

Call for proposals

Law as heritage Bordeaux, December 1-2, 2022

Symposium organized in the context of the Osmose research program on law and ICH (<https://dpc.hypotheses.org/le-projet-osmose/the-osmose-program>), with the support of the French ministry of Culture (Délégation à l'inspection, la recherche et l'innovation) and the patronage of the French Commission for UNESCO.

Research partners:

- Institut des Sciences sociales du politique (ISP, UMR 7220, ENS-Paris-Saclay, Université Paris Nanterre)
- Institut de recherche Montesquieu (IRM-eA7434), Université de Bordeaux
- Académie de la culture, Riga, Latvia

Conceptual note

The relationship between law and heritage may not be reduced to the tools by which the first (Law) protects the latter (heritage). Indeed, on the one hand, heritage law represents a research field well established in France, and on the other hand, a non-negligible number of works are dedicated to legal heritage. In a very schematic manner, we can distinguish three types of contemporary research that may be considered as apprehending law as heritage:

- The first type of research is interested in objects - tangible and intangible - in which law projects itself through centuries, such as the architecture of courthouses, allegorical representations of justice, or rituals that take place in courts, parliaments, or law faculties.
- The second type of research focuses on the intellectual heritage of lawyers in the long run: archives, libraries, and more generally all discursive forms that manifest and build legal cultures.
- The third type of research, which is truly more ancient, aim to historicise legal elements and observe how like monuments, they travel through time while being permanently reinvested.

This symposium has been designed against this rich intellectual context. Its originality resides in the fact that it does not intend to be a summing-up exercise on "legal heritage", who would pretend by the mediation of the concept of heritage of giving unity and coherence to works that are today scattered. The goal is different: more than legal heritage, the symposium means to tackle the process of the heritagization of law, which is to say, precisely how the heritage category and the tools to protect heritage are used in relationship with the law and legal objects.

The goal of the symposium is to map the diversity of references to the concept of "heritage" to attempt to apprehend at best this legal process in its complexity, by questioning at the same time the usefulness and the effects of these uses, and the broader perspective, by working on the intersections and relationships between law and heritage, striving to understand the product of the contact between these spheres, in terms of concepts, approaches, narrative, tangible realizations, or claims. In sum, it boils down to the analysis of what is revealed in the

institutionalization of law by thinking of the legal phenomenon through the inception of heritage.

Themes that may be broached during the symposium:

- The first theme would question the use or the concept of heritage as a means to claim - and sometimes secure - the protection of the legal phenomenon. In this context, attention will be paid to the recent intersection between law, legal objects, and intangible cultural heritage as it is defined in the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the ICH. An increasing number of institutions, practices, legal or judiciary customs have been recently officially recognized as ICH (water tribunals, fisheries...), the law is engaged in a process of heritagization

- The second theme could explore how Law becomes legal heritage, the objects - tangible and intangible - the fashion in which the law projects itself through centuries, claims heritage status, the places, the languages, the legal shapes that like monuments travel through time and are constantly reinvested.
- A third theme, more original, but also more difficult to grasp, seeks to discuss uses of the concept of "heritage" like a true concept capable of effectively depicting dynamics of the legal phenomenon in time. The concept of heritagization could especially offer an interesting addition if it is understood as a social construction and more especially as a process by which an element is depicted, lived and claimed as heritage.

Submission process

This call for proposals seeks to prepare a symposium that will take place on December 1-2, 2022, at the University of Bordeaux (France). It is addressed to researchers of all statuses and disciplines. Since the organizers wish to renew approaches, this call is open to young researchers - that should not hesitate to answer this call. Proposals (title and abstracts limited to 3000 characters with spaces) should be sent to all the organizers before April 30, 2022:

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