



Call for Papers: German Conference for Young PIL Scholars 2021

On **18 and 19 March 2021**, the third German Conference for Young Private International Law Scholars will be held at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. We are particularly happy that *Angelika Nußberger*, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, has agreed to deliver the keynote lecture of the conference. We are equally grateful to *Roxana Banu* (Queen Mary University of London), *Hans van Loon* (former Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law) and *Ralf Michaels* (Director of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law), who have agreed to participate in the concluding panel discussion. The theme of the conference is

IPR für eine bessere Welt: Vision – Realität – Irrweg? PIL for a better world: Vision – Reality – Aberration?

The provocative title aims to draw attention to the changing role of PIL and its potential to bring about societal change. A variety of issues may be addressed in this context.

For instance, we seek to cover the conflicting expectations towards a field of law which is supposedly neutral but is increasingly expected to achieve political goals. Some of the relevant questions could be:

- Should PIL be used to achieve societal change? What are the advantages and disadvantages of such an approach?
- Does such an approach amount to an unacceptable departure from the neutrality of PIL? Or could the often-quoted neutrality of PIL even be a (historical) misunderstanding?
- How does a "politicised" PIL affect projects of legal unification (EU, Hague Conference)? Could it even result in protectionist counter-movements?

If one assumes that PIL actually influences and/or should influence societal change, further questions regarding the nature of such influence can arise:

- How should we deal with divergent views regarding the question which kind of societal change is desirable?
- Can PIL shape foreign discourses by trying to "export" domestic legal concepts to other legal systems?
- Does PIL influence domestic values by incorporating foreign legal concepts into domestic law, be it in company law, family law or the law of obligations?

Moreover, specific issues could serve as examples of a changing role of PIL:

- Which role can PIL play in the context of migration and integration?
- To what extent can and should PIL promote or limit social diversity, e.g. with respect to modern family forms or gender identity?
- Is PIL a suitable tool to tackle climate change, promote equality or to enforce environmental and human rights standards?
- Does PIL delay or promote developments in the context of increasing digitalisation?



Finally, methodological developments could also be addressed:

- the enforcement of domestic values through overriding mandatory provisions, special public policy clauses or primarily applicable uniform or European law;
- attempts to increasingly apply public or regulatory law;
- the growing importance of international procedural law;
- the significance of the recognition principle under European law: Do ECJ decisions such as *Coman* potentially promote or, conversely, prevent further European integration? And which impact could an increased EU-integration have on third-country cases?

We are looking forward to contributions which take up the tension inherent in the theme of the conference. The issues mentioned here should merely be understood as suggestions and should by no means limit the scope of the topics. We deliberately apply a broad understanding of PIL, including questions of international procedural law, arbitration law as well as uniform law.

Formalities

Speakers are invited to present a short paper of approximately 20 minutes (either in German or English) which will later be published in a conference volume with Mohr Siebeck. The deadline for submission is **20 September 2020**. Please send your application to ipr-nachwuchstagung@mpipriv.de. The application should contain

- an **abstract** (no more than 800 words) in .pdf format which does not reveal the identity of the author(s), and
- a short **cover letter**, preferably directly in the e-mail, containing information about name and address of the author(s) and their institutional affiliation.

We are optimistic that the conference can be held as planned but are of course keeping an eye on the current Covid19 developments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ipr-nachwuchstagung@mpipriv.de. Further information can be found at <https://www.mpipriv.de/ipr-nachwuchstagung>. We are very much looking forward to your contributions. Best regards,

Konrad Duden

Christiane von Bary

Kristin Boosfeld

Florian Heindler

Nicola Kleinjohann

Tobias Lutzi

Alix Schulz

Christine Toman

Denise Wiedemann

Felix M. Wilke