



April 17, 2017

Talk by Bok Visiting Professor, Matthias Mahlmann

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Faculty Lounge

The Pursuit of Humanity – Aesthetical Experience and the Foundations of Law

The reference to aesthetics may stir the suspicion that some piece of obscure theory is awaiting in which dark and deep sounding, but in fact empty phraseology is posing as meaningful legal reflection. The talk will try to indicate that aesthetical experience is not a substitute for substantive, rationally justifiable normative theory but is still in a meaningful and well-defined way relevant for the reassertion of the foundations of a humane law. In particular, it can be a means to enliven fundamental normative ideas at the core of a cosmopolitan constitutionalism based on human rights which is currently under attack in various parts of the world. A landmark piece of art of the 20th century will serve as an example.

Professor Matthias Mahlmann is the chair of Philosophy and Theory of Law, Legal Sociology, and International Public Law at the University of Zurich. Mahlman is one of Europe's leading jurisprudence and public law scholars. He has written widely on the protection of fundamental rights, ethics and the challenge of cognitive science in the law, theories of transnational law, the legal methodology of Nazi law and other topics. Mahlmann studied Law and Philosophy at the Universities of Freiburg, Breisgau and Berlin as well as at the London School of Economics. He served as a legal consultant to various public bodies, including the Commission of the European Union, the Swiss Federal Government and the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.



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