



3. Max Planck Masterclass in International Law 29 April – 2 May 2014

Professor Martti Koskenniemi „Critical Studies of International Law“

We are pleased to announce the third Masterclass in International Law taking place at the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg from 29 April to 2 May 2014. Professor Martti Koskenniemi will hold that Masterclass on the topic of “Critical Studies of International Law”.

The scholarship of international law is often caught in the dichotomy between apologetic etatism and utopian humanism. No one has described this contraposition and its implications more clearly than Martti Koskenniemi, most prominently in “From Apology to Utopia” (1989). During the last decades, he has been preeminent in criticizing what he calls the “Kitsch” of international legal scholarship. He emphatically describes the perplexities and disputability of concepts such as human rights or the international community. Beside his contributions in the field of deconstructivist thinking, Martti Koskenniemi has also published several pieces with a historical take. To name again but one lighthouse publication, “The gentle civilizer” (2004) tells an insightful and critical story about the emergence of international law as part of liberal modernity.

We are looking forward to discuss with Professor Koskenniemi aspects from the whole range of his work during those four days. The number of participants is limited in order keep the character of a seminar. Please send your applications, including a letter of motivation and a CV, till 31 January 2014 to **masterclass2014@mpil.de**.

During the Masterclass, one afternoon will be dedicated to presentations from participants. Whoever would be interested in presenting his or her work in that session, is invited to indicate so and to send a short abstract along with the application.

On Thursday, 1 May 2014, Professor Koskenniemi is going to give a public lecture at the DAI Heidelberg (<http://www.dai-heidelberg.de>), entitled “Sovereignty, Property and International Law. A Historical View”. Everybody is cordially invited to join for that lecture.