten

Michael Rauchenstein, Redaktor / Moderator
Tagesschau SRF

Dienstag, 25. März 2025

17.15-18.45

Universität Freiburg, Miséricorde, Saal Jäggi (MIS 4112),
Avenue de l'Europe 20

- Zwischen der EU und der Schweiz finden seit Frühling 2024 wieder Verhandlungen zu einem neuen Abkommen statt. Es geht um die Klärung institutioneller Fragen sowie um neue bilaterale Abkommen. Drei Jahre nach Abbruch der Verhandlungen zum institutionellen Rahmenabkommen sitzen Brüssel und Bern wieder an einem gemeinsamen Tisch. Trotz einer Sondierungsphase gibt es bei den Verhandlungen teils grosse Differenzen. Im Vortrag soll dargelegt werden, aus der Perspektive eines ehemaligen EU-Korrespondenten, warum es zwischen Brüssel und Bern oft schwierig ist, Kompromisse einzugehen. Michael Rauchenstein wird zudem berichten, wie man als Schweizer EU-Korrespondent einen Zugang zu den mächtigen Politikerinnen und Politikern findet und warum der Besuch von Bundespräsident Guy Parmelin bei Kommissionspräsidentin Ursula von der Leyen ein Wendepunkt in den Beziehungen EU-Schweiz war.
- Michael Rauchenstein hat an der Universität Luzern Politikwissenschaften und Soziologie im Bachelor studiert. Sein Masterstudium absolvierte er an der Freien Universität Berlin in Politikwissenschaften. Er arbeitete bei Radio TOP in Winterthur und beim Zentralschweizer Fernsehen Tele1 in Luzern. Anschliessend war er als EU- und Benelux-Korrespondent für das Schweizer Fernsehen SRF in Brüssel stationiert. Seit August 2022 ist er Moderator der Hauptausgabe der SRF-Tagesschau und arbeitet für die Info-Sendungen als Auslandsredaktor. Nebst seiner Tätigkeit beim Schweizer Fernsehen moderiert Michael Rauchenstein Podiumsdiskussionen und Gespräche und hält Referate zu den EU-Schweiz-Beziehungen.

The Future of EU Migration and Asylum Law in the Context of the Migration Pact

Prof. Dr. Iris Goldner Lang, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law and Vice Dean, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law

Thursday, 1 May 2025

17.15-18.45

University of Fribourg, Miséricorde, Room Jäggi (MIS 4112), Avenue de l'Europe 20

- On 10 April 2024 the European Parliament adopted the package of ten legislative instruments, which partly make up the so-called New Pact on Migration and Asylum and which will reform the existing EU migration and asylum law framework. The aim of this lecture is to discuss the main novelties of the adopted acts, with a particular focus on border and screening procedures, instrumentalization of migrants and further externalization of EU migration and asylum policies. It will be considered whether the newly adopted acts respond to the current challenges and whether they will manage to ensure efficient and human rights-compliant practices.
- Prof. Dr. Iris Goldner Lang is a Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law, head of the Department of European Public Law and Vice Dean at the University of Zagreb – Faculty of Law. She is the holder of the UNESCO Chair on Free Movement of Persons, Migration and Inter-Cultural Dialogue and a partner in the Volkswagen Foundation project “Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees” and in the Horizon project “Protecting Irregular Migrants in Europe”. She is the president of the Croatian Society for European Law; Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of European Law (ERA); member of the Odysseus Network; and member of the Editorial Boards of the Croatian Yearbook of European Law and Policy and of the European Foreign Affairs Review.

Allgemeine Informationen | Informations générales

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