

Don't  
believe  
everything  
you think.



*We work for*  
**tomorrow**

[rewi.uni-graz.at](http://rewi.uni-graz.at)





SKATEN  
**FREEDOM**  
GESTATTET!

Gilt im gesamten  
Universitätsbereich!



# We work for tomorrow

Usually a publication like the one in your hands is not so intended to give an accurate account of affairs as they are, but rather to serve as a marketing tool; more 'ought' than 'is', a forum to present things as you want them to be rather than as they are. Not that this one is entirely different: Of course, we try to present ourselves in the best possible way (and yes: There are some things we don't share with our readers). But what is astonishing, and therefore perhaps even a bit unusual is to see (with some satisfaction), looking back at our activities, how far we, as a Faculty, have already succeeded in bringing 'ought' and 'is', aspiration and reality, together quite closely: To live up to our claim of being a Faculty that is eager to embrace an international perspective, of being a Faculty that is unequivocally open when it comes to interdisciplinarity, and thus a place where cross national and disciplinary borders meet challenges of our time. This makes us proud. And yet, we do not want to exaggerate:

There is still a long way ahead of us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for going on this journey with us, if only out of curiosity to see to which extent we have managed to reconcile aspiration and reality.



Vice-Dean **Bettina Nunner-Krautgasser** & Dean **Christoph Bezemek**

# Contents

**The State  
of the Law.  
A report**

**6**

**Graz:  
Our Homebase**

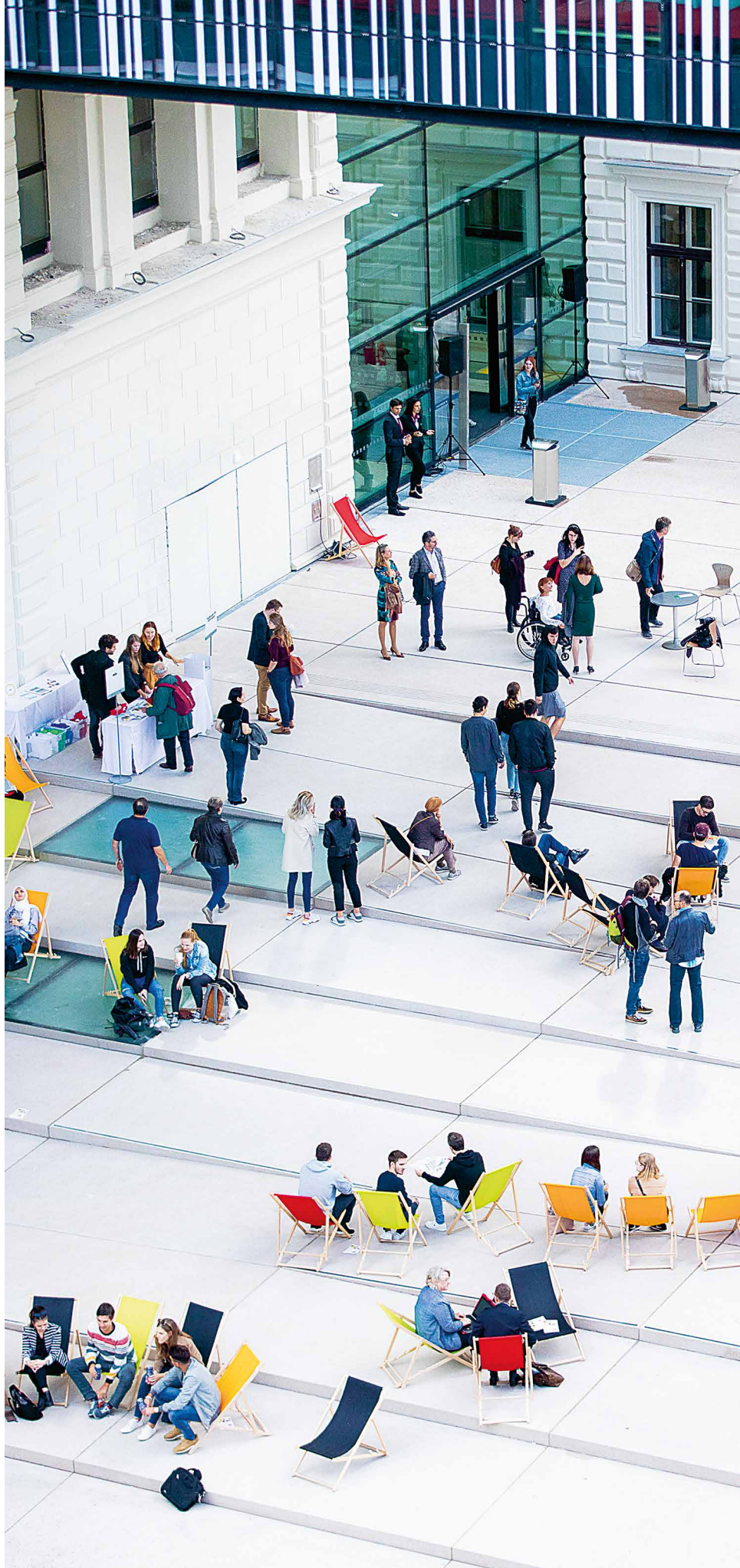
**10**

**Smart Regulation:  
What the Law Should  
Know about the Future**

**16**

**Climate and Law:  
Navigating the Great  
Transformation**

**20**





**22**  
**30** Thinking Law:  
**40** Recently Published

Dimensions of  
Europeanisation:  
What makes  
Europe tick?  
**24**

Our Research  
Centres: So Many  
Questions to ask  
**26**

Fellowships:  
Bringing the  
World to Graz  
**28**

Studying the Law:  
Excellence is an  
Attitude  
**32**

The Faculty:  
Facts & Figures  
**34**

Dean's Talk:  
Feed your Head  
**36**

The 'Resowi Centre':  
Caterpillar or  
Butterfly?  
**42**

Imprint  
**46**

# Rethinking Law



**For law to have a future, it needs curiosity and the courage to follow that curiosity. A report by Christoph Bezemek.**

## # Images

What does a lawyer do? The answer to the question will depend on whom you ask. If you were to ask those distant from the profession and its practice, you will get rather obvious answers: Lawyers work as attorneys, judges, maybe as notaries or as civil servants; in other words, in those fields that some like to refer to as ‘core legal professions’. If you were to ask those who have a close relationship to the profession, the answer is quite different (and, at first glance) a bit paradoxical. The profession does not exist, they will say, and ‘core professions’, if they are to be regarded as such at all, are, as it were, a cipher for a function lawyers perform pretty much everywhere in society: As bankers and entrepreneurs, as consultants and lobbyists, in politics, in leading positions in the public and private sectors, in the public administration, and in the private sector, as journalists and activists, as aid workers, as authors of children’s books, as start-up founders and anchor women. Lawyers, they would argue, do not play a certain and fixed field, but - on the contrary - have numerous (and numerous essential) functions. They form the constitutional backbone of every liberal democracy, guide and develop economic life, shape political processes, sharpen our perception of social change and accompany an ubiquitous innovation-driven dynamic that constantly confronts our community with new challenges. And they don’t do this in back rooms, but out there in the world. In Austria and elsewhere.

If one accepts this finding and the claim it embodies, the question posed at the beginning proves - depending on one’s point of view - to be unsuitable or irrelevant. This calls for a revision. From ‘What do lawyers do?’ to: ‘What makes (good) lawyers?’ And: ‘How can we as a Faculty of Law contribute to shaping these good lawyers?’

## # Size and proximity

The legal, economic, social and technical conditions under which legal practice in the broadest sense takes place are undergoing radical change. Much of what used to be legal work is being outsourced, much is being added. Boundaries of professional competence that used to be clear-cut are becoming blurred, as are the boundaries of the national legal system. Many things that were handled by lawyers years ago are now subject to automated processes that will increasingly shape everyday dealings with the law. In all of this, the number and complexity of legal norms are increasing, sometimes exponentially, with the result that no one can claim to know ‘the law’ (even if it is only the law of the Republic of Austria).

The conclusions we must draw from this are clear: On the one hand, we need an unconditional commitment to excellence in teaching, especially against the backdrop of the current challenges, and a Faculty that is large enough to be able to

comprehensively cover all areas, while not so large to be distant from its students. The Faculty of Law of the University of Graz underlines this commitment by way of a teaching award, which pays special tribute to special achievements. It is an award based on the vote of those who understand the most about excellence in teaching: our students.

### *# More than (mere) knowledge*

However, current challenges do not only shape how we teach, but what we teach: It cannot be the concern of an institution like ours to teach 'the law'. Not only because this is not possible (*ultra posse nemo obligatur*), but because this - even in a toned-down form - does not make sense. The mere transmission of knowledge in the field of jurisprudence is rather underwhelming in terms of the academic challenge it poses. It has to be. This is due to its subject matter. The law of a political community is subject to constant change and cannot exceed a certain degree of complexity, otherwise it would lose its functionality. And no one can want that. Accordingly, when studying law, knowledge transfer can only ever be the starting point but never the end of the mission. This holds all the more true in view of the dynamics mentioned above, which shape our time.

### *# A clear stance*

So what do we as a Faculty impart if we do not limit ourselves to imparting knowledge that may already be obsolete tomorrow? We convey an attitude. An attitude that can only be conveyed at an academic institution like the Faculty of Law at University of Graz. An attitude that goes beyond training in current law to impart capacities that are also constant in times of constant change. Doing so requires a rigorous claim to academic excellence, a broad foundation on which that claim rests, and a methodolo-

gical competence that allows it to be realised. But above all, it needs curiosity and the courage to follow that curiosity.

