

CONCEPTS OF EQUALITY AND THEIR LIMITS

Today, most constitutions of the world affirm the right to equality of their 'citizens', of 'human beings' or, simply, of 'everyone'. Equality seems a universally accepted (legal) value. Yet, ideas epitomized in the term 'equality' have been and still are contested throughout history.

The workshop revisits some critical junctures throughout history where, in the field of law, concepts of equality intersected with concepts of order, ranked societies or—in modern parlance—inequality. The workshop aims to find out whether and to what extent concepts of equality and inequality (rank, order) interconnect, based on practices of comparing stressing similarities or differences, according to context.

We assume that endorsement of equality as well as the rejection of the concept is linked to particular practices of comparing: At some points in time, practices of comparing seem to succeed in suggesting that people are equal and of equal worth. At other points in time, practices of comparing strongly and convincingly may point to differences that then induce thinking in hierarchies and/or disrespect that legitimizes unequal treatment.

Scholars from law and history will explore the meaning of 'equality' and its shifts from the period of Enlightenment until the present during this workshop. We will focus on practices of comparing: Do shifts in meaning correlate with shifts in practices of comparing?

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Davy (B06)
ulrike.davy@uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. Dr. Antje Flüchter (B01)
antje.fluechter@uni-bielefeld.de

Dr. Cornelia Aust (B01)
cornelia.aust@uni-bielefeld.de

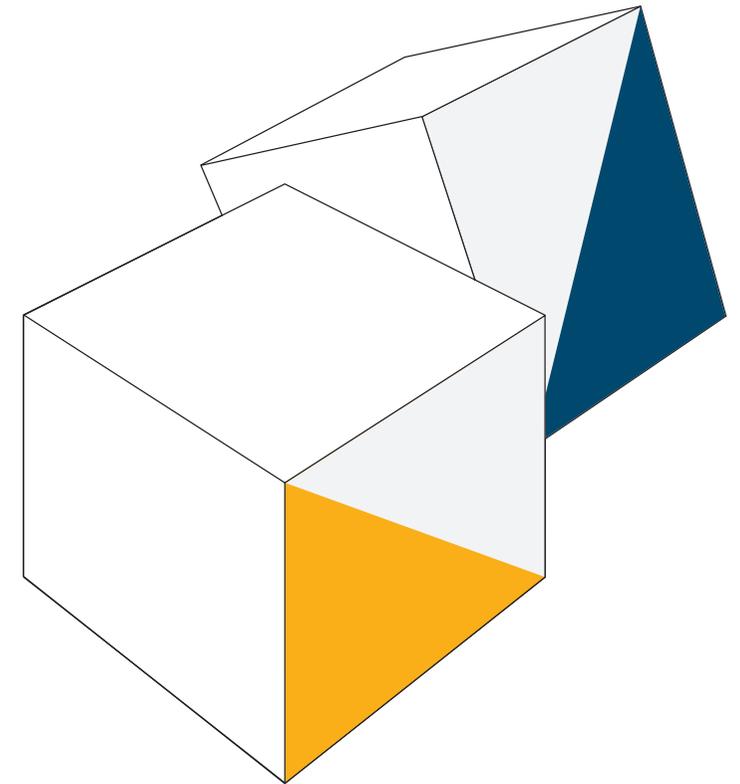
Malika Mansouri (B06)
malika.mansouri@uni-bielefeld.de

WEB

www.uni-bielefeld.de/sfb1288
[@sfb_comparing](https://twitter.com/sfb_comparing)

VENUE

Bielefeld University
Universitätsstr. 24
33615 Bielefeld
Building X
Room A2-103



CONCEPTS OF EQUALITY AND THEIR LIMITS

Critical Junctures in History and Law

International Workshop

29-30 Nov 2019 | Bielefeld University

SFB 1288
PRACTICES OF
COMPARING

**UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD**

THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2019

Arrival at Hotel Bielefelder Hof, Am Bahnhof 3

19:00 Dinner @ Heinrich sein Enkel, Rolandstr. 20

FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2019

08:30 Welcome Address
Ulrike Davy, Antje Flüchter, *Bielefeld University*

08:45 Antje Flüchter, *Bielefeld University*:
Hierarchy as Order – Equality as Chaos?
Early Modern Perceptions of Social Differentiation
in India and the Mughal Empire

10:30 Lynn A. Hunt, *University of California*:
Enlightenment and French Revolution:
Why Equality?

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Rainer Liedtke, *University of Regensburg*:
Emancipation of the Jews in Germany:
A Useful Equality?

14:30 Demetrius Eudell, *Wesleyan University*:
Equality: The Peculiar Institution

15:45 Coffee Break

16:15 Helmut Walser Smith, *Vanderbilt University*:
19th Century German Nationalism,
Economic Development and Equality

17:45 David Keane, *Middlesex University*:
The Human Rights Turn: Equality and the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

19:45 Dinner @ Indikitchen, Herforder Str. 5-7

SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2019

09:00 Arrival

09:15 Ulrike Davy, *Bielefeld University*:
Minority Protection under the League of Nation:
Particular, not Universal Equality

11:00 Fabian Wittreck, *University of Münster*:
The NS State: Equality among Equals

12:30 Lunch

13:45 Saul Dubow, *University of Cambridge*:
The South African Case: Apartheid

15:15 Gila Stopler, *College of Law and Business, Tel Aviv*:
The Israeli Case: Balancing Religion,
Nationalism, and Liberalism

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 Final Discussion

19:00 Farewell Dinner @ L'Arabesque,
August-Bebel-Str. 47

B-01

WHICH LAW APPLIES TO WHOM?

Order in Diversity: Practices of Comparing in
Intercultural Jurisdiction (17th-19th Century)

B-06

LEGAL PROHIBITIONS TO COMPARE

Outlawing Racial Discrimination – Making Practices
of Comparing Illegitimate