

Announcement and Call for papers:

East meets West: A Gendered view of legal tradition

The 6th conference of the international research network

"Gender Differences in the History of European Legal cultures"

on

March 10th - 12th, 2011

at The Central European University, Budapest

Organizing Institution:

Central European University,

Department of Gender Studies

Department of History

Department of Legal Studies

Department of Medieval Studies

Organizing committee:

Dr. phil., Grethe Jacobsen, Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark; gja@kb.dk

Prof. em., Dr. Dr. h.c. Heide Wunder, Bad Nauheim, Germany; dhwunder@t-online.de

Dr. Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary; jaritzg@ceu.hu

Conference language: English

Economics:

The conference is free, though registration is required. The Central European University (CEU) will provide coffee and tea. Lunches, dinners, accommodation and travels will be on the participants' own expense, but the CEU can offer cheap accommodation in its dorm or assist in finding inexpensive hotels near the University. For more info contact Annabella Pal
http://medievalstudies.ceu.hu/profiles/staff/annabella_pal

See also the website of the network: <http://www.gendered-legal-cultures.de/>

Call for papers, workshop presentations and panels:

Geographical frame: a global perspective with a basis in European legal cultures and with a special focus on Eastern Europe

Chronological frame: From the Early Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century

Themes

- 1) Gendered Legal Cultures: Theories and Methods
- 2) Gender, Community and Law
 - property rights and economic influence
 - gendered work roles and guild membership
 - labour movements and the state
- 3) Migration and competing legal cultures – towards a global perspective

Presentation of themes may take the form of papers, workshop presentations or panel discussions. It is important that there is plenty of room for discussion.

Submissions may be received as:

- Individual papers
- Collective papers (2-4 persons)
- Presentations of upcoming and ongoing projects (by individuals or groups)

Deadlines:

- Abstracts to be submitted before December 15th, 2010, to one of the members of the organizing committee
- Responses will be sent out by organizing committee by January 2011.

Background:

The European network was founded at a conference entitled 'gender difference in European law/Geschlechterdifferenz in europäischen Recht' held at the Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte, Frankfurt, Germany, in February 2000 and organized by Heide Wunder, then professor at Kassel University. The network was named "Geschlechterdifferenz in europäischen Rechtskreisen / Gender differences in European legal cultures" at first but has since changed name to the international network "Gender Differences in the History of European Legal Cultures".

The first conference has since been followed by four conferences held around Europe. The second conference took place at the Centro per gli studi storici italo-germanici, University of Trent, Italy, in October 2002, under the title 'Il costo delle nozze/der Preis des Heiratsens' and organized by professors Silvana Seidel Menchi and Diego Quaglioni. At the closing of this conference the theme of the third conference was agreed to be 'Less Favored – More Favored: Gender in European Legal History, 12th – 19th Centuries / Benachteiligt – begünstigt: Geschlecht in der Europäischen Rechtsgeschichte, 12. – 19. Jahrhundert.' This conference took place at the Royal Library, Copenhagen, in September 2004 and was organized by dr. phil. Grethe Jacobsen, professor Inger Dübeck and (then) Ph.D. candidate Helle Vogt.¹ The fourth conference, at the Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Rethymno, Crete, in September 2006, had as its theme "Gender, family and property in legal theory and practice: The European perspective from the 10th to the 20th century' and

¹ The papers from this conference is available online as *Less Favored – More Favored: Proceedings from a Conference on Gender in European Legal History, 12th – 19th Centuries, September 2004 / Benachteiligt – begünstigt: Tagungsbericht einer Konferenz über Geschlecht in der Europäischen Rechtsgeschichte, 12. – 19. Jahrhundert, September 2004*. Edited by/herausgegeben von Grethe Jacobsen, Helle Vogt, Inger Dübeck, Heide Wunder. Det Kongelige Bibliotek, 2005 at http://www.kb.dk/da/publikationer/online/fund_og_forskning/less_more/index.html

was organized by professor Aglaia Kasdagli. At the conclusion of this conference the themes for the fifth conference was decided to be 1) Gender constructions in non-juridical discourses and their impact on jurisprudence and jurisdiction; 2) Comparing legal cultures: Differences and similarities, concepts and methods; and 3) Gendered legal cultures in global perspective: Encounters and conflicts, transfers and interactions. The fifth conference was held in Frankfurt and organized by Dr. Karin Gottschalck, Goethe-University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It had as its title: "New Perspectives on Gender and Legal History: European Traditions and the Challenge of Global History".²

The network has its roots in the current flowering, often gendered, research in European Legal history, found in several European countries. The organizers of the conference have been especially committed to bring together young scholars and established scholars from all areas of Europe in the hope that it will inspire them to include a gendered perspective in their research and also situating their work in a broad European context. The search for common traits across chronological and geographical borders will also reveal which local features are unique and therefore of general interest. As can be seen from the places where the conferences have been held, the network has moved across Europe and away from Western Europe, which traditionally has been the focus for much legal history. The papers from the conferences has covered topics in European legal history ranging in time form the Early Middle Ages to the 20th century, and geographically from Iceland to Turkey. A few papers have dealt with Baltic and Eastern European legal history. However, much more awareness of this research is needed and the organizers expect that by placing the next conference in Budapest we will attract papers as well as scholars dealing with these topics.

² The papers from this conference will be published in late 2010 or early 2011.