### *# A self-understanding of the self-evident*

But how do we do this effectively so that it is more than just lip service?

We point out to our students that the Faculty is a place where they are welcome, where they can be with each other, learn with and from each other. That may seem self-evident. But what is self-evident must also be reflected in our self-image and in the opportunities that are needed to live up to this self-image.

These possibilities must be constantly explored and optimised. We do this with the help of new diploma and master's programmes that reflect our Faculty's mission in the best way possible, but we also do it outside of our curricula: With a comprehensive mentoring programme that gives first-year students the opportunity to benefit personally from the experience of advanced students. Demand on both sides to participate in this program has been overwhelming. Our mentoring programme 'law:excel', an excellence initiative, provides sixty students with the opportunity to work in separate tracks on interdisciplinary, international or business-related topics.

### *# Beyond the border*

But we do not stop there. We are increasingly embracing interdisciplinary research; our core research areas 'Smart Regulation', 'Climate Change' and 'Dimensions of Europeanisation' bear witness to this. Here, our Faculty members work hand in hand with psychologists, philosophers, economists and climate change researchers, well aware that a plurality of perspectives is needed to meet the plurality of challenges of our time. We



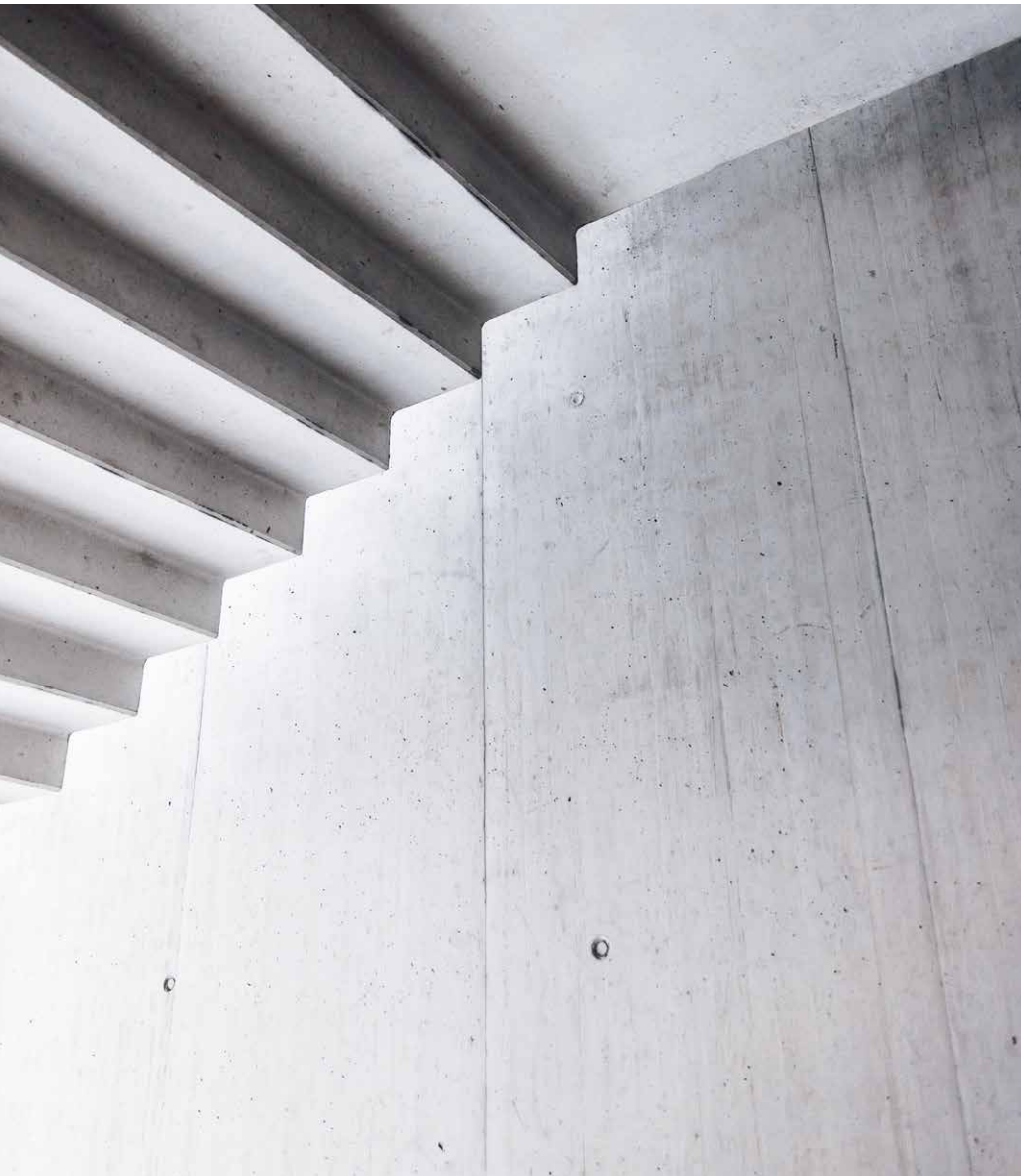
do what we do, however, not only in close cooperation with researchers at our University. The international network of our Faculty is becoming tighter by the day, both on a multilateral

level, as through the Faculty's accession to the ATLAS network of transnational law schools, and on a bilateral level with partner institutions that share our aspirations and values. In addition to existing cooperations throughout Europe, North America and Asia, new ones are added every year, for example in the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Of course, internationalisation does not only take place outside the doors of the Faculty. To ensure this, we have introduced fellowship programmes and launched Internationalisation@Re-wiGraz. Accompanied by the Faculty's Working Paper Series, which shares tomorrow's research with the wider public today, this ensures a constant and lively exchange with researchers from all over the world.

## *# Thinking Law*

All the activities outlined here are based on the firm conviction that the challenges lawyers, as well as legal academia as a whole, face in the 21st century are anything but small and that it is crucial to leave well-trodden paths if we want to meet them. Holding this conviction, we as a Faculty want to be

more than the preserver and mediator of legal knowledge. Together with our international partners, our researchers, our professors and students, we are concerned with nothing less than thinking law and shaping the future of law in the process.







# Necessarily Graz?

**The urge to combine the old with a contemporary wink is evident in Graz. Is it necessary to have been to Graz? Absolutely, if you ask us. Even if famed Austrian author Thomas Bernhard claimed the opposite. But he wasn't always right either. A portrait of a city that has more to offer than smart lawyers.**

Graz is often called the northernmost city of Italy. Geographically, of course, this is not true, as Graz is the second largest city of Austria with 300,000 inhabitants. Atmospherically, however, 'the Italian flair' can hardly be denied: Renaissance master builders influenced by the south make the city centre not only stunning to look at, but also a World Heritage Site. The climate is milder than elsewhere in Austria, which is why life also likes to move to the picturesque squares. And the people are much more charming than elsewhere

in Austria. And much more relaxed too. At least that's what the people of Graz say.

The largest population group in Graz is the 25-year-olds. This hardly comes as a surprise, given the 60,000 students enrolled at four universities, two universities of applied sciences and two teacher training colleges that shape the image of the city. These students are the backbone of a lively cultural and club scene, headed by the avant-garde festival 'steirischer herbst' and the electronic



