

Video Conferences on Historical Issues

23.09.2021 - 24.09.2021

Treason. A conceptual and comparative history

Zoom

Chair: Professor Mark Cornwall / Dr André Johannes Krischer (University of Southampton; WWU Münster, EXC Religion and Politics)

‘Treason’ is a ubiquitous concept in human history, stretching from the ancient world through to the present day. While often thought of as an anachronistic term associated with past despotic governments, it is in fact very much alive in our contemporary world, not least through violent political rhetoric employed by populist leaders around the globe.

It is also the ultimate political crime in any state, requiring always the most severe penalties due to the threat to the state community. Yet despite this importance, treason has been surprisingly ignored in the academic scholarship of any discipline. For some periods of history there are indeed some case studies, for others there are none; conceptual or theoretical studies are few.

This online international conference aims to bridge these gaps by aiming ambitiously to create a global history of treason across the centuries.

Our themes cover the cultural representation of treason; treason in law; the practice and prosecution of the crime; and the impact and heritage of the subject. While our case studies hail from the ancient and modern eras and from all parts of the world, our purpose will be to make links and to assess ‘treason’ conceptually, teasing out the similarities or differences which have been created by a variety of regimes and political contexts.

More at: [Treason. A conceptual and comparative history - News - FHI - Online Journal der Rechtsgeschichte \(forhistiur.net\)](https://www.forhistiur.net/news/2021/09/23-treason-a-conceptual-and-comparative-history)

CAPTURED BY THE PAST: MONUMENTS. CONFLICTS. LAW

Online workshop: 21 January 2022

Deadline for applications: 25 September 2021

When the past is contested, the monuments are the first to fall. The memorial fever that started in Europe at the end of 1980s with the dismantling of communist symbols continues with the removal of monuments of historical figures tied to racial discrimination, slavery, and colonialism. Although these symbols all have different political contexts and belong to different historical epochs, the heated debates over them reflect a tectonic shift in historical narratives which released memories that were hitherto frozen. In some cases, profound disagreements about the monuments and the memorial policy behind them can cause a confrontation not only within one society but also between states (the so-called, 'memory wars').

The workshop 'CAPTURED BY THE PAST: MONUMENTS. CONFLICTS. LAW' aims to map the controversies around such monuments, as well as the memory conflicts and 'memory wars' of which these monuments are the symbols. Over the centuries, totalitarian regimes removed monuments they did not agree with. Should democracies then follow this path?

The organizers welcome research papers on any of the following topics:

- Monuments from the cultural heritage and human rights perspectives: is there a right to destroy?
- Monuments as government speech: what are the limits?
- Monuments and the rule of law: what are the legal standards for memory policies and public commemorative practices in a democracy?

The workshop is organized within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research project 'To Destroy or to Preserve? Monuments, Law and Democracy in Europe' (MELoDYE*) hosted by Ghent University.

How to apply

Scholars are invited to submit paper proposals (500–800 words) by 25 September 2021 to Alina.Cherviatsova@UGent.be.

Each proposal must include a short bio (max 200 words). Successful applicants will be notified by 30 September 2021.

The deadline for submitting drafts of papers (8.000-10.000 words) to be discussed during the workshop is 15 January 2022. Final papers are due 15 March 2022

Publication

The convenors will promote the publication of a revised version of the papers in a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal.

Convenors

Dr Alina Cherviatsova, Senior Researcher and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context, Human Rights Centre, Ghent University

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Source: <https://hrc.ugent.be/call-for-papers-captured-by-the-past/>