Please register until 12 November 2019 at:
menschenrechte-demokratie@univie.ac.at

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About the research group:
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Organisation:
Sarah Knoll, Claudia Kraft

Workshop
Human Rights and Autonomy
Rights in European Perspective

14 November 2019, 14:00 – 19:00
University of Vienna, Main Building (Universitätsring 1), Sitzungszimmer des Veranstaltungsmanagements

University of Vienna
Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies · Forschungsgruppe Geschichte der Menschenrechte und der Demokratie · Universitätsring 1 · 1010 Vienna · hist-kult.univie.ac.at
Programme

14:00 – 14:30
Welcome and Presentation of the Projects

The Myth of Homogeneity: Minority Protection and Assimilation in Western Europe, 1919–1939
Emmanuel Dalle Mulle / Mona Bieling (Graduate Institute Geneva)

Non-Territorial Autonomy. History of a Travelling Idea
Börries Kuzmany (University of Vienna)

14:30 – 15:30
The Ambivalent Legacy of Minority Protection for Human Rights
Emmanuel Dalle Mulle / Mona Bieling (Graduate Institute Geneva)
Comment: Börries Kuzmany (University of Vienna)

15:30 – 16:00
Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30
The Russian Career of an Austro-Marxist Idea: Non-Territorial National Autonomy in the Early Soviet Union
Matthias Battis (University of Vienna)

Far-Right Appropriation of Non-Territorial Autonomy: the Sudeten German Party Case
Oskar Mulej (University of Vienna)
Comment: Katharina Kreuder-Sonnen (University of Vienna)

Final Discussion

Chair:
Sarah Knoll (University of Vienna)

Abstracts and Biographies

The Ambivalent Legacy of Minority Protection for Human Rights
Emmanuel Dalle Mulle / Mona Bieling

The recent literature on the history of human rights has stressed the transition, at the end of the Second World War, from (collective) minority to (individual) human rights. In such a perspective, minority protection and human rights are often portrayed (implicitly or explicitly) as being contradictory, a feature to be found also in the human rights law literature. At the same time, many human rights historians have depicted interwar minority protection as a step forward in the evolution of human rights. Hence, this article proposes an assessment of the ambivalent legacy of the minority protection regime set in place by the League of Nations after the Great War for the human rights system established after 1945. It will mainly look at the innovations and flaws of such a regime as well as at how its basic principles have resonated (or not) in later human rights instruments.

Emmanuel Dalle Mulle is postdoctoral researcher at the Graduate Institute Geneva
Mona Bieling is PhD candidate at the Graduate Institute Geneva

Far-Right Appropriation of Non-Territorial Autonomy: the Sudeten German Party Case
Oskar Mulej

The presentation investigates the far-right adaptations of non-territorial autonomy during the interwar period, closely focusing on the ethno-federalist model developed by the Sudeten German Party. It explores how German minority activists in Czechoslovakia, who were familiar with the pre-war Moravian Compromise, the Austro-Marxists’ writings, as well as with the recommendations of the Congress of European Nationalities, adapted an originally liberal idea to the language and needs of an illiberal, völkisch ideology.

Oskar Mulej is postdoctoral researcher in the ERC project Non-Territorial Autonomy