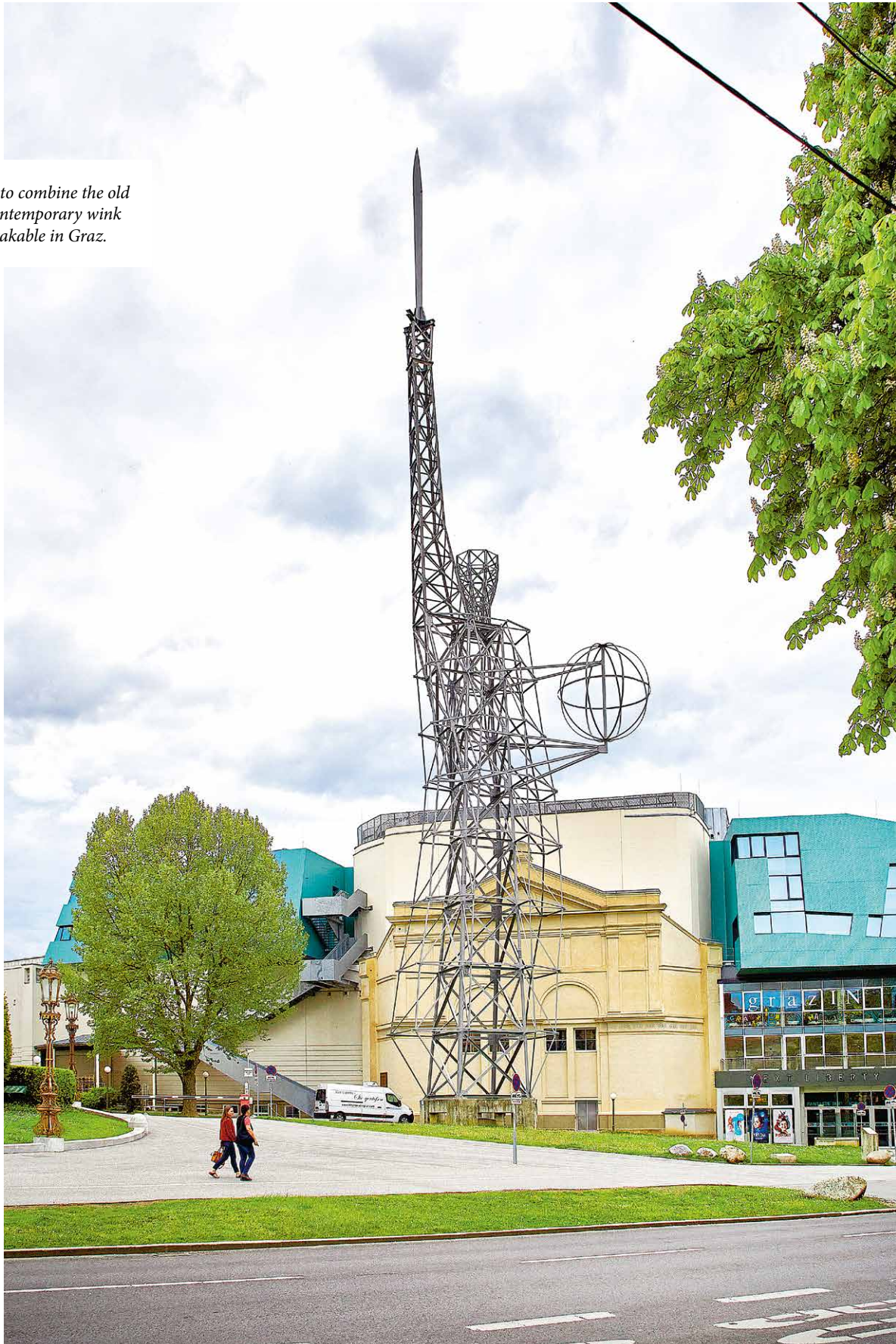
festival 'elevate'. Graz, thus, has its own claim to an 'urban' atmosphere. In the past, one would have said: A city, with everything that goes with it (and more). Of course: Cities that, like Graz, have to emphasise their 'urbanity', implicitly admit that there is still a need to catch up. And, indeed, it shines through in self-ascriptions, such as 'cosmopolitan city'. Graz has almost everything you can find in a cosmopolitan city, only on a much smaller scale: Graz combines a high cultural and cultivated standard with a charming, small-scale, sometimes quite cosy infrastructure. Of course, in this kind of 'cosmopolitanism' the line to the provincial is a fine one. And, evidently, one has to be

reproached for provincialism in perceiving one's own world view as God-given and the only valid one. This is said to have happened in the Styrian capital.

A look back: In the middle of the 19th century, retired civil servants and military personnel of the empire loved to move to Graz. Here it was possible to live cheaply on a high level. For all its provinciality, the city with its aristocratic palaces, churches and theatres still radiated the splendour of the inner-Austrian residence. 'In no other city can one find such homely streets, such beautifully tended grounds with tree greenery and meadow mats' wrote a poet around 1900. If he were to ex-

plore the so-called 'university quarter' around the campus of the University of Graz today, he would still find the 'homely'. For example, historic gas lanterns that still illuminate a villa-lined street. Or a newly renovated orangery of the biological institute. But it is not only buildings that are responsible for this charming note: As before, the lifestyle of an established bourgeoisie, which includes subscriptions to the Graz Opera, is held in high esteem in Graz. It is no coincidence that Thomas Bernhard has the professor say in his 'Heldenplatz': 'You don't have to have been to Graz.' Consequently, Graz could not rid itself of its reputation as a 'pensionopolis' for a long time. The

*The urge to combine the old with a contemporary wink is unmistakable in Graz.*





*Yodelling is allowed. Dirndl and Lederhosen have also become fashionable again in Graz after a long moratorium.*

reputation of the pensioner city coupled with a grievance deeply anchored in the city's subconscious - Napoleon failed in his siege of the fortress in 1809, but negotiated the demolition of the stately castle later on - led to a kind of urban inferiority complex. The tourism slogan 'Graz - the secret love' expressed this lack of self-confidence quite well before the turn of the millennium. This changed when the city received a wake-up call from Brussels in 2003: Graz became

European Capital of Culture. After an eventful, dynamic year, the Frankfurter Rundschau headlined: 'Since the Styrian capital in south-eastern Austria was proclaimed European Capital of Culture 2003, the pretty stepchild has moulted into a beauty queen.' The Neue Zürcher Zeitung added: 'Graz ticks wonderfully wrong!' And the London Times even says: 'Graz has embarked upon a programme of urban architecture that takes the breath away.' Only the Süddeutsche

Zeitung is more boulevardesque and alludes with 'Tu Bizeps Austria' to the only person from Graz who has (as of yet) become governor of California: Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Graz has moulted. Not least because eight centres of higher education, in addition to a prospering industry (in the automotive sector Graz is in demand worldwide with highly innovative leading companies), provide for the future.



'We work for tomorrow' is what the University of Graz has stood for since 1585, when it started with two faculties: Theology was to provide a new, reliable clergy and the Faculty of Arts was concerned with the teaching of the 'Seven Liberal Arts'. Today, 4,800 staff members teach and research here, and the wide-ranging offer of the University is taken up by 30,000 students. In keeping with the motto 'We work for tomorrow', the University

has dedicated itself to a number of highly relevant topics. The 100-strong Climate Change Graz research cluster, for example, is among the world's leading institutions when it comes to 'social transformation', the same may be said for other transdisciplinary units, such as BioHealth and Smart Regulation.

Not to mention the university campus, which charmingly demonstrates what

Joseph Schumpeter, Nobel Prize winner and once Dean of the Faculty of Law, would have said: 'Doing the old in a new way - that is innovation'. But we'd rather let the pictures on these pages do the talking.

Which brings us back to the beginning: Is it necessary to have been to Graz? Absolutely. After all. Missing out on Graz means missing out on a lot...

# What the law should know about the future



**The best way to predict the future is to shape it. This is exactly what the members of 'Smart Regulation' are focussing on.**

'Smart Regulation' is dedicated to research on technological, social and economic innovations: Digital data, robotics, Industry 4.0, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars or synthetic biotechnology are technological developments that bring about drastic changes in the existing legal, economic and social environment.

Researchers from four faculties of the University of Graz have therefore joined forces in 2019 to answer questions relating to intelligent regulation of novel and traditional problems from an interdisciplinary perspective across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

After all, fundamental questions need to be answered. How must legal rules evolve to reflect today's economic reality and

socio-technological innovations? Or: How do models of regulation and behaviour control shape and form modern societies? And: How can regulation positively develop our society in the digital age? Transparency is essential when looking for answers to questions of social relevance, and thus, for our common future. Smart Regulation research results are actively communicated beyond the boundaries of the University of Graz. This way, Smart Regulation generates theory- and evidence-based knowledge for science, practice and regulatory institutions from an interdisciplinary perspective.

We asked researchers: What does your research contribute to the future and to society?



*In interdisciplinary research teams (law, sociology, psychology, economics), we deal with the question of how law can guide human behaviour more effectively and increase its acceptance among the population. To achieve this goal we need a better understanding of human thought and behaviour and their social framework. Our current projects deal with consumer protection in online commerce, with shaping the energy transition through energy communities, as well as with the change in the legal framework for fair divorces.*

## **Brigitta Lurger**

Institute of Civil Law, Foreign Private Law and Private International Law





*My research is characterised by interdisciplinarity within the framework of the network 'Human Factor in Digital Transformation' and research projects (such as 'Learning Analytics'). My current research is focused on 'data ownership' (→ Sedcard 'Wem gehören meine Daten/Who owns my data'). Another part of my research focuses on the transfer of values and legal requirements into the design of IT products and services ('Values by Design'). The close cooperation of lawyers and IT specialists required for this is methodically tested in so-called 'legal labs'.*

**Elisabeth Staudegger**

Institute of the Foundations of Law



*What is artificial intelligence allowed to do? How safe, legally speaking, are new technologies? How trustworthy? These and related questions are asked by researchers in the Smart Regulation profile area. More than 50 experts from law, economics, psychology, philosophy and theology are working on regulatory approaches and forms that will shape our common future. Robotics, Industry 4.0, Telemedicine - Smart Regulation conducts interdisciplinary networked research on the use of new technologies in medicine, energy supply, banking or HR. This research addresses the opportunities and challenges of digitalisation and opens up regulatory technologies for the future.*

**Johannes Zollner**

Institute of Corporate and International Commercial Law, Speaker of the Field of Excellence Smart Regulation

