

Constitutionalism and Populism

Convener: Alon Harel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem/ Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin) and Kolja Möller (University of Bremen)

This conference will examine the relations between the drafting and the interpretation of constitutions and the emergence of populism. To what extent can constitutions be resilient to populist pressures? Can constitutions constrain populist governments? Can constitutions be used to promote populist leaders or governments? How can, if at all, constitutions be designed to address and constrain populist leader?

We will examine these questions both at the theoretical level and at the concrete level. We will examine the rise of populism as such and the interaction between populist politics, the drafting of constitutions and their interpretation. To do so, some of the lectures will be devoted to examining the processes in particular jurisdictions in Eastern Europe and in the Islamic world.

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Session I

10:00-11:15 a.m.

Kolja Möller (University of Bremen): *The people's un-will: Populism, Popular Sovereignty and Contestatory Politics.*

11:30 a.m. -12:45 p.m.

Alon Harel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem/ Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin): *Populism, Elitism and Private Reason.*

12:45-14:00: Lunch

Session II

14:00-15:15 p.m.

Paul Blokker (University of Bologna): *Populist Understandings of Law, Rights, and Constitutionalism.*

15:30-16:45 p.m.

Mila Versteeg (Columbia University): *An Empirical Outlook at Constitutional Crises.*

17:00-18:15 p.m.

Mattias Kumm (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin): *Is Democracy in Tension with Constitutionalism? Rereading Carl Schmitt and Hans Kelsen in Light of Populist Challenges.*

18:15 p.m.: Dinner

Friday, February 28, 2020

Session III

10:00-11:15 a.m.

Zaid Al-Ali (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin): *Populism in the Arab region.*

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Kriszta Kovács (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Center of Global Constitutionalism):
Anti-Constitutionalist National Identity: The East-Central European Experience.

12:45-14:00 p.m.: Lunch

Session IV

14:00-15:15 p.m.

Christoph Grabenwarter (Constitutional Court, Austria): *Resilience of Constitutional Justice in Times of Populism.*

15:30-16:45 p.m.

Dieter Grimm (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/ Former Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court): *Packing or Curbing? How to Paralyze a Constitutional Court.*

Venue:

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

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