



Development of Russian Law Research Methodological Seminar

September 18th, 2012 at 4:15 p.m.

Cold War and Legal Knowledge: Between Past and Present

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Venue: Coffee-room, Porthania, 3rd floor (P326)

Abstract:

In my presentation I will approach the Cold war discourse in the legal scholarship of past and present. Given their relatedness to political rhetoric, myths of Cold war certainly matter today – legal field is not an exception. Though, Cold War studies is a blooming field, its legal dimension has not been sufficiently developed. Legal scholars just embarked research on ‘legal mode’ of Cold war and its utilization nowadays, both explicit and implicit. The very first results demonstrate that knowledge of the law of the *Other* was created at the both sides of the Iron Curtain within two main frameworks: ideological and pragmatic. How did these approaches interrelate and influence one another? Can we actually strictly divide pure knowledge from the contextual conditions? Do cognitive schemes and competences of ‘legal front’ of the Cold war matter today? I will address these questions drawing on my experience of book project “The Legal Dimension in Cold War Interactions: Some Notes from the Field” (co-edited with William B. Simons) forthcoming in Brill’s Law in Eastern Europe series, 2012.