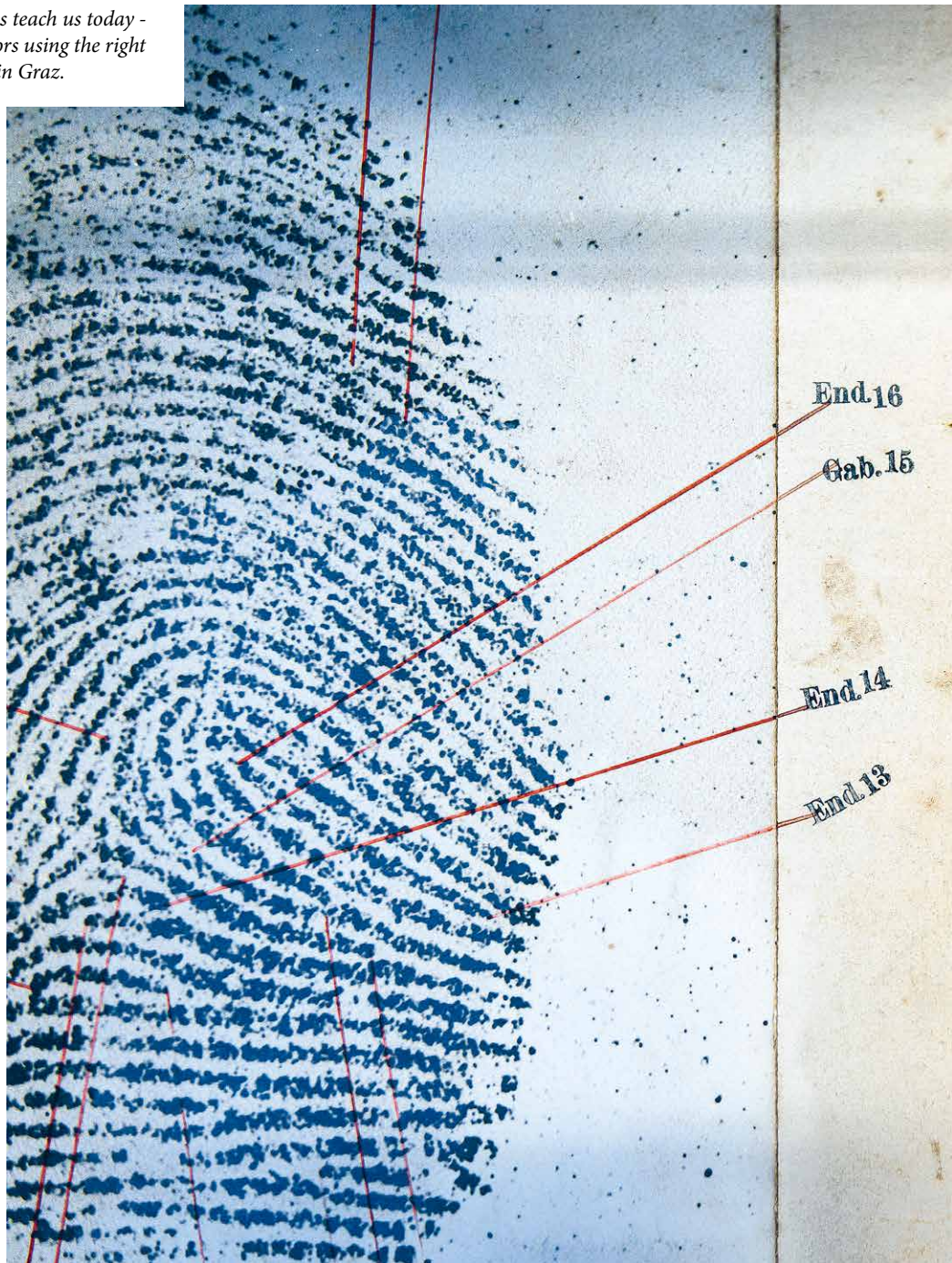


*Artificial intelligence technologies have disruptive effects on law, business and society. Due to the digital transformation, human decisions are increasingly being replaced by algorithmic processes. Legal, economic and political action, however, presupposes human responsibility, autonomy and rationality of decision-making principles. This makes intelligent rules that limit risks and enable progress all the more important. Because today's legal framework will determine tomorrow's society. In interdisciplinary research projects, we are therefore developing intelligent regulatory strategies to meaningfully integrate algorithmic systems into decision-making processes.*

**Matthias Wendland**

Institute of Corporate and International Commercial Law

*Modern criminology was founded in Graz when Hans Gross invented the 'crime scene case' around 1900. What CSI series teach us today - how to track down perpetrators using the right technical tools - has its roots in Graz.*





# Navigating the great transformation

**Not so long ago, people were still discussing whether and how climate change really is a thing. Now we know: It is about steering the 'great change' towards a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral future. This is what the 100 scientists of the Climate Change Cluster Graz are working on. And climate protection law plays an essential role in this.**

Climate change affects not only all areas of (our) life but that of future generations. Climate change law, thus, is particularly relevant to environmental and resource professionals, policy makers, government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. It is a critical area of law because it touches on social and economic opportunities, peoples, nations, continents, humanity, nature and the world as a whole in the context of climate justice. Since its beginnings, the international legal system of climate change has branched out into numerous areas and related processes for implementing climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation measures, making it basically relevant to all areas of national public law (constitutional, administrative,

criminal law, etc.), regional law (e.g. European Union law) and international public law (human rights, international trade, investment).

In addition, research at ClimLaw: Graz focuses on social impacts and the role of law in the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are essential for governments to demonstrate to the international community the specific commitments they have in addressing climate change.

Read here what contribution our scientists want to make to a cool future in the truest sense of the word:



*Climate policy faces an enormous challenge in the Anthropocene: climate neutrality of all systems in order to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees plus as soon as possible. Whether or not we can achieve such a 'cool future' depends on how we will think the law of the future. The current state of our regulatory system often does not live up to the challenges ahead. It is reactive, restrictive rather than liberating, not very experimental and evaluation-oriented. In this respect, new legal approaches and instruments are required. ClimLaw: Graz, the research centre on climate protection law of the Faculty of Law is dedicated to leading the way when it comes to defining those approaches and finding those instruments.*

**Oliver Ruppel**

Institute of Public Law and Political Science, Head of the ClimLaw Centre



*As an environmental lawyer with a special focus on climate protection and sustainability law, the future of our planet is at the centre of my academic research. Environmental law, thus, makes an essential contribution to ensuring the best possible quality of life for present and future generations. Climate crisis and air pollution, soil and water degradation, a loss in biodiversity and species extinction are just some of the central challenges ahead of us. However, environmental and climate protection law are also essential components of the new cross-sectional subject of sustainability law. I am pleased to shape this subject as co-editor of the Sustainability Law Journal.*

**Gerhard Schnedl**

Institute of Public Law and Political Science



*Climate change presents our society with major challenges that also require to rethink law. At ClimLaw: Graz, I am investigating how climate protection can become legally binding: Which legal devices must be employed in order to achieve the most comprehensive emission reductions possible? How can the transition to a climate-neutral economy and society succeed without disproportionately interfering with existing rights? Who can and should be able to sue for climate protection in the future? Only by improving the legal framework can we succeed in what Austria has committed to on the international level: The implementation of an ambitious climate protection policy to combat climate change.*

**Miriam Hofer**

Institute of Public Law and Political Science



*I teach climate protection energy law at the University of Graz, Montan-University Leoben and, as of 2020, at the University of Havana. My focus is on the green, decarbonised energy system of the future (Green Smart Grid) from a legal perspective. I have dedicated two books 'Energy Law' (2020) and 'European Energy Law' (2022) to the subject.*

**Renate Pirstner-Ebner**

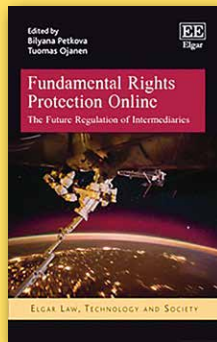
Institute of Public Law and Political Science



*Tina Ehrke-Rabel,  
Stefan Hammerl,  
Lily Zechner*

**Value Added Tax in a Digitalised World.**

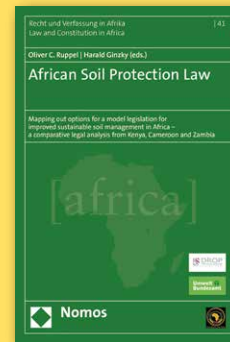
Just ordered a bargain on the internet, streaming music on the side and checking out a ride for later on an app... People grow up with it nowadays. For many, however, it is a whole new world that seemed utopian until recently. Legal regulations – oftentimes – did not have such digital businesses in mind. Tina Ehrke-Rabel, Stefan Hammerl and Lily Zechner shed light on how digitalisation challenges VAT law and what answers it has in ‘VAT in a digitalised world’. Their research deals with many practical problems as well as enforcement and the question of data as remuneration.



*Bilyana Petkova*

**Fundamental Rights Protection Online.** The Future Regulation of Intermediaries.

‘Fundamental Rights Protection Online’ co-edited by Bilyana Petkova is an in-depth study of national, supra-national and international attempts at online speech regulation, illustrating how the law has been unsettled on how to treat intermediaries. Expert contributors explore how problems ranging from disinformation to hate speech to copyright violations are tackled through legislation, codes of conduct and judicial interpretation. Chapters also discuss positive law developments in the intersection of intermediary liability and rights, the e-Commerce Directive, the European Court of Human Rights’ case law, UN principles and how the EU and individual European states regulate speech online.



*Oliver Ruppel*

**African Soil Protection Law.** Law and Constitution in Africa.

Soil protection and a sound management of soils are essential for sustainable development, food security and the survival of humankind. Africa experiences the smallest land degradation of all continents, yet as a result of poverty, over-exploitation, population growth and climate change the pressure on soils has become enormous and is continuously increasing. ‘African Soil Protection Law’, co-edited by Oliver Ruppel, takes a comparative look at the underlying legal, societal and political conditions in Africa, includes reports on Kenya, Cameroon and Zambia that serve to expose serious impediments of soil on the continent and maps out options for model legislation for a sustainable soil management.



