



CALL FOR PAPERS

European Society for Comparative Legal History

Fourth Biennial Conference

Gdańsk (Poland) 28 June – 1 July 2016

COMPARATIVE LEGAL HISTORY:

Culture, Identity and Legal Instrumentalism

The Organising Committee of the 4th Biennial Conference and the Executive Council of the European Society for Comparative Legal History are pleased to call for papers for the upcoming conference to be held on **28 June – 1 July 2016** at the **University of Gdańsk (Poland)** on: “Culture, Identity and Legal Instrumentalism”. The main theme picks up threads of thought from the earlier ESCLH conferences in Valencia (2010), Amsterdam (2012) and Macerata (2014). The conference will focus on the issue of law as an instrument of transforming reality in the individual cultural circles and sub-circles of Europe and the

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world. Papers addressing this theme are welcome, to be submitted before **15 November 2015** as explained below.

The conference seeks to understand the instrumentality of law through two broad themes. Law may be considered as an instrument either (1) through the prism of analysis of techniques (functional approach) or (2) of objectives (axiological approach).

Within the first approach, particularly welcome are those papers which address how legal problems are identified and their solutions developed, whether autonomously or by transplantation and subsequent adaptation.

Within the second approach, we welcome papers exploring how law can transform reality, especially as a tool of modernisation and/or as a means to shape and strengthen national identity or other goals defined through the prism of national interest.

Papers should be novel, properly researched and referenced. They should address the conference theme, exploring doctrinal, theoretical, cultural or methodological aspects of comparative legal history. The organisers particularly welcome addressing multiple cultures. This includes where a similar legal system functions in two different cultural circles as a result of *en masse* transplantation of foreign legal solutions and where a given homogeneous cultural circle has been divided and various legal systems function in its individual parts.

The conference organisers intend to publish a volume, drawing on the best papers presented at the conference as developed in line for publication.

Practical details:

1. To offer a paper, please send the title of their paper, a short abstract (of 200-400 (strict maximum) words) and a short CV (no more than 4 pages) by **15 November 2015** to the organizing committee, c/o Anna Klimaszewska, University of Gdańsk (anna.klimaszewska@prawo.ug.edu.pl) or Michał Gałędek, University of Gdańsk (michal.galedek@prawo.ug.edu.pl).
2. The presentations should be in English.
3. It is also possible to submit a complete proposal for one or more panels (3-4 papers for every panel).
4. The list of accepted papers will be announced by **6 December 2015**.

Shortly, a conference website will be launched with fuller details of the conference. For the moment, some transport and accommodation information follows.

Gdańsk is well-communicated city. Lech Walesa Airport, 10 km west of Gdańsk, is one of three most important international airports in Poland, effectively operating as a spare airport for Okęcie Airport in Warsaw. A new terminal opened ahead of the football competition, Euro 2012, offers frequent direct flights to London, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Rome and Berlin. The

major airlines flying into the airport include Lufthansa, SAS Scandinavian Airlines, AirBaltic, Air Berlin, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Swiss, TAP Portugal, and Poland's national carrier LOT. Additional low cost airlines operating to and from Gdańsk include Ryanair and Wizz Air.

A new train line linking the Pomeranian Metropolitan Area has recently opened and there are otherwise extensive road connections; it is about a 20 minute journey to Gdańsk, and Sopot and Gdynia are easily accessible as well. Gdańsk is linked to the Polish highway network by the A1 motorway (E75). You can also get to Gdańsk from Warsaw in around three hours on the Express InterCity Premium trains (or fly in around 40 minutes).

Gdańsk offers many accommodation possibilities ranging from five-star hotels, through elegant pensions in historical houses and private rooms to beds in youth and student hostels. For postgraduates the University of Gdansk offers cheaper accommodation in student dormitories.