

Ghent Legal History Institute



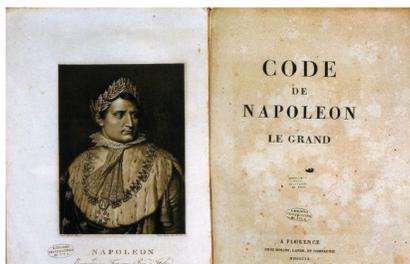
Instituut voor
Rechtsgeschiedenis
Ghent Legal
History Institute

The Ghent Legal History Institute provides a space for scholars to conduct transdisciplinary discoveries. The research of its members goes beyond a mere historical analysis of law. It promotes **contextual legal history**, seeing law as a product of a context that in turn influences that same context. Legal history concerns not only law in the books, but also **law in action and law in minds**, the shared framework of a group, which becomes visible through the law in action and many other ways.

Contextual legal history accommodates many kinds of research depending on the nature, depth and scope of the situation. The Institute looks for topics neglected by others which can serve as 'ambassadors' of legal history towards jurists, historians and the public. Thus, it focuses mainly on the social and cultural context of law.

A broader comparative legal history is always our point of reference. Moreover, for the Institute legal history continues until the present day and even reaches into the future. Hence, it happily cooperates in research and its social valorization (through exhibitions, official commemorations, professional anniversaries, etc.) which mainly deal with current evolutions that still have strong roots in the historical past.

THEMATIC CLUSTERS



Creation of law

Both the production of law by the traditional legal actors and the more spontaneous bottom-up creation of law by non-legal social actors.



Border crossing legal history

Transnational and transregional entanglements and networks throughout history.



Law and humanities

In particular law and art, but also other fields such as law and anthropology or law and gender.

CHRONOLOGICAL CLUSTERS



Post French Revolution legal history

History of private law, commercial law, social law, judicial law, legal professions, law reviews, legal iconography, law during and after the World Wars, constitutional law in action, and public international law.



Early modern law

The Institute focuses on law in action and law in minds of jurists and other actors of law, diplomats, merchants, craft guilds, local lords and administrators.



Medieval law

In cooperation with the university's Henri Pirenne Institute. In particular, customary law, including the links with learned law, in Flanders and Europe.

CONTACT

🌐 www.rechtsgeschiedenis.be // Blog: esclh.blogspot.com

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METHODS

The Institute innovates not only by finding gaps in the current research, but also by examining new sources (iconography, unexplored archives, non-legal documents) and adapting methods from linguistics, art history and the social sciences (e.g. institutional economics) in order to exploit them fully (e.g. text analysis, discourse analysis, network analysis, process tracing, iconological interpretation).