



INTERNATIONAL  
NETWORK  
OF DOCTORAL  
STUDIES IN LAW



7th Seminar  
of the  
**International Network of Doctoral Studies in Law**  
on  
**„Current Topics in Methodology of Law“**  
Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main  
October 10 and 11, 2024

**Description:**

Recent years have revived the discussion about legal methodology. On an abstract level, methods of law are those methods used by lawyers to determine the meaning of legal texts and to make legal decisions. As an ideal, these methods should be generally accepted and stable over time to secure rationality in law and in the judicial process. However, on a concrete level, things become more complicated. Legal methods may change over time (for example, in connection with constitutional disruptions) or may vary dependent on the specific source to be interpreted (constitution, statutes, case law, contracts, etc.). Furthermore, the increasing internationalization and digitalization of society and law have a profound impact on legal methodology and its dynamics. The seminar shall give PhD students interested in the field of legal methodology the opportunity to present their research in an international environment and to discuss it with colleagues and professors from the partner network (Universities of Lodz, Paris-Nanterre, Vilnius, and Frankfurt). The ambit of the seminar is wide and encompasses all questions of legal methodology on a general level as well as applications in specific fields of law.

**Possible Topics** (not exclusive):

- Legal methodology and fundamentals of law (legal history, comparative law, economic perspectives on law, sociology of law, etc.)
- Legal methodology and constitutional issues
- Legal methodology and challenges coming from internationalization of law (public and private international law, international criminal law, etc.)
- Legal methodology and digitalization (statistical and automated legal decision-making, AI and legal decision-making, etc.)
- Methodological questions in specific areas of law



INTERNATIONAL  
NETWORK  
OF DOCTORAL  
STUDIES IN LAW



**Important Dates:**

By August 15, 2024: Completion of the internal selection process at partner universities and communication of selected PhD students with topics to Frankfurt hosts

By September 30, 2024: Submission of abstracts to Frankfurt hosts (appr. one to two pages)

By October 7, 2024: Submission of presentation materials to Frankfurt hosts (ppt-files, etc.)