

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
CRIME, SECURITY AND LAW



**LEGAL
HERMENEUTICS**

WORKSHOP

20-22 JULY 2023



Legal hermeneutics could be deemed a broader notion than just legal interpretation. When legal practitioners cope with the law, they often do much more than merely interpret it. Arguably, they engage in legal construction, apply the law to a case at hand, and exercise discretion. In this spirit, the workshop aims to take this more comprehensive perspective of legal hermeneutics seriously by inviting its participants to address these various hermeneutic activities in legal adjudication.

Program

Thursday, 20 July 2023

- 09:30 am–09:50 am** Welcome & Registration
- 09:50 am–10:00 am** **Introduction**
Prof. Dr. Ralf Poscher,
Max Planck Institute, Freiburg i. Br.
- 10:00 am–11:30 am** **1st lecture: A hermeneutical approach to hard cases**
Prof. Dr. Marcin Matczak, University of Warsaw
- 11:30 am–01:00 pm** **2nd lecture: Interpretation before interpretation**
Prof. Dr. Giorgio Pino, University of Roma Tre
- 01:00 pm–02:00 pm** *Lunch break*
- 02:00 pm–03:30 pm** **3rd lecture: Unpacking the concept of law-application**
Prof. Dr. Paolo Sandro, University of Leeds
- 03:30 pm–04:00 pm** *Coffee break*
- 04:00 pm–05:30 pm** **4th lecture: When does the law run out? Discretion, higher-order indeterminacy and authority**
Prof. Dr. Mathieu Carpentier,
University of Toulouse
- 08:00 pm** *Dinner*

Friday, 21 July 2023

- 10:00 am–11:30 am** **5th lecture: Meaning and legal meaning**
Prof. Dr. Ralf Poscher,
Max Planck Institute, Freiburg i. Br.
- 11:30 am–01:00 pm** **6th lecture: The politics of contract interpretation**
Prof. Dr. Prince Saprai,
University College London
- 01:00 pm–02:00 pm** *Lunch break*
- 02:00 pm–03:30 pm** **7th lecture: Experimental jurisprudence, the separability thesis and legal interpretation**
Prof. Dr. Izabela Skoczeń, Jagiellonian University
- 03:30 pm–04:00 pm** *Coffee break*
- 04:00 pm–06:00 pm** **8th lecture: The limits of legal interpretation**
Prof. Dr. Kevin Toh, University College London
Prof. Dr. Nicholas Allott, University of Oslo
- 06:00 pm–07:00 pm** *Dinner break*
- 07:00 pm–08:30 pm** **9th lecture: Dilemmas of discretion: Equity and mercy**
Prof. Dr. Gerald Postema,
University of North Carolina
- 08:30 pm–09:00 pm** Summary of the second-day discussion

Saturday, 22 July 2023

- 09:00 am–10:30 am** **10th lecture: Reasoning in character: Virtue, legal argumentation and judicial ethics**
Prof. Dr. Amalia Amaya,
University of Edinburgh
- 10:30 am–12:00 pm** **11th lecture: Epistemic evaluation and authoritative normativity**
Prof. Dr. David Plunkett,
Dartmouth College
- 12:00 pm–12:10 pm** **Closing words & Summary of the third-day discussion**
Prof. Dr. Kevin Toh,
University College London





Organization

Schedule: Thursday, 20 July 2023

09:30 am–open end

Friday, 21 July 2023

10:00 am–9:00 pm

Saturday, 22 July 2023

09:00 am–12:10 pm

Location:

**Max Planck Institute for the
Study of Crime, Security
and Law**

Fürstenbergstr. 19

79102 Freiburg

Germany

Seminar room



Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Ralf Poscher

Director of the Department of Public Law
of the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study
of Crime, Security and Law

Prof. Dr. Kevin Toh

Professor of Philosophy of Law at the
University College London – UCL

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