*Barbara Gunacker-Slawitsch*

### **Ex Officio Action and Cooperation in Tax Proceedings.**

Digitalisation creates new opportunities for taxpayers, but also poses a challenge to tax enforcement that requires a readjustment of the principles governing procedural law, taking into account international developments or behavioural science findings. In ‘Amtswegigkeit und Mitwirkung im Abgabenverfahren’ (Ex Officio Action and Cooperation in Tax Proceedings), Barbara Gunacker-Slawitsch deals with the interrelation of official investigation and individual cooperation in the investigation of the tax facts and how challenges can be overcome without restricting the freedom of the individual more than necessary in a democratic constitutional state.



*Matthias Klatt*

### **Balancing Rights and Interests. Reconstructing the Asymmetry Thesis.**

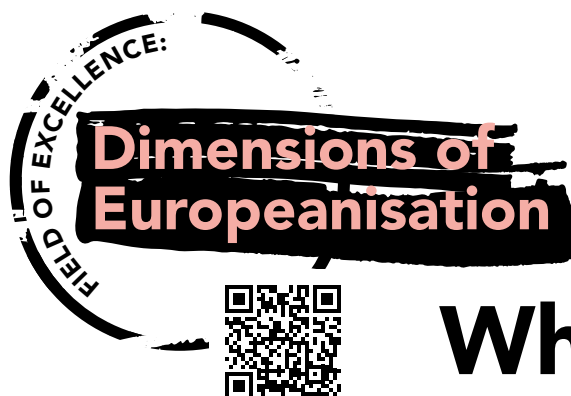
Renowned scholars have argued that the proportionality test’s last step, i.e. balancing, is subject to a significant asymmetry. While we could balance interests against each other, we could not do so with rights, lest we destroy their unique normative status. If this asymmetry exists, the applicability of balancing would be considerably limited. In the article ‘Balancing Rights and Interests. Reconstructing the Asymmetry Thesis’, published in the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Matthias Klatt analyses the asymmetry thesis, discusses its merits and weaknesses and demonstrates how the rationale behind the asymmetry thesis can be accommodated within the principles theory’s account of balancing.



*Viktoria Robertson*

### **Competition Law in Austria.**

‘Competition Law in Austria’ by Viktoria Robertson is a practical analysis of competition law and its interpretation in Austria that covers every aspect of the subject: The various forms of restrictive agreements and abuse of dominance prohibited by law and the rules on merger control; tests of illegality; filing obligations; administrative investigation and enforcement procedures before the Cartel Court; civil remedies and criminal penalties; raising challenges to Cartel Court decisions. Its succinct yet scholarly nature, as well as the practical quality of the information it provides, make this book a valuable time-saving tool for business and legal professionals, academics and researchers alike.



# What makes Europe tick?

**Once again, we have been dramatically shown how important the 'idea of Europe' is. Of course, the topic has a deep-rooted tradition at the University of Graz. Our research cluster 'Dimensions of Europeanisation' deals intensively with social transformation processes in South Eastern Europe.**

After years of intensive cooperation with the regions of South Eastern Europe, the University of Graz was the first university in the German-speaking world to establish a university-wide focus on 'South-Eastern Europe'.

'Dimensions of Europeanisation' deals with social transformation processes in the past and present. The changing discourses on Europe as well as the transfer of concepts, values and ideas are analysed. These developments can be shown particularly well in South Eastern Europe, where 'Europeanisation' presents itself as a complex, historically evolved process, and can be compared those in other regions. The excellent knowledge of both the needs and the immense potential of the Southeast European region has been an important precursor for the vision of pan-European integration

for decades. 'Dimensions of Europeanisation' therefore deals with transformation processes in which concepts, values and ideas are carried from a centre assumed to be hegemonic to the periphery.

The research conducted by its members examines both how developments and objectives of a centre are transported to peripheral regions and what effects this produces there, and what counteracting effects on the centre emanate from the periphery. Relevant dimensions in this context are politics, economy, culture and social coexistence, that also imply a critical reflection on the terms 'centre' and 'periphery' as well as the further development of theoretical concepts and empirical methods for the representation and analysis of social transformation processes.

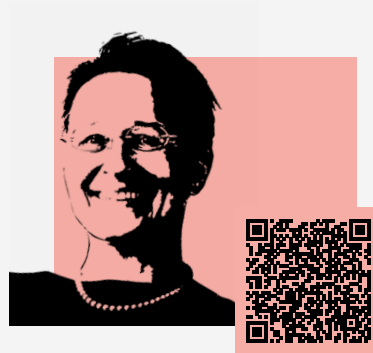




*Nationalism and authoritarianism are central features of the global crisis of democracy. From EU member states like Hungary to India or the US, illiberal and populist politicians use nationalism to gain power. How do authoritarian systems and nationalism work and how do they interact with European integration? The study of these systems, as well as the communication between the movements and politicians, is crucial to better understand their threat to democratic rule and thus to help overcome both the crisis of democracy and the crisis of European integration.*

**Florian Bieber**

Centre for Southeast European Studies



*Dealing with history in general and legal history in particular means not only to make the past visible in the present, but also to draw conclusions from it for the future. This applies, for example, in the field of my research on the ideas about a united Europe from the 14th century onwards. Although these ideas contain different approaches, they (did) follow one goal - peace in Europe. From this smorgasbord of ideas and the DNA of experiences from the two world wars, but also from the previous crises of the European integration process, a foundation for the EU was to be laid that still offers suggestions for future action.*

**Anita Ziegerhofer**

Institute of the Foundations of Law



*The Russian war of aggression in Ukraine was explained, among other things, on the grounds that the Russian minority living there should be freed from Ukrainian oppression. Even though Ukraine has passed laws in recent years to strengthen the Ukrainian language and push back Russian, this of course does not constitute a legitimate reason for a military attack. Of course - and fortunately - not all conflicts around the protection of national minorities escalate in such a way. But the example shows that research on minority issues and the protection against discrimination can point to ways in which peaceful coexistence on the European continent can succeed.*

**Emma Lantschner**

Centre for Southeast European Studies

# So Many Questions to ask Just as Many Answers

Strictly speaking, law, as an academic subject, raises the same questions that life asks us. The range of research topics is accordingly diverse: Here are a few more exciting questions that lawyers in Graz are asking themselves ...

## The **EUROPEAN TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ (UNI-ETC)**

is engaged in interdisciplinary research, teaching and science-to-public activities in the field of human rights. The Centre is a clearinghouse for human rights at the University of Graz, hosts the UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Human Security and cooperates with the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights in Communities and Regions, which is also under the auspices of UNESCO. In addition to participating in numerous projects, the Centre coordinates the interdisciplinary research cluster 'Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender' at the Faculty of Law, a corresponding interdisciplinary doctoral program and publishes the European Yearbook on Human Rights.

→ <https://trainingszentrum-menschenrechte.uni-graz.at/en/>

## The **CENTRE FOR AUSTRIAN AND EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION LAW AND GOVERNANCE (ZHR)**

was founded in October 2020 and is dedicated to researching fundamental and current issues of Austrian and European higher education law as well as higher education governance and management in an interdisciplinary and thematically broad perspective

→ <https://hochschulrecht.uni-graz.at/en/>

## The **CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN PRIVATE LAW (CEP)**

focuses on private law issues in a cross-border context, particularly in the areas of tort law, insurance law, consumer protection, commercial law, corporations, choice of law and civil procedure law. The Centre closely cooperates with the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL) and the Institute for European Tort Law (ESR/ETL) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The Centre offers a doctoral programme in European Tort Law.

→ <https://zentrum-europaeisches-privatrecht.uni-graz.at/en/>



The **CENTRE FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN LAW (ZOR)** focuses on comparative constitutional and public law and the law of international human rights protection with a special emphasis on Eurasian studies. The Centre is involved in a number of projects and activities, including the publication of a treatise on the Russian Constitution and a multi-volume Handbook on Ukrainian Administrative Law.

→ <https://zentrum-osteuropaeisches-recht.uni-graz.at/en/>



The **CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN STUDIES (ZSOES)** is an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty institution founded with the aim of providing space for the diverse teaching and research activities at the University on and with Southeastern Europe and to promote interdisciplinary cooperation. The ZSOES publishes a peer-reviewed open access online journal 'Contemporary Southeastern Europe' and a book series 'Southeast European Studies' with Routledge. It also runs a Visiting Fellow Programme, in which over 60 fellows have participated to date. The policy and research blogs also encourage its researchers to contribute regularly to public activities. The Centre has initiated the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) in cooperation with the European Fund for the Balkans. BiEPAG is a platform for bringing together the political and development actors of the Western Balkans and the institutions and branches of the European Union and the governments of its member countries on the other side.

→ <https://suedosteuropa.uni-graz.at/en/>





# How we bring the world to Graz

**It's one thing to set out to 'act globally', it's another to do it: With the Fellowship Programme for ambitious young scientists and outstanding international researchers, we bring the world to Graz.**

Fellows are given the opportunity to gain experience in an international academic environment and to benefit from the excellent know-how of the Faculty while living in the 'Knowledge City Graz', which offers a high quality of life and a dynamic as well as scientifically and culturally vibrant environment.

In the academic year 2021/22, six fellows conducted research at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz in a wide variety of subject areas.

