HISTOR(IES) OF EMOTIONS: GENDER, SELF AND MORALITY IN CRIMINAL LEGAL CULTURES

Dr. Laura Kounine - Dr. Gian-Marco Vidor

Seminar: Friday 12:00-14:00 Friedrichstrasse 191
Office Hour: By appointment
Email: kounine@mpib-berlin.mpg.de and vidor@mpib-berlin.mpg.de
Administrative contact person at HU (room 5026 or 5021): Kerstin Brudnachowski (Prof. Aschmann's secretary)
Reading Material: everything is on MOODLE and the password is: witches

IMPORTANT INFO RE. SCHEDULING
Please note that there will not be a session on 1 May (Bank Holiday); 15 May (Bank Holiday); 22 May; or 29 May.
On the 8 May there will be a block session from 12:00-16:00 covering gender, the body and sexuality; and subjectivities and the self.
On the 21-22 May there will be a Law and Emotions conference that we would like you to attend.

17.04.2015 – INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE. Course Outline, Assessment, Reading, Presentations

This course will examine histories of emotions, gender and selfhood through the lens of criminal legal cultures. As Martha Nussbaum has shown, law without appeals to the emotions is ‘virtually unthinkable’. Understandings of the kind of emotions that are ‘reasonable’ or not in a given context respond to existing social and moral norms. By examining case studies of criminal trials and legal contexts from the medieval period to present day, this course will interrogate how ideas about gender, emotions, the self, morality and legal responsibility changed (or did not change) over time. Criminal records – depositions, court testimonies, and media reporting – afford the historian a unique access to both normative understandings of categories such as emotions, gender and selfhood, but also to practices: how was gender, the body, and the self experienced and given meaning in the courtroom? Moreover, legal records are particularly rich sources since they give voice to people otherwise lost to the historical record: women as well as men, poor as well as rich. Enduring historiographical chronologies posit that people have becoming increasingly ‘civilized’, that they have become better at ‘restraining’ their emotions, and that violence was slowly replaced by the law. This course will trace – and challenge – these larger chronologies of change, examining how historians (can) think about categories of emotions, gender and selfhood through the legal sphere.

Part I. Theories and Methodologies: Emotions, Gender, Self

24.04.2015 – HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

Gian Marco Vidor and Laura Kounine

Boddice, Rob “The affective turn: historicizing the emotions”. In Tileagà, C. and Byford, J. (eds), Psychology and history. Interdisciplinary explanations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014, pp. 147-165.


01.05.2015 – Bank holiday: NO SESSION

08.05.2015 – GENDER AND THE BODY; HISTORIES OF THE SELF
A DOUBLE SESSION 12 – 16 UHR
Laura Kounine and Gian Marco Vidor


HISTORIES OF THE SELF: SELFHOOD AND SUBJECTIVITY


15.05.2015 – Bank holiday: NO SESSION

22.05.2015 – Law and Emotions in Criminal Legal Cultures: From the Sixteenth Century to the Present, Conference at Max Planck Institute for Human Development, 21- 22 May 2015. Please attend at least one day. To attend write an e-mail at least 2 weeks in advance to Karola Rockmann: rockmann@mpib-berlin.mpg.de
29.05.2015 – NO SESSION

Part II. Law and Emotions in Theory and Practice

05.06.2015 – LAW AND EMOTIONS: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Gian Marco Vidor


12.06.2015 – LAW IN PRACTICE

Laura Kounine and Gian Marco Vidor


Radio Podcast "The Alibi - Serial". First Episode.

19.06.2015 – HONOUR, HATRED, VIOLENCE AND THE LAW

Laura Kounine


26.06.2015 – LAW, EMOTIONS AND THE CIVILIZING PROCESS

Gian Marco Vidor


03.07.2015 – LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY
Gian Marco Vidor and Laura Kounine

Harris, Ruth, “Melodrama, hysteria and feminine crimes of passion in the “fin-de-siècle”, History Workshop, 25, 1, 1988, pp. 31-63.


10.07.2015 – NARRATIVES, LEGAL RHETORIC AND EMOTIONS
Laura Kounine


17.07.2015 – CONCLUDING SESSION
Laura Kounine and Gian Marco Vidor

Screening of the documentary on a recent and very controversial Finnish criminal trial: "Emergency Call" (Ulvila Case), 2006, by Pekka Lehto

SEMESTER ENDS: Let’s celebrate!