Conference

(Not) Outside My Culture: The paradoxes of personal autonomy in a plural society
26 – 28 May 2014

Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets

Programme

Monday, 26 May 2014

12:30 Registration

13:30 Marie-Claire Foblets (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)
   Welcome Address & Introduction to the Conference

Session I: Autonomy in the Face of Cultural Diversity: in search of an appropriate conceptual/theoretical understanding (Part 1)
Chair: Ute Frevert (MPI for Human Development, Berlin)

13:45 Michele Graziadei (University of Turin)
   ‘Personal Autonomy: the philosophy and the rules’

14:15 Olaf Zenker (University of Bern)
   ‘Why the Individual must be Defended ~ seemingly against all anthropological odds’

14:45 Coffee break

15:00 Geoffrey Brahm Levey (University of New South Wales)
   ‘Confronting Autonomy in Liberal Practice’

15:30 John Bowen (Washington University in St. Louis)
   ‘Governance, Autonomy, and Ordre Public in France’

16:00 Discussion
   Discussant: Werner Menski (SOAS, University of London)

16:45 Coffee break

Chair: Bertram Turner (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)

17:00 Monique Deveaux (University of Guelph, Ontario)
   ‘Sexual Equality and Personal Autonomy: possibilities of pluralistic interpretations’
17:30  **Shaheen Sardar Ali** (Warwick Law School)  
‘Performing “Autonomy” on the World Stage: re-reading the story of drafting of CEDAW and Muslim women’s contributions to the “script”’

18:00  **Avigail Eisenberg** (University of Victoria, British Columbia)  
‘Choice, Identity and Religious Freedom’

18:30  Discussion  
**Discussants:** Ayelet Shachar (University of Toronto), Julie Billaud (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)

20:00  Dinner (*Alchimistenklause, Reilstraße 47, 06114 Halle*)

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**Tuesday, 27 May 2014**

**Session I: Autonomy in the Face of Cultural Diversity: in search of an appropriate conceptual/theoretical understanding (Part 2)**  
*Chair: Marie-Claire Foblets (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)*

09:00  **Matthias Lehmann** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)  
‘Changing the Applicable Law like a Shirt? On the function of party autonomy in private international law’

09:30  **Ralf Michaels** (Duke University)  
‘Choosing My Religion – religious law as object and constraint of party autonomy’

10:00  Discussion  
**Discussant:** Nadjma Yassari (MPI for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg)

10:40  Coffee break

11:00  **Armin Höland** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)  
‘Personal Autonomy in Employment Relationships – a difficult project’

11:30  **John Christman** (Pennsylvania State University)  
‘Autonomy and Deeply Embedded Cultural Identities’

12:00  Discussion  
**Discussant:** Michele Graziadei (*University of Turin*)

12:45  Lunch break
Session II: Ethnographic Illustrations (Part I)
Chair: Werner Menski (SOAS, University of London)

14:00  Rajnaara Akhtar (University of Warwick)
       ‘Unregistered Muslim Marriages in the UK: examining normative influences shaping choice of legal protection’

14:15  Jinske Verhellen (Ghent University)
       ‘Balancing Migration Policy and Personal Autonomy in Private International Law: a shattered illusion?’

14:30  Annelies Moors (University of Amsterdam)
       ‘Adopting a Face-Veil, Concluding an “Islamic Marriage”: an excess of autonomy?’

14:45  Discussion

15:45  Coffee break

Chair: Anthony Good (University of Edinburgh)

16:15  Ian Kalman (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)
       ‘“That’s not our Culture”: paradoxes of personal property in indigenous self-governance’

16:30  Jessica Johnson (University of Cambridge)
       ‘“It is Better for Me to Agree When My Guardian is Here”: consent and relational personhood in postcolonial Malawi’

16:45  Alberto Neidhardt (European University Institute, Florence)
       ‘Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? From state protection to state control: the example of the inherent jurisdiction in English law’

17:00  Keebet von Benda-Beckmann (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)
       ‘A Relational Approach to Autonomy: Moluccan women’s multiple search for autonomy in the Netherlands’

17:15  Discussion

19:30  Dinner (Restaurant Wildschütz, Barfüßerstraße 8, 06108 Halle)
Wednesday, 28 May 2014

Ethnographic Illustrations (Part II)
Chair: Armando Guevara Gil (Pontifical Catholic University of Peru)
Respondent: Clémence Désiré (Sorbonne Law School, Paris)

09:00 Toon Agten (KU Leuven)
‘The Anti-religious Bias in Personal Autonomy: towards coherence and a solution?’

09:15 Kalindi Kokal (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)
‘An all but trivial abortion: scrutinizing sex selection legislation in India through the lens of women’s autonomy’

09:30 Alison Dundes Renteln (University of Southern California)
‘Culture and Cutting: Does hymenoplasty violate human rights?’

09:45 Lucia Bellucci (University of Milan)
‘Shaping Notions of Personal Autonomy in Plural Societies: the French courts’ approach to the traditional practice of female genital cutting (FGC)’

10:00 Discussion

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 Session III: Panel of Judges Addressing Personal Autonomy in Concrete Cases
Chair: Mathias Rohe (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) & Geert Vervaeke (KU Leuven)

- Giacinto Bisogni (Italy)
- Esther de Rooij (Netherlands)
- Horatius Dumbrava (Rumania)
- Carlos Gómez (Spain)
- Sir Peter Singer (UK)
- John Thornhill (UK)

13:30 Discussion and Concluding Remarks by Marie-Claire Foblets

End of workshop