We asked two of these researchers to report on their experiences:

**Alon Harel**, from Hebrew University, was the first Dean's Fellow. Alon works in the field of normative political theory and examines the foundations of the authority of the state and its rights and

duties. In his book 'Why Law Matters', he presents law not only as a means but as an end. More specifically, he writes about the expediency of various legal institutions and procedures and examines the nature of law, the legitimacy of privatisation, the defensibility of constitutions and judicial review.

**Cara Warmuth** was given the opportunity by the Province of Styria to conduct research in the profile area Smart Regulation on 'Artificial Intelligence for Judicial Decision Making'.

## What did you learn at the University of Graz?

*Alon Harel:* I have had many conversations on academic issues. However, from the conference I attended, I lear-

ned a lot not only about constitutional law, but also about the kind of dynamics that characterise engaged students and, in particular, how to create an environment conducive to scholarly discourse.

*Cara Warmuth:* At the University of Graz, I learned how a modern and innovative Faculty works. I found that very impressive. In particular, I experienced the networking aspect as profitable, on two levels:

Firstly, I met many academics working at the Faculty and the University. I discussed my thesis and results with them and took away many helpful suggestions. It is an exchange that gives many new impulses. In this respect, I think that my research benefits greatly from this exchange. This is especially true for everything I took away and learned from



Joseph Alois SCHUMPETER  
(1883-1950)

*Joseph Schumpeter (1883-1950) was appointed Professor of political economy at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the Karl Franzens University in Graz on 30 October 1911.*

*Schumpeter's Graz period, which was to last formally until 1922, was characterised by intensive teaching and research activities. Schumpeter produced a number of his most important works during the Graz years. In 1916/17 he was Dean of the Faculty.*

Smart Regulation in the fields of law, technology and sociology.

Secondly, I experienced how close the network with the legal profession is. This gave me first-hand insights into the application of artificial intelligence in judicial and legal practice.

### **What can the University of Graz learn from you?**

*Cara Warmuth:* This is a big question. I would be very happy if I could interest one or two people in my research on the intersections of law and psychology.

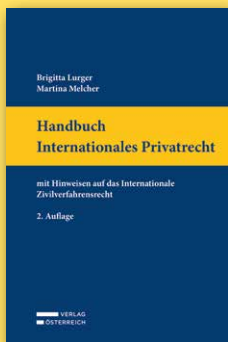
My empirical studies with civil court judges in Germany have shown that appellate judges are irrationally guided by the judgements of their colleagues at the trial court level. This can lead to a confirmation bias that is legally

and politically undesirable. Now, one might think that algorithms would help to solve precisely these distortions of judgement. But the opposite is the case: Artificial intelligence, which has been used to date for decision-making in the legal or medical context, also shows biases in its judgment - because it only replicates what is fed to it as data material. It is important for our procedural law that we address these problems and create a legal framework for artificial intelligence applications to actually improve the quality of justice.

*Alon Harel:* I grew up in an Anglo-American academic environment. The interaction I had in Graz was valuable at least partly because of the relation of the two traditions, and I hope I left a mark on the intellectual life of Graz.

### **What do you tell about Graz at your home university?**

*Alon Harel:* There are many great things about the Faculty of Law that I want to share with the people at my home University. I was particularly impressed by the group of doctoral students who are dedicated to academic work and at the same time maintain friendly relationships. I was lucky enough to meet the doctoral group several times. These encounters were invaluable to me.



Brigitta Lurger,  
Martina Melcher

### Handbook of Private International Law.

The internet, the globalised economy and society and, last but not least, the EU internal market with its more than 27 different private law systems have made private international law and international civil procedure law a central subject when it comes to private legal proceedings that have a foreign element. Brigitta Lurger's and Martina Melcher's 'Handbook of Private International Law' is the only comprehensive and up-to-date monograph in Austria on the subject. The book is designed as a work of reference for practitioners, clarifying the often-complicated application of the law with a wealth of cases and literature.



Lorin-Johannes Wagner

### Member State Nationality under EU law – To be or not to be a Union Citizen?

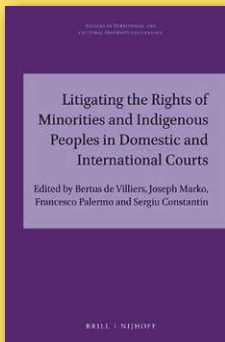
Who ought to be regarded as a citizen of the EU? This question is central but not quite easy to answer. In 'Member State nationality under EU law' Lorin-Johannes Wagner analyses the European Court of Justice's case law and the underlying constitutional set up of EU citizenship. He concludes that the notion of nationality in EU law is based on the idea of a genuine link and a territorial link with the EU. So what about EU member states that define their nationality differently? Against the backdrop of cases from Germany, the UK, Denmark and Latvia the article published in the Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law reveals intriguing insights into the prerequisites of EU citizenship.



Thomas Schoditsch

### Equality and Diversity in Family Law.

Family law is a gateway for fundamental rights values. In 'Equality and Diversity in Family Law', Thomas Schoditsch examines the significance of fundamental rights conflicts and the enforceability of fundamental rights for family law. Using the example of registered partnerships, the limits to unequal treatment under the law based on personal characteristics - such as sexual orientation, gender or religion - are shown. In addition, solutions are proposed for current family law issues such as the future of 'marriage for all', the scope of private autonomy in marriage, child support under the dual residence model or the collision of parental and children's rights.



*Joseph Marko*

### **Litigating the Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Domestic and International Courts.**

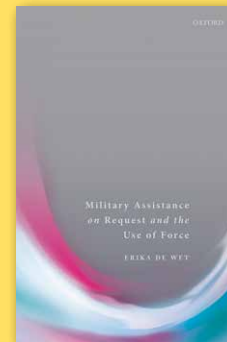
Trend-setting judgments from all over the world that impacted the rights of persons belonging to minorities and indigenous people are discussed in 'Litigating the Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Domestic and International Courts'. In this book co-edited by Joseph Marko authors from various backgrounds investigate the role of the judiciary in constitutional arrangements aimed at the protection of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. Cases illustrate how the judiciary was called upon to fill out the detail of minority protection arrangements and how it, in many instances, has taken the respective countries on a course that parliament may not have been able to navigate.



*Bernd Wieser*

### **Handbook of the Russian Constitution, Supplementary Volume.**

Russia was heading into a promising new era with the constitution that came into force in 1993. But in 2020, a comprehensive constitutional reform brought the turning point. A system made to measure for President Putin was installed. The supplement to the 'Handbook of the Russian Constitution' presents an overall analysis of the 2020 constitutional amendment with all its provisions according to the standards already set by the main work in 2014, scrutinises the complete jurisprudence of the Russian Constitutional Court to date and takes into account the entirety of the relevant literature published in Russian, English and German in the commentary.



*Erika de Wet*

### **Military Assistance on Request and the Use of Force.**

In the post-Cold War Era, requests for direct military assistance have proliferated across regions. Be it, e.g., Syria, Iraq, South Sudan or Yemen, internationally recognised governments approached other states or international organisations for military help. In 'Military Assistance on Request and the Use of Force', Erika de Wet examines the legal background shedding light on the question which authority may ask for or consent to direct military help, as well as the situations in which such assistance may be requested. Besides, the author systematically maps the post-Cold War practice of military assistance on request and how it has impacted on the rules governing the use of force.

# Excellence is an attitude



**Excellence does not mean being the best. It means bringing out the best in yourself. Around 40 students have taken up this challenge and decided to participate in the law:excel initiative.**

The Faculty of Law launched the programme in 2020, which offers prospective lawyers the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in three subject areas during their studies and beyond the 'core' of the curriculum. Depending on talent and interest, students can choose from the following tracks:

→ **International Track** with a focus on language proficiency, experience abroad and intercultural skills.

→ **Interdisciplinary Track**, with a focus on cross-disciplinary work, for example in the areas of Smart Regulation, Law & Economics, Climate Change.

→ **Business Law Track**, with a focus on economic competence, entrepreneurial thinking and practical experience.

The fundamental goal is for students to develop a deeper understanding of the interrelation of the different areas of law and their effects in society. By offering track-specific courses, stays abroad and networking events with experts and Faculty members, law:excel supports students in getting to know new perspectives and acquiring soft skills. In particular, the proximity to legal practice, which goes hand in hand with an eight-week internship in a law firm or a corporate legal department, prepares participants perfectly for professional life. This programme is also part of the larger mentoring programme in which first-year students are supervised by mentors from the higher semesters to ensure an optimal start to their studies.

Digitalisation, globalisation and climate change pose major challenges not only to society, but also to the law. Finding suitable solutions requires thinking in larger dimensions. More precisely, it requires the know-how of different disciplines as well as looking beyond national borders. Those who want to work in an interdisciplinary way and help shape the future choose law:excel. Six students report on their first experiences and the great potential of this programme:



## International Track

*The increasing global interdependence has different effects on society.*

*The 'International Track' is perfectly suited to better understand the consequences, whether negative or positive.*

**Oliver Klapsch**

*My demand on myself: To make use of all the possibilities offered at the Faculty. In this case, it is the participation in the excellence initiative, which is convincing due to the professional input and in-depth discussions with experts from different fields.*

**Karoline Kletzmayer**

## Interdisciplinary Track

*The opportunity to get involved intensively and discuss topics eye to eye with professors and other experts offers numerous opportunities for the future.*

**Christoph Schranz**

*All in all, it is the perfect opportunity to quench my thirst for knowledge, to think outside the box and to stand out from the crowd.*

**Catalina López Sánchez**

## Business Law Track

*The 'Business Law Track' enables students to broaden their own horizons.*

**Nina Borstnar**

*How would I describe the excellence initiative to my friends? It's a must if you want to get the most out of your law degree.*

**Oliver Kraus**

# Facts & Figures

The future is being created at our University. It is a place of constructive curiosity, and, thus, a place of possibilities. We examine yesterday with scholarly passion, we reflect on the present with a critical mind and we find solutions for tomorrow. This is only possible if we all give research and teaching the appropriate priority and actively work together to meet the challenges we face as a society.

