

# Seminar “Obey the Law – Crime, Compliance, and the Law: Behavioral Perspectives”

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Dear Students

The seminar “*Obey the Law – Crime, Compliance, and the Law: Behavioral Perspectives*,” is a joint project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Zurich. Along with Prof. Dr. Yoan Hermstrüwer (University of Zurich) and Prof. Dr. Doron Teichman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), I am excited to explore the behavioral dimensions of compliance, crime prevention, and decision-making within the criminal justice system. This seminar tackles numerous fundamental questions, such as: Can the law influence behavior without enforcement? How do people justify unethical behavior? How do potential offenders evaluate expected sanctions? And how do participants in the criminal process make decisions?

The seminar consists of **online preparatory sessions** and **in-person meetings in Zurich**. Below, you will find the essential details to ensure your full participation and preparation.

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## Online Preparatory Sessions

The online sessions (90 minutes) introduce key topics through required readings and active student discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Note that the Zoom Meeting will be recorded and made available for all participants.

- **Zoom Details:**
  - Link: <https://uzh.zoom.us/j/61640525617?pwd=g2xRDcSUIAUZC6PGmBISfiP3ZfkB6L.1>
  - Meeting ID: 616 4052 5617
  - Passcode: 639805
- **Syllabus:**
  - You can find all the publications on the reading list [here](#).

## Schedule:

1. **Monday, 24 March 2025, 14:00–15:30**
  - *Topic:* Social Norms and Legal Compliance – The Expressive Power of Law
  - *Students:* Dzenisa Cokovic (UZH; [dzenisa.cokovic@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:dzenisa.cokovic@ius.uzh.ch)), Ron Peretz (HUJI; [ron.peretz1@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:ron.peretz1@mail.huji.ac.il)), Roi Aboudi (HUJI; [roi.aboudi@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:roi.aboudi@mail.huji.ac.il)), Chunxiao Ma (UZH; [chunxiao.ma@uzh.ch](mailto:chunxiao.ma@uzh.ch))
  - *Readings:* Janice Nadler’s *Expressive Law and Social Norms*, Tom Lane et al.’s *Law and Norms: Empirical Evidence*.
2. **Thursday, 27 March 2025, 14:00–15:30**
  - *Topic:* Power of Behavioral Ethics – Why People (Dis-)Obey the Law
  - *Students:* Giulia Isabel Brusa (UZH; [giuliaisabel.brusa@uzh.ch](mailto:giuliaisabel.brusa@uzh.ch)), Nofar Elbaz (HUJI; [nofar.elbaz@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:nofar.elbaz@mail.huji.ac.il)), Chiara Macciachini (UZH; [chiara.macciachini@uzh.ch](mailto:chiara.macciachini@uzh.ch)), Yuval Erel (HUJI; [uval.erel@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:uval.erel@mail.huji.ac.il)), Mia Winraob (HUJI; [mia.winraob@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:mia.winraob@mail.huji.ac.il))
  - *Readings:* Nina Mazar et al.’s *The Dishonesty of Honest People*, Uri Gneezy and Aldo Rustichini’s *A Fine is a Price*, Simon Gächter’s *Conditional Cooperation*.

3. **Monday, 31 March 2025, 14:00–15:30**

- *Topic:* The Psychology of Criminal Sanctions
- *Students:* Aurélie Gervasoni (UZH; [aureliamarie-louisef.gervasoni@uzh.ch](mailto:aureliamarie-louisef.gervasoni@uzh.ch)), Sara Fäs (UZH; [sara.faes@uzh.ch](mailto:sara.faes@uzh.ch)), Abigail Halevy Lahe (HUJI; [abigail.halevy-lahe@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:abigail.halevy-lahe@mail.huji.ac.il)), Shay Karni (HUJI; [shay.karni@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:shay.karni@mail.huji.ac.il)), Cora Toprak (UZH; [cora.toprak@uzh.ch](mailto:cora.toprak@uzh.ch))
- *Readings:* Greg Pogarsky's *Offender Decision-Making in Criminology*, Daniel Kahneman et al.'s *When More Pain is Preferred to Less*.

4. **Thursday, 3 April 2025, 14:00–15:30**

- *Topic:* The Psychology of the Criminal Process
- *Students:* Tara Berchtold (UZH; [taraalisha.berchtold@uzh.ch](mailto:taraalisha.berchtold@uzh.ch)), Sarah Zhylyak (UZH; [sarahsophia.zhylyak@uzh.ch](mailto:sarahsophia.zhylyak@uzh.ch)), Evgeniya Ispolatovskaya (UZH; [evgeniya.ispolatovskaya@uzh.ch](mailto:evgeniya.ispolatovskaya@uzh.ch)), Erez Sonnenblick (HUJI; [erez.sonnenblick@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:erez.sonnenblick@mail.huji.ac.il)), Adi Feldman (HUJI; [adi.feldman1@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:adi.feldman1@mail.huji.ac.il))
- *Readings:* Dan Simon and Stephen J. Read's *Toward a General Framework of Biased Reasoning*, Christoph Engel and Andreas Glöckner's *Role-Induced Bias in Court*, Colleen M. Berryessa's *Prosecuting from the Bench?*

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## Main Seminar in Zurich

- **Dates:** Tuesday, 6 May 2025, and Wednesday, 7 May 2025
- **Location:** N°2 Studio, Brotgasse 3, 8008 Zurich (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/oHwkSijuCfy8uKjn7>)
- **Schedule:** 09.00 AM to 5:00 PM each day

Each session focuses on one of the seminar's main topics. Group assignments and creative presentations will guide the discussions. Creativity is encouraged: consider tools such as mock trials, quizzes, role plays, panel discussions, or other innovative methods. Avoid summarizing papers; instead, create engaging and interactive content. Groups must ensure their presentations and discussions span 120 minutes and include a 30-minute break at an appropriate point.

### Daily Topics:

#### Tuesday, 6 May 2025

- 09.00h - Welcome and Introduction
- 09.30h-12.00h – **Topic I: Social Norms and Legal Compliance**
- 12.00h-14.00h – Lunch (individually)
- 14.00h-16.30h – **Topic II: Behavioral Ethics**
- 18.30h-22.30h – Joint Dinner

#### Wednesday, 7 May 2025

- 09.00h-11.30h – **Topic III: The Psychology of Criminal Sanctions**
  - 11.30h-13.30h – Lunch (individually)
  - 13.30h-16.00h – **Topic II: The Psychology of the Criminal Process**
  - 16.00h-17.00h – Wrap up / Conclusions
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## **Additional Information**

- **Papers:** Bachelor students (6–8 pages) and Master students (10–12 pages) must submit their papers by the seminar start date.
- **Contact:** For questions, email Luca Schoop at [luca.schoop@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:luca.schoop@ius.uzh.ch).

Looking forward to your participation!

**Kind regards,**  
Marc Thommen  
Professor of Criminal Law  
University of Zurich