Comparative Private Law – University of Zurich – Autumn Term 2018

Dr. Nataša Hadžimanović

Former Senior Research Fellow of the Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative and International Private

Law in Hamburg, Germany

Postdoctoral Fellow of the University of Lucerne, Switzerland Lecturer for Comparative Private Law at the University of Zurich, Switzerland

Introduction Into Comparative Private Law

- I. COMPARATIVE LAW AS A FAIRLY YOUNG DISCIPLINE
- A. From Roman Law to Codification and Reception
- B. Stages of Comparative Research
- 1. Comparative Legal Research as a Substitute for the ius commune
- 2. Country-specific Research and its Systematization ("Macro-comparison")
- 3. Comparison of Particular Areas of the Law ("Micro-comparison")
- 4. Functionalist Approach to Comparative Law
- 5. Comparative Law as a Source of Inspiration to Legislatures Around the Globe
- 6. Comparative Law Research as a Collective Undertaking to Draft Common Principles
- II. COMPARATIVE LAW COMPETING WITH OTHER METHODS
- A. Legal Dogmatics
- **B.** Economic Theory
- C. Comparative Law and Its Imponderabilities
- III. (GLOBALIZED) NEEDS AS A MOTOR FOR LEGAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSING ON COMPARATIVE LAW
- IV. WHO NEEDS COMPARATIVE LAW?
- A. Demands for Comparative Law by Academia

- B. Demands for Comparative Law by the Legal Professions
- C. Demands for Comparative Law by Legislatures
- D. Demands for Comparative Law by Unification Agencies
- E. International Organizations and Institutions as Demanders/Producers of a Kind of "Living Comparisons of Laws"

V. RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

- 1. Basedow, Jürgen, Comparative Law and its Clients, The American Journal of Comparative Law, Vol. 62, 2014, pp. 821-857; Max Planck Private Law Research Paper No. 14/2. Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=2391171
- 2. Glenn, H. Patrick, Comparative Legal Families and Comparative Legal Traditions, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 422-438
- 3. Graziadei, Michele, Comparative Law as the Study of Transplants and Receptions, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 441-474
- 4. Legrand, Pierre, The Impossibility of 'Legal Transplants', Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law, Vol. 4, 1997, pp. 111-125
- 5. Mattei, Ugo, Three Patterns of Law: Taxonomy and Change in the World's Legal Systems, The American Journal of Comparative Law, Vol. 45, 1997, pp. 5-44
- 6. Michaels, Ralf, The Functional Method of Comparative Law, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 340-382
- 7. Muir Watt, Horatia, Globalization and Comparative Law, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 579-608
- 8. Pargendler, Mariana, The Rise and Decline of Legal Families, The American Journal of Comparative Law, Vol. 60, 2012, pp. 1043-1074
- 9. Smits, Jan M., Comparative Law and its Influence on National Legal Systems, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 514-538
- 10. Teubner, Gunther, Legal Irritants: Good Faith in British Law or How Unifying Law Ends up in New Divergences, The Modern Law Review, Vol. 61, 1998, pp. 11-32
- Zimmermann, Reinhard, Comparative Law and the Europeanization of Private Law, in: Mathias Reimann/Reinhard Zimmermann (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, Oxford 2006, pp. 540-577

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