



## Seminar Guidelines

### Roots of the European Legal Tradition: Seminar on the Mediterranean Cradle of the Law

*Prof. Dr. José Luis Alonso (University of Zurich)*

*Prof. Dr. Athina Dimopoulou (University of Athens)*

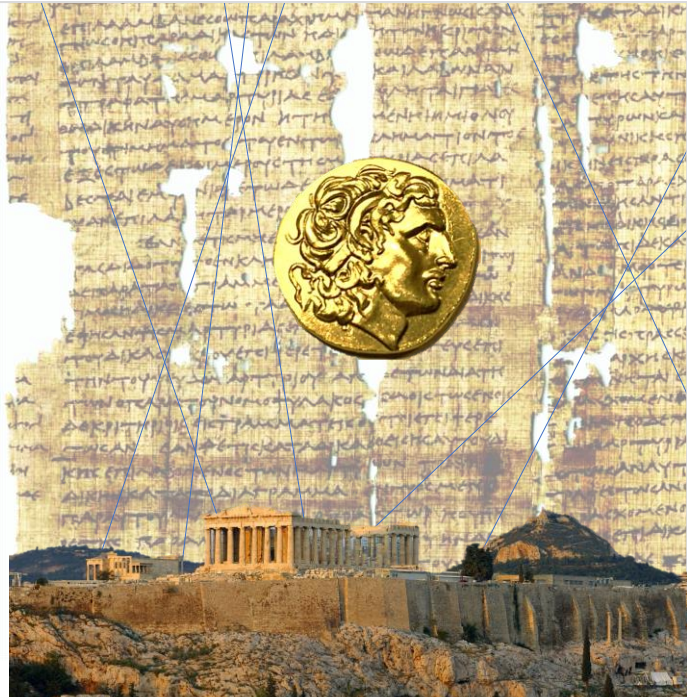
**Athens, March 31st – April 3rd, 2023**



University of  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens



#### I. Description

Why - within the great variety of courses offered by our faculty - to attend a seminar in Ancient Law? A seminar is meant to provide in addition to the existing compulsory offer of the faculty an opportunity to venture into new, less often discussed topics; topics which are not commonplace and allow us a respite from the constraints of a preestablished curriculum. Such broadening of horizons helps stimulate students to critically question and at the same time better understand their own legal system. Seminars offer students a unique opportunity to explore, in a relaxed atmosphere, themes outside their usual areas of study – specific topics that cannot find their way into the ordinary curriculum, foreign provisions, or –in our case– ideas and solutions from the past that have arrived to us through literary sources, through inscriptions and through papyri.

Our Chair, together with Professor Athina Dimopoulou from the University of Athens, will hold in the Spring Semester 2023, for the second time, a Seminar entitled "Roots of the European Legal Tradition: Seminar on the Mediterranean Cradle of Law". The event, limited to 12 participants, is open to both bachelor and master students and will take place from March 31 to April 3 at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. It will address a wide range of topics under the general theme "Continuity and Diversity in the Greek Legal Tradition".

Primary sources (and their translation) as well as a short selection of literature will be provided to the participants by the chair for their respective topics. As usual, the assessment involves the writing of an original paper (Bachelor's or Master's), the presentation of the results at the seminar, and the active participation in the discussions during the seminar itself. The paper may be written



in either German or English; however, due to the close cooperation with members and students of the University of Athens, we kindly request that the presentation of the results in the seminar be in English.

The academic discussion at the seminar will be complemented by archaeological/historical insights into ancient Greek civilization, so that the program –we hope– will leave a lasting impression on the participants. Further information, especially about the organization and schedule of the seminar, will be available at a later date in an extended information sheet. We are glad about your interest and look forward to your registration!

