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.

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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 Bugaric, 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 Bugaric, 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