



**Ius Commune Conference Leuven,
28-29 November 2019**

**Call for Papers Workshop on
Comparative Legal History**

***Ius Commune in the Making:
Networks in the History of Private Law***



Call for Papers

Ius Commune Workshop on Comparative Legal History 2019

Ius Commune in the Making:

Networks in the History of Private Law

Dear Colleagues,

The 24th Ius Commune Conference will take place in Leuven (28-29 November 2019), and a Workshop will be devoted to networks in the history of private law.

The workshops on "Comparative Legal History–Ius Commune in the Making" aim to reveal and understand the nature and effects of various legal formants in the development of law. Indeed, forces of legal formants are too often lost or hidden beneath a superficiality of commonalities. History is a living laboratory. In the past, we explored the role of legal actors (Edinburgh 2014), legal sources (Maastricht 2016), force of local laws (Utrecht 2017), and methods and dynamics of law (Amsterdam 2018).

The current Workshop aims now to explore our contemporary emerging concept of 'networks' in a comparative-historical perspective. These networks shape and challenge boundaries of traditional legal categories (eg, persons, things, contracts, torts, actions) as semi-autonomous social fields (Sally Falk Moore 1973), and thus have always grown and waned, and have had an impact on law and society. Networks are a form of social arrangement, and grow and nurture in that sfumato and agonal human environment–these days even electronically. History shows that at all times these social arrangements have taken shape; actors tend to group themselves in clusters to survive, attain synergy, to strengthen their positions to serve common interests.

Networks have different origins, objectives, and attain different effects. Some networks interact for a common goal, while others act in isolation. Networks can have a temporary presence or even attain a more permanent and even formal place in society, contributing to its resilience or decline. In legal terms: they may have influence in, on the one hand, persons reaching consensus and (legally) acting in the private life (eg, persons, things, obligations, torts, actions) or, on the other hand, the public life (eg, legislation, administration, judicial decisions).

Networks–or social arrangements–may be found all over. Networks, for example, can be of public or private nature, of positions taken, backed or challenged by others like governments and 'oppositional groups,' and/or consist of political clusters (eg, natives, strangers, immigrants, 'Whigs,' 'patriots,' 'kabeljauwen'), suffragettes, religious groups, abolitionists, charitable organizations, guilds, student organizations, bar associations, Sabinans and Proculians, Romanists and Germanists, turbe, custom, the Staphorster Volksgericht, not to speak of the 'demos,' the 'forum' and the fisherman's friend.

Different time periods in the order of law, including Roman law, the learned *ius commune*, nineteenth-century codification, and the more recent efforts towards a European private law harmonization will offer us insights on the role of networks. Law in the making can be better explained by a look into the role of networks at different times and places.

Senior researchers and PhD candidates are invited to submit an abstract of a paper related to the above-mentioned theme. Abstracts (max. 400 words) should be sent to Agustin Parise (agustin.parise@maastrichtuniversity.nl) no later than **15 July 2019**. Shortly after that, the authors will be informed whether their papers are selected for a presentation during the Workshop. All contributions should be in English. Co-authored papers will be also considered.

Researchers from within and outside the *Ius Commune* Research School will be eligible to present abstracts. Please also forward this call to colleagues who might be interested.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the organizing committee,

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