



## Winter School for Young Scholars

### Politics and Law – An Interdisciplinary Dialogue between Social and Legal Sciences

Berlin, 28 – 30 November 2019

Centre Marc Bloch, the Integrated Research Institute Law & Society, both Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies of the University of Oxford are welcoming applications for the first socio-legal Winter School for young scholars to be held in Berlin from 28 to 30 November 2019.

#### About the Winter School

Law and politics are inseparably intertwined. From a rule-of-law perspective, legal norms regulate public, and increasingly private, institutions as well as legislative and executive actions. In its function as an arbiter of the political realm, thus, law seeks to confirm or constrain politics and the political, its actors, actions, narratives and images. However, legal norms not only regulate political actions, but social and political actions are also the norms' precondition. One also must consider, thus, (legal) norms as socially and historically engrained in institutional settings, at times as the formal and informal "cultures of law". Here, the political character of law can be analysed through a "longue durée" perspective, taking the historicity of law and historic as well as contemporary battles over the meaning of law into account. The focus on law and politics is one that explicitly asks for questions of re-distribution in society: who benefits, who loses, who is harmed?

While jurisprudence holds on an institutional understanding of law and normativity, often focussing on "law in the books" and legal doctrine, social sciences such as history, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies and political sciences have a broader view by looking at the formation of law in political contexts as well as at its social function and development, sometimes lacking, however, a doctrinal understanding of positive law.

By combining the different academic perspectives on the implicit and explicit relationship between law and politics, the Winter School aims at shedding light on respective disciplinary blind spots, or questions not posed yet, in order to foster a dialogue on different methodological and theoretical approaches of socio-legal research. By switching perspectives and leaving the comfort zone of one's own academic subfield, participants will learn more about the

interdisciplinary potential of their work within the thematic realm of law and politics and, thus, how to fill the often evoked but rarely applied concept of interdisciplinarity with content.

The Winter School provides a space to discuss the participants' projects with fellow PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and renowned scholars of socio-legal research from different academic traditions (France, UK, Germany and the U.S.). Moreover, thematic, methodological and strategic academic topics are covered by workshops and panel discussions on interdisciplinary working on the relation of law and politics, the methodological challenges of socio-legal research and writing and publishing in an international context.

## **Applications**

PhD students from social and legal sciences as well as the humanities working theoretically and/or empirically or from the standpoint of legal doctrine on the politics and law nexus are invited to apply.

The application deadline is **1 September 2019**. Please submit your application by email to: [winterschool19@cmb.hu-berlin.de](mailto:winterschool19@cmb.hu-berlin.de).

Participants will be selected and informed by 15 September 2019. Please note that there will be a small quota of participants who are selected directly by the organising institutions.

All participants are asked to hand in a poster for the presentation at the Winter School by 1 November 2019.

The event will be conducted in English.

## **Your application should include**

- Letter of motivation (max. 1 page)
- Brief synopsis of your project (max. 1 page)
- CV, including a publication list if applicable (max. 2 pages)

## **Costs and Fees**

There are no application fees. Travel expenses will be refunded within the limits of our budget, accommodation for attendees not located in Berlin will be provided.

## **Contacts:**

- **Centre Marc Bloch, Franco-German Centre for Social Science Research:** Dr. Andrea Kretschmann ([kretschmann@cmb.hu-berlin.de](mailto:kretschmann@cmb.hu-berlin.de))
- **Integrated Research Institute Law & Society, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:** Valentin Feneberg ([valentin.feneberg@rewi.hu-berlin.de](mailto:valentin.feneberg@rewi.hu-berlin.de))
- **Centre for Socio-Legal Studies of the University of Oxford:** Dr. Bettina Lange ([bettina.lange@csls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bettina.lange@csls.ox.ac.uk))