

Prof. Dr. James Fowkes ([fowkes@uni-muenster.de](mailto:fowkes@uni-muenster.de))  
Dr. Michaela Hailbronner ([hailbronner@uni-muenster.de](mailto:hailbronner@uni-muenster.de))

## **Call for Papers: Challenges for public law in modern regulatory states**

**University of Münster, March 2-3, 2018**

### *Challenges for public law in modern regulatory states*

Modern regulatory states confront a host of challenges. Having taken on increasingly ambitious tasks of social and economic regulation, they are not merely expected to deliver results but to do so in a legitimate manner. This creates tensions and problems: We can observe a rise of the influence of experts, executive dominance in law-making and – partly in an attempt to balance this expansion of powers elsewhere – an increase in judicial power. These trends are often hard to reconcile with traditional understandings of the separation of powers and democracy. They may also contribute to rising discontent, expressed in the increasing support for populist movements and leaders. At the same time, regulation often seems to be failing us – for example when it comes to addressing inequality. Most of these problems and challenges are familiar in a wide range of countries, from North to South and East to West, and public law has increasingly become the language in which they are framed and addressed. As a result, legal comparison in public law is more important than ever. Understanding *what* we should expect from democracy, *what kind of contributions what kind of institution* can usefully make and *how* specific problems can be addressed should involve looking abroad to see how other systems approach these questions in theory and in practice. This enquiry will also have to look beyond different judicial doctrines and concepts, and draw on disciplines besides law, to understand the legal, cultural and political factors at play.

This conference aims to bring together younger German scholars and younger scholars from other jurisdictions with an interest in an exchange with German scholars on these themes. We welcome submissions from scholars working in comparative public and international law as well as adjacent fields such as political science, philosophy, economics or sociology. Interested doctoral students, post-docs and professors who self-identify as younger scholars should submit an abstract (up to 400 words) in English or German to [comparativelawmuenster@gmail.com](mailto:comparativelawmuenster@gmail.com) by October 10, 2017. The conference will also serve as a forum to discuss plans for the future, whether to found a new institutional platform for comparative public law or join emerging other fora such as ICON-S Germany etc.

Contributors should seek to secure funding from their home institutions wherever possible. Limited funding for travel costs and accommodation may be available at a later point. If you do require funding, please let us know when you submit your abstract. Acceptances will be sent by Oct. 30, 2017.

*Confirmed Speakers/Commentators: Oliver Lepsius (Keynote), Jacco Bomhoff, Philipp Dann, Anuscheh Farahat, Tanja Herklotz, Thomas Kleinlein, Joana Mendes, Sabine Müller-Mall, Niels Petersen, Bilyana Petkova, Sofia Ranchordas, Michael Riegner, Nahed Samour, Thomas Wischmeyer.*