

Reading seminar

Theories of Rights

Content presentation

The reading seminar Theories of Rights proposes an in-depth analysis of some of the key theoretical issues related to the concept of rights. Problems such as the conceptual structure of rights, their theoretical justification, the subjects of rights, among others, will be discussed on the basis of selected texts. Human rights, as a specific subgroup of rights, will also be critically discussed in light of some classical criticisms furnished against their mainstream understanding.

The seminars are open to students of all cycles of studies at the Faculty of Law, as well as to Erasmus students. The maximum number of participants is limited to 20. If applications exceed the number of places available, candidates will be selected considering the year of their studies (senior students will be favoured). In order to obtain 2 ECTS, participants will have to pass an oral exam at the end of the course.

The seminars, as well as all the reading materials, will be in English. A good command of the English is therefore a prerequisite for participation. Participants will be expected to read the materials before the beginning of each session.

Time and Place

The reading seminars will take place every Thursday from 17.00h till 19.30h, between October and November 2020. **All meetings will take place via Zoom** (participants will receive the corresponding link in due time).

Note: Exceptionally, the first session will take place on Friday, 2 October 2020, at 17.00h.

Course summary

1. Introductory session (2 October 2020)
- 2 – Rights function (I): will theories vs. interest theories (8 October 2020)
- 3 – Rights function (II): deontological vs. consequentialist approaches (15 October 2020)
- 4 – Subjects of rights (I): Introduction (22 October 2020)
- 5 – Subjects of rights (II): Animal rights (29 October 2020)
- 6 – Human rights (I): Introduction (5 November 2020)
- 7 – Human rights (II): An Institutional Account (12 November 2020)
- 8 – Human rights critique (I): Marxism (19 November 2020)
- 9 – Human rights critique (II): Feminist theories (26 November 2020)
- 10 – End-of-course exam (30 November 2020*)

* or at a later date to be agreed with the students.

About the lecturer

Matija Žgur graduated from law at the University of Ljubljana (2010) and received his Master degree from the University of Genoa (2013). He also holds a doctorate in human rights and legal philosophy from the Universities of Palermo and Girona (2017). He is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher in the field of legal philosophy at the Roma Tre University. Previously, he worked as an assistant and researcher at the University of Ljubljana and the University of Primorska. He is the co-editor of the journal for constitutional theory and philosophy of law - Revus. His research interests are in the fields of general theory of law, theory of administrative decision-making and human rights.