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Global Semiotics and Everyday Legal Claims.

Intercultural Use of Law, Interreligious Dialogue and Translation Ethics

CALL FOR PAPERS

LAW AND SPATIO-TEMPORAL DIMENSIONS: THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NARRATIVES AND READINGS

Keywords: Space; Temporality; Law; Sign; Normativity; Weltbild

That the development of law is related to changing notions of space/time - even if this has become a commonplace for many - gives rise to new considerations today. Without confusing space and time, jointly problematizing the relationships of the two categories with law can be fruitful (e.g. K. Olivecrona).

Globalisation, the virtual and digital world, the crisis of the state, the transformation of sources, secularization, and mass migrations are among the many phenomena that are present in every legal discourse, and not only there. What does not seem to be self-evident at all is the impact that the metamorphosis of the categories of time/space has on law and, in particular, on the image of the person to which law refers. Is time/space an objective phenomenon or a subjective and conscious phenomenon, or both? Does the subjectivity/objectivity of space/time have a metaphysical, phenomenological, epistemic or ontological dimension? If law is spatiotemporally determined, is the phenomenon of de-temporalisation/de-spatialisation possible through the conception of *a priori* categories of law? If so, is it legitimate to ask what kind of these *a priori* categories are: psychological, sociological, logical, linguistic, pragmatic, ontological, existential? Furthermore, it is discussed whether the *a priori* categories are either some given from which to move or the result of complex, enactive evolution (e.g. J. Petitot, F. Varela, V. Gallese, G. Tononi).

The twentieth century thinking on time/space (e.g. H. Bergson, E. e G. Husserl, M. Heidegger, A. Einstein) and on technology (e.g. A. Gehlen, H. Jonas, H. Rosa, G. Simondon, B. Stiegler) have revolutionised the image of the human being and of consciousness. In this context, the question arises whether and how law and normativity are affected by this, and vice versa (e.g. W. Schapp and K. Engisch). Given that law and legal entities carry spatio-temporal structures that manifest themselves in actions and events, states of affairs and processes (whether punctual or temporal), they are permanent the attempts to clarify the nature of this spatio-temporal 'inner life' of law and its relations to the inter-objective or subjective 'experienced' dimensions of such categories (e.g. L. Fuller).

Some hold that the experience of the Bill of Rights and the ideal of 'fundamental rights' at various historical moments would have enabled the primacy of law over the person in relation to the dominance of space and the state over time and peoples. Others believe that such a reading is misleading or overcome by the human rights perspective. It is questionable whether the irreducibility of the individual (e.g. M. Foucault, M. Merleau-Ponty, G. Deleuze) to the juridical domination of space and the technological domination of the trans-human allows us to imagine new scenarios today. Moreover, can the "crises of the law" and the actual ecological, economic, political emergences around the world lead philosophers and jurists to a new dialogue on the foundations of the categories of democracy and their defence?

Legal normativity (like perhaps every form of normativity) has been defined by the intertwining of space and time, a binomial that captures its double interplay. For example, the modern form of 'law' implemented by national legal systems finds its reference in the declension of spatiality as 'territory' and also unfolds along the temporal coordinate of forward projection that it presupposes, so that legislation for 'the past' is usually an exception. The contemporary legal scenario stimulates further reflections on the relationship between space-time and (legal) normativity, in order to understand whether alternative or complementary views might emerge to the 19th century models with their typical manifestations in terms of institutional arrangement and organisation of legal sources (e.g. H. Kelsen, C. Schmitt). Space/time as a pair

of 'law' 'relative' or 'fictive' coordinates lead to a rethinking of law on a planetary scale that captures the aspects of entropy and the processes of 're-creation' and forms of virtualisation of the normative.

Historically, the conceptualisation of the space-time is embedded in various normative patterns and/or linguistic levels (e.g. D. Lewis). The limits of reflection deal with the 'symbolic' and the 'semiotic' and vice versa, in order to understand if/when there is a spatio-temporal anchoring or a-referentiality; why and under what circumstances the potential irrelevance of spatio-temporal polarity is undermined by the prevalence of mechanisms or processes of signification of the normative that tend towards mere 'fact'.

Moreover, spatio-temporal and legal normativity live out of and in narrative forms and narrativity, which in turn makes them interesting for the analysis of utopian dystopias and phenomena such as performativity.

The above suggests research programmes that aim to understand the worldview (*Weltanschauung* or *Weltbild*, to use Weberian terminology, or Blumenberg's *Weltzeit*) and semiotic narratives that underlie the conceptualisations and spatio-temporal dimensions of the juridical.

Below are some possible lines of thought or thematic points of contact relevant to WS:

- *Space/time as philosophical and legal categories*: What are the roots, what are the connections and what are the developments? Keys and perspectives of linguistics, history, philosophy, psychology, anthropology and sociology in dialogue with general theory and philosophy of law;
- *(a)Spatiality of law and rights today and in the future*: universality of (human) rights; globalisation of law and rights; planetary circulation of legal systems; hybridisation of legal traditions on a planetary scale;
- *How spatial and temporal metaphors, visions and images* contribute to the creation of the legal universe: from source theory to argumentation theory, from legal drafting to legal design; from critical legal studies to visual legal studies;
- *Juridicity and normativity*: conceptions of legal space and their (a)temporality; spatio-temporal aspects of the (legal) norm and (legal) institutions;
- *Geopolitics*: developments and entanglements of forms of governance; concepts of nation, people, territory, sovereignty and state and related ideologies;
- *Questions of methodology and method*: the space of logic, ontology, phenomenology and philosophy in law and in legal thought and jurisprudence/legisprudence; narratives of contemporary legal space; the contributions of literature, histori(ography) and geography;
- *Beyond territoriality and earthly physicality*: what are the new coordinates and paths of modern law? the regulation of spaces beyond planet Earth; the challenges posed by space travel and human presence in other 'places' in the universe;
- *Law and time*: what relations and what relevance in the past, present and future; law in its historical and ideational/conceptual duality; law as a cultural phenomenon in space/time and the tensions towards the universal; the space-time dimension of legal categories, legal concepts and dogmatic constructions; philosophy of time, neuroscience and consciousness;
- *Contemporary challenges and the move towards abolishing the spatio-temporal factor*: senses and human perception; digital "reality"; digital speed and immediacy; AI and metaverse phenomena;
- *Philosophy and philosophies of ...* : the encyclopaedic dimension of global and digital knowledge; perspectives for a renewed humanism and catastrophic visions; what is the place of the philosophy of law in contemporary philosophical debate?
- *Time/space in a two-, three- or four-dimensional key*: from the statics and dynamics of legal systems to autopoiesis and self-normative regulatory systems; the role of time in relation to (empirical/normative) conventions, expectations, beliefs, preferences; coordination problems; counterfactuals;
- *Entropy of systems and laws*: how space/time change and how and in what they diverge between natural and human social systems from a systemic perspective; the contribution of scientific thinking to the theoretical, philosophical and legal debate.

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Abstracts of 300 words (max.) in English or French should be submitted by **January 31 2023**