



A guest lecture of the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Ostasienstudien and the research focus area Translation of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History

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Custom as a Source of Law

This presentation sets forth the spread of law from a comparative perspective, with emphasis on customary law in Europe and East Asia. The concept of custom as a source of law played the role of important machinery in the process of adopting a new legal system from outside. Traditional view has been that custom was the universal origin of law, emerging spontaneously in social existence, but history has shown, from medieval France through Meiji Japan, that heightened attention to custom took place in the contexts of external stimulus of alien law and conscious state effort to unify legal sources and centralize the realm. Custom as an instrument for precipitating change saw a dramatic revival in colonial law in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Diffusion of civil law through the medium of custom has a long and deep history.

Time: July 5th, 2017, 18:00-20:00 (c.t.)

**Place: R. 3.101, RuW-Building, Campus Westend
(Rechts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften)**