*The number of participants is limited to twelve.*

*The written paper can be in German as well as in English.*

## II. Topic List

### **Section I: Law of persons and family law**

Topic 1: Manumission of slaves in the Greek world

Topic 2: The "giving" of the bride and the formation of marriage in Greek law

Topic 3: Divorce in the Greek legal tradition

### **Section II: Law of credit and real securities**

Topic 4: The debt trap in Antiquity: Indebtedness as a problem, between philosophical doctrine and constitutional law practice

Topic 5: Debt modification and novation in Greek practice

Topic 6: The Greek hypothec

### **Section III: Law of sale**

Topic 7: The Greek sale in the classical poleis and in the Hellenistic world

Topic 8: Sale on credit and sale for delivery in Greek practice

Topic 9: Earnest money and sale in the Greek and Hellenistic world

### **Section IV: Foundations of the Greek law of obligations**

Topic 10: Forms and effect of the Greek "written agreement" (syngraphe)

Topic 11: agreement, promise and "bound provision" (Zweckverfügung) in the Greek homologia

Topic 12: The Greek obligation as a right of distraint

## III. Organisation/Travel

After the cancellation deadline (November 6, 2022) further, more detailed information about the organisation and procedure of the seminar as well as travel to/from Athens will be provided. The flights must be organised and financed by the participants themselves. Accommodation and meals (breakfast and dinner) will be organised by the chair. The entire program will cost approx. 450 euros per person, which must be covered by the participants themselves. We strive to obtain third-party funds, which is why this amount could end up being a little lower.

## IV. Process of participation

You can register using the RWF registration tool. The definitive distribution of the topics takes place at the preliminary meeting for the seminar (Friday, November 18th, 2022). The number of spots for this seminar is limited to 12. *Participation in the seminar is generally binding after*



*registration. If there are fewer than 5 registrations, the seminar will not take place; at more than 12 registrations, a waiting list will be created.*

1. The list of seminars is published on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.
2. The RWF registrations tool is open until Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, to send and revoke participation requests.
3. On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 the latest allocation of the seminar spots takes place (for bachelor theses), on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 at 12:00 the allocation will be visible (for master theses). The cancellation deadline will run until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of November 24:00 (for bachelor theses) or until Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 23:59 (for master theses).
4. Until Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of November please send an E-Mail to [lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch) with your three favorite topics in order of priority. Please also state whether you intend to write a bachelor- or a master thesis.
5. The presentation of the Seminar will take place on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 at 12:15** over **Zoom**. The topics will be distributed in that meeting. If you are unable to attend this date, please contact the chair.

<https://uzh.zoom.us/j/659565220?pwd=Vk0yckRpZDNFRHEybUdMRnFjUnRiQT09>

Meeting ID: 659 565 220

Password: 093034

6. Submission of an outline: Please send an outline, with the main questions to be explored, possible hypotheses and a preliminary literature list to the chair (2-3 pages) no later than **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2022** to: [lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch). After that we will contact you for a meeting with Professor Alonso to discuss and help with your outline and writing of the thesis.
7. Writing of the actual thesis.
8. Submission of a preliminary version: Please send a preliminary version of your thesis as well as an outline of your presentation to the chair by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023** at the latest: [lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch).
9. Between **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**, the oral presentations will be rehearsed in front of the chair assistants. This serves the preparation of the Seminar and (even though mandatory) will not be counted to the grade.
10. **Seminar sessions:** The seminar will take place on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of March until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2023**. Be aware that the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April are seminar sessions and not travel days! The arrival in Athens will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> and the travel back to Zurich will be on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The seminar consists of an oral presentation of your thesis (approx. 30 minutes) and a subsequent discussion. ***Both the presentation and the participation in the discussion are compulsory for all participants.***
11. **The deadline** for submitting the written thesis is **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 23:59**. A physical copy is not needed: please send your thesis as a PDF file to [lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.alonso@rwi.uzh.ch).

Please note that the deadlines have been set in consideration of the exam session in winter and the spring break in April. If these do not correspond to your individual work rhythm or your semester planning, you are always free to complete and submit to us earlier the individual stages, such as disposition, preliminary version, etc. thus receiving also earlier feedback. ***The deadlines, however, remain set and are binding.***



## **V. Length and grading of the thesis**

The examination consists of the content and treatment of the literature, the originality of the work and the formal requirements as well as written expression, coherence of the train of thought, argumentation, citation style and processes according to FORSMOSER, PETER / OGOREK, REGINA / SCHINDLER, BENJAMIN; *Juristisches Arbeiten*, 6th edition, Zurich 2018). Bachelor's theses are awarded 6 ECTS and must be approximately 20 pages long (excluding bibliography etc.). Master's theses can be only written to the extent of 12 ECTS, which corresponds to a thesis of approximately 40 pages. For the scope and formalities of the thesis, please refer to the separately published information sheet on the homepage of the chair (see Documents).