<p><b>The University of Graz</b></p>	<p>... was founded in <b>1585</b>, is Austria's second oldest University and one of the largest Universities in the country</p>	<p>... has <b>6</b> faculties with <b>68</b> institutes and <b>25</b> centres as well as <b>13</b> inter-faculty centres</p>	<p>... employs a staff of <b>4,700</b> who share their research with around <b>30,000</b> students.</p>

<p><b>The Faculty of Law of the University of Graz</b></p>	<p>... was founded in <b>1778</b> and thus looks back on a tradition of almost <b>250</b> years</p>	<p>... offers more than <b>600</b> courses in German and English every year</p>	<p>... has <b>60.4</b> percent female students</p>
<p>... employs over <b>300</b> faculty members from all legal disciplines</p>	<p>... has more than <b>3,700</b> students</p>	<p>... has <b>9.2</b> percent international students</p>	

Diploma Programme	Doctoral Programme	PhD in Law and Politics	BA Programme in Business Law for Technical Professions
8 Semester	6 Semester	6 Semester	6 Semester
240 ECTs	180 ECTs	180 ECTs	180 ECTs
German	German / English	English	German
→ Mag. iur.	→ Dr. iur.	→ PhD	→ LL.B. oec.



331236127812371  
445151015201564  
2169417141718195917121963157315731694160  
31607177817811745181017881835158516021775



# Feed your head

**Bringing the world to Graz is very easy today. You invite people who have made smart contributions to the world and who enjoy sharing their knowledge. That is the philosophy of our 'Dean's Talk'. Here we are allowed to share some of their insights with our readers.**

*Dean's Talk with Peter Filzmaier or:*  
**Failing the Dean...**

Peter Filzmaier is one of All-Stars of Austrian politics, probably precisely because he is not a politician, but the country's most prominent political observer. But if you talk to someone like him about political disenchantment and populism, you shouldn't be surprised if everything gets a little out of hand (also in terms of time). In addition to numerous serious discussion points, the evening brought a conversation about our guest's favourite film or his (understandable) fashion preference for University of Graz ties and a new experience for Dean Bezemek: Some of his assessments on party and political disenchantment have not been valid for quite some time now, Filzmaier said. Had the talk been an exam, he would have been graded 'F' for this. Bezemek took it (rather) stoically.

*Dean's Talk with Bertil Oder:*  
**A community under pressure**

Bertil Oder, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Koç University, was quite critical of the political and constitutional situation in Turkey: The failed coup attempt had further narrowed civil society's breathing space. The pressure on institutions is increasing and their representatives are increasingly turned from actors into pawns of the ongoing conflict. The responsibility and task of jurisprudence and legal scholars could hardly be greater at this time.

*Dean's Talk* with Erwin Wurm and Alfred Noll or:  
**Law (as) an(d) Art**

What happens when you pair one of the world's most celebrated artists from Austria with one of Austria's most renowned lawyers in the field of law and art in an interview? Of course: An exciting conversation on the value and essence of art and artistic freedom, but also some revealing communication difficulties, which were not only due to technical failures. The Dean was quite busy trying to reconcile the art of law and the law of art.

*Dean's Talk* with Jaime Olaiz or:  
**Gracias, Hermano!**

With Jaime Olaiz, research Professor for International Law at the Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City, Dean Bezemek had the pleasure of welcoming an old friend to his Dean's Talk. What followed was not a casual chat, but an exciting conversation about AMLO, populism from the left and right in North and Latin America and the challenging domestic and foreign policy situation in which Mexico finds itself: Gracias, Hermano!

*Dean's Talk* with Akiko Ejima or:  
**Similar but different**

The Dean's Talk with Akiko Ejima, Professor of Constitutional Law at Meji University in Tokyo, was the one with the biggest time difference. However, Dean Bezemek and his guest did not seem that far apart in a discussion about the rule of law, the value of consistency and restraint. An intensive conversation on public protest in its subtle forms, judicial self-restraint and political change in continuity as a counter-model to continuous political change.





Dean's Talk with Fred Schauer or:

### **It won't happen here**

'It can't happen here' is not how far Fred Schauer, David and Mary Harrison Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and one of the most important legal theorists of our time, wanted to go when he was asked to predict whether the USA was in danger of sliding into authoritarianism. But still: 'It won't happen here'. An intellectually impressive conversation about the relationship between law and power, serenity and the cyclical nature of the political.

Dean's Talk with Irmgard Griss or:

### **The many lives of Irmgard G.**

President of the Supreme Court, candidate for the Federal Presidency, Member of the National Council, conscience of the Republic under the rule of law. Irmgard Griss has had several professional careers (and with admirable success). The programme was correspondingly broad and dense, ranging from transparency concerns to press funding, the position of public broadcasting to the necessity of reforming the Constitutional Court. An evening covering the entire spectrum of Austrian politics.

Dean's Talk with Yaniv Roznai or:

### **About the state of emergency in the state of emergency**

Israelis have their share of experiences with situations that are anything but commonplace for Central Europeans. In combination with the challenges of the pandemic, these experiences and the consequences that can be derived from them present themselves in a new light. In a conversation with Yaniv Roznai, Professor at the Harry Radzyner School at Reichmann University, we explored how much normality a community needs in order to remain functional and which legal foundations are needed to enable this functionality.



*Anita Ziegerhofer*

### **The Treaty of St. Germain.**

September 1919 saw the signing of the Treaty of St. Germain, by which an essential foundation stone of the Republic of Austria was laid. A comprehensive legal commentary on the entire treaty has been lacking until now. The commentary co-edited by Anita Ziegerhofer closes this gap, takes readers on a voyage of discovery through the history of the treaty, illuminates both the significance of the individual provisions at the time and today, and brings exciting insights to light.



*Ulfried Terlitz*

### **Co-ownership and Condominium Ownership - Parallel Worlds.**

Ulfried Terlitz uncovers a surprising number of differences between what at first glance appear to be very similar (or even supposedly the same) things. 'Co-ownership and condominium ownership - parallel worlds.' The author works out the differences and similarities in detail and critically examines them, sheds light on the complex relationships of joint and individual interests of the co-owners as well as on questions that arise again and again, especially in connection with the administration of the common property.



*Thomas Mühlbacher,  
Gabriele Schmölzer*

### **StPO (Code of Criminal Procedure) Commentary Volume 1: Preliminary Proceedings.**

The commentary on the Code of Criminal Procedure edited by Gabriele Schmölzer and Thomas Mühlbacher offers a well-founded yet compact presentation of the procedural provisions for the needs of criminal law practice. The nine-member team of authors, who themselves work as judges or public prosecutors, has incorporated their varied experience from everyday criminal law into the publication, offering an extremely timely and relevant presentation of the subject matter. Volume 1 contains the entire investigation procedure.





*Bettina Nunner-Krautgasser,  
Gerhard Schummer,  
Clemens Jauffer*

### **Insolvency and Restructuring Law - Anniversary Volume of the Platform for Business, Insolvency and Restructuring Law.**

The anniversary volume 'Insolvency and Restructuring Law' of the Platform for Business, Insolvency and Restructuring Law at REWI Uni Graz, co-edited by Bettina Nunner-Krautgasser and Gerhard Schummer, contains the top contributions of the event series from the past ten years, brought up to date, and offers an in-depth insight into such diverse and central topics as the sale of companies in insolvency, optimising realisation in insolvency, contract termination under the Austrian Insolvency Act, the latest on prohibited return of contributions in restructuring, creditors in insolvency proceedings, insolvency remuneration protection or suretyship and insolvency.



*Gert-Peter Reissner,  
Andreas Mair*

### **People with Disabilities in Labour and Social Law.**

Employers as well as employees will find a well-founded and very practical overview of legal issues related to 'people with disabilities in labour and social law' in this publication co-edited by Gert-Peter Reissner. The book covers the general conditions of integration into working life under labour and social insurance law, the right to ask questions and the obligation to provide information on disability, special protection against dismissal under the Austrian Act on the Employment of People with Disabilities, protection against discrimination, financial support options and the legal status of people with disabilities in social law.



*Nora Melzer*

### **Social Security Law in Austria.**

Succinct yet eminently practical, 'Social Security Law in Austria' by Nora Melzer describes the Austrian social security regime and conveys a clear working knowledge of the legal mechanics affecting health care, employment injuries and occupational diseases, incapacity to work, pensions, survivors' benefits, unemployment benefits and services, and family benefits. The book is a valuable resource for lawyers handling social security matters in Austria. It is of practical utility to those both in public service and private practice called on to develop and to apply social security law and policy, and of special interest as a contribution to the comparative study of social security systems.

