



## **Special Workshop Nr. 70: Dworkin's Equality in Legal Argumentation**

Organiser: **Prof. Dr. Matthias Klatt, University of Graz**

### **Abstract**

This workshop explores the significance of Ronald Dworkin's theory of equality on pivotal issues of legal argumentation. Dworkin's work on equality is built upon an abstract right to equal concern and respect which is brought to life by means of an equality of resources. His so-called 'egalitarian plateau' has inspired numerous debates on distributive justice in political philosophy for four decades. Much less work has been undertaken, however, on how the egalitarian plateau influences Dworkin's theory of legal argumentation. This is surprising since the abstract right to equal concern lies at the heart of Dworkin's entire theory of law and adjudication. We may only unlock the full potential of his oeuvre in interpretive methodology by exploring the egalitarian plateau as key element.

The workshop will consist of three sessions that are devoted to Dworkin's concept of equality, to the impact of this concept of equality upon legal interpretation as integrity, and to the contested question how the egalitarian plateau may contribute to reconciling equality and liberty in proportionality analysis. Taking seriously the integrative relations between these different threads in Dworkin's work will enhance our understanding of how the complex interplay between dignity, democracy, and diversity is accounted for in the argumentativeness of legal discourse.



**Schedule:**

Tuesday, 9 July: **10:45 am – 7:00 pm** (including lunch and coffee break)

**List of participants:**

1. Prof. Dr. Andreas Funke, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg: Against 'Application': Some Implications of Dworkin's Account of the Citizens' Role in Law
2. Prof. Dr. Stefan Gosepath, FU Berlin: Dworkin's conception of 'equal concern and respect'
3. Prof. Dr. Matthias Klatt, University of Graz: Proportionality in Equality Rights
4. Dr. Dimitrios Kyritsis, University of Reading: Is Legality a type of Equality
5. Dr. Stuart Lakin, University of Reading: Integrity and political choice: govern and let govern
6. Prof. Dr. George Letsas, University College London: The Principle/Policy Distinction Revisited
7. Dr. Anna Nilsson, Lund University: Same, same but different: Proportionality assessments and non-discrimination norms
8. Prof. Dr. George Pavlakos, University of Glasgow: Equality in the Service of Individual Choice: Dworkin's Non-Kantian Foundation of Legal Right
9. Prof. Dr. Stephen R. Perry, University of Pennsylvania: tba