



Zürich, 7. Oktober 2014

Seminar: Free Speech and the European Convention on Human Rights

Free speech is one of the most important fundamental rights. It is a central element of the protection of individual dignity and freedom. It is in addition part of the very foundations of democracy. In many ways it is an archetypal fundamental right that helped to shape the idea of legally protected fundamental rights in general.

The seminar reconstructs free speech rights in the European context with particular emphasis on the regime of the ECHR. In addition, further comparative perspectives are pursued to deepen the understanding of the problems free speech poses to the understanding of fundamental rights. The seminar will be co-taught with Prof. Dr. András Sajó, judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

Possible topics include:

1. Theoretical Foundations of Free Speech
2. Free Speech in History
3. Free Speech and Democracy
4. Free Speech in Switzerland
5. Free Speech in Comparative Perspective I: The Case of the US
6. Free Speech in Comparative Perspective II: The Case of South Africa
7. Free Speech in Comparative Perspective III: Free Speech in France, Germany and the UK
- 8.-13. The European Convention Regime: Case Studies
14. Free Speech and Terrorism
15. Free Speech and the Internet

The Seminar will be taught in German, English and French.

The preparatory meeting will be held on October 28, 2014 at 17:00 in the room RAI-F-041. In case of interest please contact lst.mahlmann@rwi.uzh.ch and indicate three ranked topics you are interested in and add a little note on your motivation to join this seminar. The number of participants who can be admitted to the seminar is limited.

Prof. Dr. iur. Matthias Mahlmann