

Precarious Constitutionalism: The Ambiguities of Liberal Orders and the Rise of Illiberalism in Central Europe and Latin America

Date: 12-13 October 2023

Location: Vila Lanna, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Conference Committee: Joachim von Puttkamer (University of Jena), Marta Bucholc (University of Warsaw), Michal Kopeček (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague), Ned Richardson-Little (University of Erfurt), Renáta Uitz (Central European University, Vienna-Budapest)

Sponsor: Volkswagen-Stiftung funded project “Towards Illiberal Constitutionalism in East Central Europe: Historical Analysis in Comparative and Transnational Frame/Perspective”

Hosted by the Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Centre for Ibero-American Studies (SIAS), Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague

Day I

Welcome and Registration (8:45)

Opening remarks (9:00)

Panel I: Illiberalism and Rights (9:15 – 11:00)

Moderator: Joachim von Puttkamer

P1: Adriane Sanctis de Brito, Luciana Silva Reis – Hacked Legality: Brazilian Democracy and the Authoritarian Appropriation of Rights

P2: Lourdes Peroni – Using Liberal Concepts to Advance Illiberalism? Human Rights Uses against Abortion in the Inter-American System

P3: Ned Richardson-Little – The Illiberal Rechtsstaat in Germany from the GDR to the Contemporary Far Right

Commentator: Jan Eckel

Keynote (11:10-12:30)

Helena Alviar García – Title TBA

Lunch (12:30-13:30)

Panel II: Transnational Illiberal Networks (13:30-15:30)

Moderator: Michal Kopeček

P1: Anemona Constantin – Building an Anti-liberal Consensus: Conservative Intellectuals and Transnational Networks. The Case of Center for European Renewal.

P2: José Manuel Morán Faúndes – The Third Neoconservative Wave in Latin America

P3: Angélica Peñas Defago – Disputes over Sexual and Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: An Analysis of Neoconservative Civil Society Coalitions at the Organisation of American States

Commentator: Raluca Grosescu

Panel III: The Role of Religion in Reimagining Constitutionalism and Democracy (16:00-18:00)

Moderator: Renáta Uitz

P1: Natasza Quelvennec – Challenging (Sexual) Democracy: Polish Lawyers Within a Transnational Conservative Network

P2: Carolina Cavalcanti Falcão – From Liberation to Charisma and Prosperity: Changes on the Secular Imagination and its Implications for Democracy in Brazil

P3: Ivo Gruev – Constitutional Ethnonationalism on the Rise: Traditional Religious Values before the Bulgarian Constitutional Court

Commentator: Dorjana Bojanovska Popovska

Dinner at Vila Lanna

Day II

Panel IV: Democratic Backsliding vs. Innovative Constitutionalism (9:00 – 11:00)

Moderator: Radek Buben

P1: Claudia Heiss – Citizen Participation and Constitution-making: the Case of Chile

P2: Javier Corrales – Intentional Polarization: The Strategic Use of Extremist Policies by Backsliding Presidents

P3: Venelin Ganev – The Rise of Illiberal Majoritarianism in Post-Accession Eastern Europe: A Schmittean Interpretation

Commentator: Marta Bucholtz

Keynote (11:10-12:30)

Paul Blokker: Illiberal Constitutionalism – A Tale of Historical Struggles over the Form of the Democratic Polity

Lunch (12:30 – 13:30)

Panel V – Historical Trajectories of Illiberalism (13:30-15:30)

Moderator: Jakub Szumski

P1: Anna Fruhstorfer – Autocratic Leadership and Constitutional Politics

P2: Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarin – Honor, Technology, and Labor: Fujimori, Uribe, & other Pioneers of Right-wing Populism in Latin America

P3: Sophie Lange – Anticommunism as Constitutional Founding Narrative of West-Germany and its Transformation post 1989

Commentator: Augustin Cosovschi

Panel VI – Authoritarianism, Illiberalism, and Memory (15:45-18:00)

Moderator: Naum Trajanovski

P1: Mateusz Mazzini – Pinochet Revisited: The Symbolic Role of the Dictatorship in Chile's Far Right Rhetoric during Constitutional Reform Process

P2: Ulad Belavusau – The Rise of Mnemonic Constitutionalism in Central and Eastern Europe

P3: Grażyna Baranowska – Protecting the good name of the nation as memory law

P4: Francesco Zavatti – Illiberal Entities as Communities of Remembrance: Celebrating Legionary Martyrdom in post-communist Romania

Commentator: Jenny Wüstenberg

Concluding Remarks (18:00)