Das Innovationszentrum Wissensforschung (IZW) und die Ernst-Cassirer-Arbeitsgruppe

laden ein zu einem Vortrag von

Prof. Dr. Jean Lassègue
(Senior Researcher am CNRS, Paris)

“What would be a Cassirerian philosophy of law like?”

Law as a symbolic form is still very much to be explored. On the one hand, Cassirer's philosophical approach to law is too far from empirical legal systems to be of real use for legal experts. On the other hand, philosophers tend to ignore basic constraints in the production of legal systems by sticking to an abstract notion of 'legality', the term being mostly used by Cassirer to clarify the role played by mathematics in the making of natural sciences. But this case is not specific to law: we know of several symbolic forms which are only mentioned in passing by Cassirer and with various levels of attention on his part (art or religion are common examples). A reconstruction of what the symbolic form of law could be should therefore be attempted. In this talk, I will focus my attention on such a reconstruction by showing how other symbolic forms such as myth, art, language and science intervene in the making of a legal decision through the process of the trial. I will then try to explore the great divide in Western legal systems between common law and civil law by examining the ritual conditions through which these two legal orders became possible. This will exemplify the plasticity of law as a symbolic form – "for it is precisely the constant transformation of this meaning and the motives for this transformation which constitute the true problem" (Ernst Cassirer, 1939).

Donnerstag, den 12. Juli 2018, 18:00 Uhr c.t.

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