



WORKSHOP

IS THERE SUCH THING AS 'POPULIST CONSTITUTIONALISM'?

FLORENCE, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Venue:

European University Institute
Law Department
Villa Salviati, Sala degli Stemmi

Event organized by:

*Prof. Gábor Halmai and
Constitutionalism and Politics Working Group*

■ ABSTRACT

This workshop will examine recent deviation from the shared values of liberal constitutionalism towards a kind of 'populist, illiberal constitutionalism'. The participants will explore the relationship between populism and popular sovereignty, populist leaders' constitutional projects, and the use of legalism for their, often autocratic, agendas. Particular attention will be paid to 'populist constitutionalism' in the new democracies of East-Central Europe, contributing new perspectives to a theoretical debate which has so far largely focused on cases in other parts of Europe (Greece and Spain), Latin-America (Bolivia), and the US. The workshop also aims to address the broader theoretical question of whether populism and illiberalism are reconcilable with constitutionalism.

For more information: contact Agnieszka Lempart (agnieszka.lempart@eui.eu).

■ PROGRAMME

Monday, 20 November 2017

- 13:30 - 13:35 *Introductory remarks*
Gábor Halmai, Professor and Chair of Comparative Constitutional Law, EUI
- 13:35 - 14:20 **Keynote speech:** *Autocratic Legalism*
Kim Lane Scheppele, Laurence S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- 14:20 - 14:35 Discussion

Panel 1: Populism as rhetoric and as constitutional project

Moderator: Bojan Bugarcic, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

- 14:35 - 14:55 Paul Blokker, Associate Professor and Jean Monnet Chair at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Charles University, Prague
- 14:55 - 15:15 Julian Scholtes, LLM researcher, Department of Law, EUI
- 15:15 - 15:35 Théo Fournier, PhD researcher, Department of Law, EUI
- 15:35 - 15:50 Discussion
- 15:50 - 16:00 Coffee break (*Sala della Conchiglia*)

Panel 2: Populism and constitutionalism in East-Central Europe

Moderator: Paul Blokker, Associate Professor and Jean Monnet Chair at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Charles University, Prague

- 16:00 – 16:20 Gábor Halmai, Professor and Chair of Comparative Constitutional Law, EUI
- 16:20 – 16:40 Bojan Bugarcic, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

16:55 – 17:00

Break

17:00 – 18:00

Book launches:

Constitutional Acceleration within the European Union and Beyond (Routledge, 2017) edited by Paul Blokker

Sociological Constitutionalism (Cambridge University Press, 2017) edited by Paul Blokker and Chris Thornhill