# Caterpillar or butterfly, that is the question here

**The home of Graz's jurisprudence is a piece of remarkable architectural history. 300 metres long, 50 metres narrow, 39,000 square metres of space for thinking. How it came to be, and how it is possible to live and work there.**

In 1996, the law and social and economic sciences departments of the University of Graz moved into their new building. Originally, this 300-metre-long and 50-metre-wide building, answers to - an acronym: 'Das Resowi' was born.

Just at that time, the Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen, who had just been awarded the prize for the discovery of the hole in the ozone layer, was in Graz for a lecture. In view of the brand new building, he said: 'My God, how can you do this to a university! What the laureate expressed quite well: the Resowi is a we-love-it-we-hate-it building. You like it or you reject it.

In the following essay, legal philosopher and architecture aficionado Peter Koller describes why he likes the Resowi:

## Function meets aesthetics

Approaching the Resowi Centre from the main university building, it presents an image of lavish opulence and playfulness that conceals its strict functionality. The first thing that catches the eye is an extremely varied ensemble of cubic, cylindrical and parabolic configurations made

of light concrete, reflecting glass and coloured steel, whose interplay suggests a dynamic that is as powerful as it is elegant. This impression, which is also conveyed by the entrance foyers inside Resowi, not only belies the extremely difficult initial situation, but also its actual shape, which corresponds to its function. Only on closer inspection does the Resowi Centre turn out to be an unusually dimensioned building that, with a length of 300 metres and a relatively small width of 50 metres, is more reminiscent of a giant caterpillar than a neat butterfly. This peculiar shape can be explained by the

form of the plot of land - previously used as a university sports field - that was finally made available in the early 1980s for the long-planned construction of a building that would house all the departments of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, which previously were scattered across the city at the time, along with their joint library. Developing a functionally practicable and at the same time urbanistically acceptable plan for this was an enormous challenge for the 49 architectural firms that took part in the competition announced in 1985. The first prize was awarded to the project





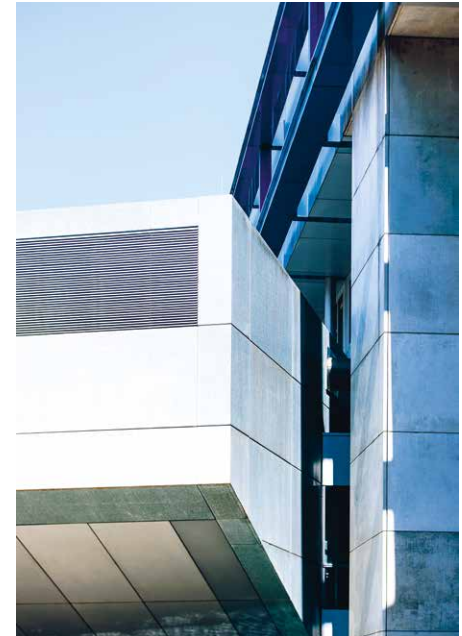
of the architect team Günther Domenig and Hermann Eisenköck, who were then also commissioned with the construction under the leadership of Hermann Eisenköck. After construction work had only begun in 1994, the building was erected in only 30 months and handed over in the summer of 1996.

The fact that the architects and the technical planners cooperating with them have succeeded, despite the aforementioned spatial limitations, in creating a building that not only meets the functional requirements of a university building with a wide range of needs for rooms of vari-

ous types and dimensions, but that is also, in the widely shared opinion, aesthetically impressive, is a magnificent achievement. It is based on the architects' obvious but risky idea of dividing the building - which has six floors including the basement - lengthwise into seven sections, each separated by a staircase, and not separating the storeys from each other end-to-end, but opening them up to each other between the two long sides through an inner courtyard extending from the translucent roof to the ground floor. This made it possible to create appropriate rooms and areas in each of these sections for individual institutes or general pur-

poses, which are clearly separated from each other on the one hand but remain connected to each other in visual contact on the other. All in all, the Resowi, with its total area of almost 49,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a usable area of around 39,000 m<sup>2</sup>, offers space for the institutes of both faculties as well as their joint premises, which include around 50 seminar rooms, eleven lecture halls, several meeting rooms, the dean's offices, various work and recreation rooms for students, the Faculty library and a cafeteria.

In all this, the Resowi impresses not only with a high degree of functionality, but



also with its much admired aesthetic quality. Three striking construction elements of its architecture are particularly decisive for this: Firstly, the very attractive panoramic round views that are made possible in the individual building sections thanks to the opening up of the floors by means of the aforementioned inner courtyard; widening, the gradual ‘cantilevering’ (widening) of the two uppermost storeys, stabilised by a visible supporting structure, in relation to those below, which, in addition to a clear gain in space, achieves an appealing visual structuring of the building; and thirdly, the visual attractiveness of the voluminous pipelines criss-crossing the entire building, which enliven the somewhat monotonous appearance of the light grey concrete walls thanks to their often winding routing and their eye-catching silver sheen.

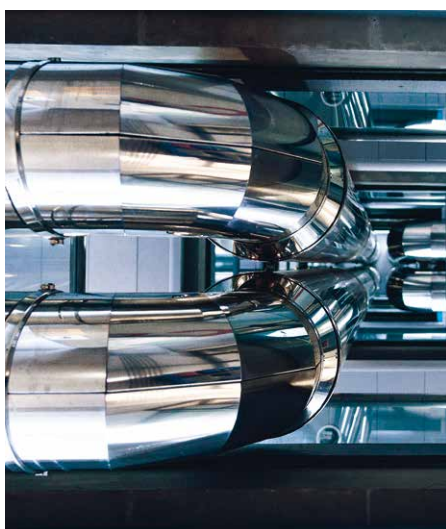
### Art in the Resowi

In view of the aesthetic appeal of Resowi Centre, there was really no need for the effort to enrich it with various other autonomous works of art by various artists. And it also seems questionable whether this effort was really worth-

while, since the commissioned works of art with which the Resowi Centre was furnished hardly attract any attention. This is regrettable, especially in the case of the installations located in the large entrance foyers of the two parts of the building by the world-renowned artist Jannis Kounellis (1936-2017), who is usually addressed as an exponent of ‘Arte Povera’ because many of his works are composed of used, worn, even discarded (or merely looking like it) materials and spread an atmosphere of sombre barrenness. For each of the two foyers, Kounellis has created a weighty installation - literally and perhaps also figuratively - each consisting of two parts, which, however, like other

works by him, have little to do with the Arte Povera programme. Here, only the installation in the large foyer of the northern part of the building should be mentioned.

If any attention is paid to it at all, the first thing that catches your eye is the sculptural structure hanging on the left wall immediately after the entrance: It takes the form of a cascade of large dark grey coal sacks attached to a strong, approximately 8-metre-long rope, the shape of which suggests that they contain heavy, misshapen boulders. Only if you look at the opposite wall of the foyer, which is somewhat obscured by the lecture hall entrances in between,



do you notice that there is a counterpart to this structure: This is a gigantic rectangular pole, probably 7 metres high and perhaps half a metre wide, made of rough-finished light wood, which hangs from a hook attached to the top and connected with an iron casing, and is provided around the middle with a projecting platform on which a voluminous lump of stone lies tied; the pole is now also secured at the lower end by a steel fastening, but this was only installed after it had come loose from its upper anchorage years ago and fallen to the

ground with a roar (fortunately without hurting anyone). The interpretation of this installation, which has no title, is left to the viewers themselves, if they want to think about it. However, it is advisable to assume that with Kounellis it is generally not very successful to try to extract a concrete message from his works, but that it is much more important to let them work on you as a whole in order to sense the emotive atmosphere they are trying to convey. Although the location of Kounellis' installations in the Resowi building

does not exactly favour this endeavour, one can possibly gain something from them if one notices on closer inspection that, despite or perhaps precisely because of their initial mysteriousness, they evoke certain emotions, such as a feeling of the ambivalent interplay of concentrated energy and imminent danger. Understood in this way, the installations also fit quite well with the place where they are set up, since such an interplay has always been inherent in science in general and the disciplines at home at Resowi in particular.

## Imprint

Publisher and responsible for the content:  
Faculty of Law of the University of Graz,  
Universitätsstraße 15/AE, 8010 Graz

### Illustrations:

Marija-M. Kanizaj (pages: 2, 3, 4-5, 6, 9, 12,  
18-19, 28-29, 33, 35, 36, 38-39, 42-43, 44, 45)

Christopher Mavrič (pages: 10-11)

Shutterstock (page: 13)

Gery Wolf (pages: 14-15)

*Elisabeth Staudegger, Miriam Hofer:*

Foto Furgler (pages: 17, 21)

*Brigitta Lurger, Johannes Zollner,*

*Renate Pristner-Ebner:*

Private (pages: 16, 17, 21)

*Oliver Ruppel:*

Dr. Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting (page: 20)

*Gerhard Schnedl:*

Opernfoto Hausleitner (page: 21)

*Florian Bieber, Anita Ziegerhofer:*

Konstantinos Tzivanopoulos (page: 25)

*Emma Lantschner:*

Günter Schuchlantz (Page: 25)

*Matthias Wendland:*

REWI Graz (Page: 17)

Design: Taska

Printing: Medienfabrik Graz

[rewi.uni-graz.at](http://rewi.uni-graz.at)

**Don't believe  
everything you think.**

**Study hard! But leave  
the library once in a while.**

**Cultivate your non-legal-skills!  
Cultivate being you.**

**Leave your comfort zone.  
Sometimes.**

**When in doubt:  
say it!**

**When facing injustice:  
fight it!**

**Why so serious?  
Have fun!**