

# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II

## DIPARTIMENTO DI GIURISPRUDENZA

Association of Young Legal Historians / XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum Naples, 30<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

### HISTORY OF LAW AND OTHER HUMANITIES: VIEWS OF THE LEGAL CULTURE ACROSS THE TIME

“... Cesare fui e son Iustiniano,  
che, per voler del primo amor ch'i' sento,  
d'entro le leggi tolsi il troppo e 'l vano.”  
(Paradiso VI.10-12)

In Dante's *Divina Commedia*, Justinian speaks these words when he begins to tell the story of his life. This kind of image was obviously result of the perception that medieval culture had elaborated about Rome and the law belonging to that world. But such a representation could be an interesting observation point to understand also the same medieval legal culture which had produced it. This is only one of the interpretative models which could relate history of law and other humanities, in our case literature.

It is known how much law has always inspired other fields, especially concerning arts. Actually, it is realistic to state that the real effects produced by rules operate just outside their structure, through the visions elaborated by every society in different times and spaces. In this sense arts and more in general each manifestation of cultural life have often represented and continue to represent a great opportunity to reflect on a specific legal system and the coeval mentality. Beside literature, all the figurative expressions together with architecture, music and cinema too, only to make some examples, have approached the problem of law and justice in many ways. Anyway, if we take for granted that humanities are considered an authentic mine of information for history of law – the study of the antiquity, in particular, uses non-legal sources as an unavoidable instrument of research – nevertheless a certain contemporary historiography, mainly originating from the American law faculties, has been stressing the importance for scholars to analyse legal texts as literature or even artistic works as legal texts. According to these two main streams, it is possible to construct history or better some stories of law following several directions: we could observe that during the centuries the juridical dimension has been recounted through literary pages, images, buildings, musical compositions and movies; moreover, that law itself could be read as a narration of the reality like a novel, a painting or a symphony, because a legal text is also mirror of the society which has made it. Thus this kind of relation between law and humanities has a bidirectional feature and puts the legal discourse in a continuous circuit of interpretation and representation.

Aim of the present edition of the Forum, characterized by a wide ranging perspective, will be to encourage and so to revitalise the scientific debate on the whole matter, respecting the existence of various methodological traditions, in order to point out new multidisciplinary approaches for the young legal historians.

Applications, containing an abstract together with a synthetic *curriculum vitae ac studiorum* and a list of publications, should be sent to the following email: [forum2017aylh@gmail.com](mailto:forum2017aylh@gmail.com); deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Presentations need to be in English and should not exceed 20 minutes.

Conference fee amounts to 100 Euros and do not include accommodation; payment should be made to the following bank account, specifying “AYLH Forum 2017 Naples” as reason:

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For more details please visit the website [www.aylh.org](http://www.aylh.org) and do not hesitate to contact the Organizing Committee: we are looking forward to welcoming you in Naples!

Valerio Massimo Minale (President) and Virginia Amorosi