



Akademie der Wissenschaften
und der Literatur | Mainz



Call for Papers

Junior Scholars' Workshop on Hans Kelsen and the Pure Theory of Law 19–20 April 2022

Background. The Pure Theory of Law (*Reine Rechtslehre*) is one of the most important legal theories to emerge in the 20th century. It provides a particular approach to law, normativity and legal scholarship. Yet, just as the writings of its founder, Hans Kelsen (1881–1973), are not all contributions to the Pure Theory (e.g. his theory of democracy), the Pure Theory, in turn, is not limited to Kelsen's writings. The original members of the Vienna School of Jurisprudence as well as their (global) post-war heirs have developed and modified this body of thought.

Neither the Pure Theory nor Kelsen's writings have lost their potential to spark interest and controversy and to generate a fair amount of perplexity, misinterpretation and even deliberate ignorance. For example, some writings and notions are well-known, yet large tracts of his work and the work of other members are relatively unknown. This can partly be explained by cultural and linguistic factors; partly, however, some of its foundational assumptions are no longer universally accepted.

The premise. This is what we, the Hans Kelsen Research Group, would like to discuss with you. The Annual Junior Scholars' Workshop is an intensive small two-day workshop where you will have the opportunity to present and discuss your ideas both with senior scholars working on the Pure Theory, such as Prof. Mario Losano, Prof. Matthias Jestaedt and PD Dr Jörg Kammerhofer, and with the other participants of the workshop.

We encourage those identifying themselves as 'junior scholars' in a broad sense (PhD students and beyond) to apply to present cutting-edge research ideas on Hans Kelsen and on the Pure Theory of Law. Proposals for **all topics broadly within the remit** of the workshop are welcome. We particularly encourage:

- applications from PhD students who wish to integrate the Pure Theory and/or Kelsen's writings into their work;
- proposals which deal with inter-cultural and inter-linguistic problems of the approach;
- those focusing on lesser-discussed aspects, arguments and writings or on less well-known members of the Vienna School;
- papers which apply the Pure Theory to areas of doctrinal legal study or to specific problems of law and legal theory.

The Junior Scholars' Workshops is limited to ten participants; papers may be presented in English or German. Accommodation and food will be provided by the organisers in addition to a staggered subsidy for travel expenses (max. € 150 from within Germany, € 400 for European, € 800 for transcontinental travel). The second Junior Scholars' Workshop will take place on 19 and 20 April 2022 in Maria Lindenberg in the Black Forest, near the town of Freiburg.

Application procedure. Please send an abstract (max. 500 words) as text file (.rtf, .docx, .odt etc., *not* .pdf) and a *curriculum vitae* to rechtstheorie@jura.uni-freiburg.de until **30 November 2021**. Selected speakers should be ready to submit short papers (max. 5000 words) to the conference organisers by **29 March 2022**.