



Four-Year Research Position, subproject (iii) (open rank: PhD / post-doc)

100%

The Department of History at the University of Zurich offers a four-year research position in intellectual history as part of the project *The Just City: The Ciceronian Conception of Justice and Its Reception in the Western Tradition (JustCity)*, funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant (2020-2025) and headed by PD Dr. Benjamin Straumann. The appointment will be at the rank of PhD student or post-doc research fellow, according to the nominee's academic qualifications. Appointment of a post-doc may be extended until September 30, 2025. Starting date is April 1, 2021 or as agreed upon. The Department of History in Zurich is the largest historical institute in Switzerland and renowned for its wide range of themes and methods in research and teaching.

Project description

With a focus on Cicero's conception of justice and its lasting intellectual legacy, the *JustCity* project delves into one of the most innovative and influential, yet widely neglected contributions the history of Western political thought has to offer. Not only does Cicero's law-centred conception of justice, both within and between states, mark a significant departure from the virtue-centred conceptions of justice typical for earlier, Greek theories, it also paved the way for what has come to be known as the Constitutionalist Tradition in political thought, as well as for the emergence of natural and international law in early modern Europe. In order to fully appreciate its massive impact in the long term, the project will trace Cicero's conception of justice through three historical inflection points: (i) its inception in the late Roman Republic; (ii) its transmission by the Christian writers Lactantius and Augustinus; (iii) its use by Alberico Gentili and other early modern thinkers engaged in debates on international politics and the law of nations. These inflection points designate the main themes of the project, each of which will be investigated by an individual research team member in a subproject of its own.

Key responsibilities

The successful candidate will be assigned the subproject *Valladolid, Alberico Gentili's Wars of the Romans (1599) and the Emergence of Intentional Justice*, **which is linked to subproject (iii)** and designed to trace, from the vantage point of Alberico Gentili's *Wars of the Romans* (1599) and other early modern political thinkers, the Ciceronian legacy in the forming of the law of nations in early modern Europe. One of the key early modern texts on the moral and legal conditions of international law, Gentili's *Wars of the Romans* shall primarily be investigated in the context of the famous Valladolid dispute concerning the justice of Spain's imperial possessions, of Machiavellian *raison d'état* theories, and of emerging natural-law doctrines which came to provide the foundations of nascent international legal thought. At the end of the appointment, the successful candidate shall publish his research findings as a monograph, which may be submitted as a doctoral or postdoctoral thesis; in addition, she or he is



expected to publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals; further responsibilities involve the participation in the regular meetings of the research team, attending research-related conferences in Zurich and abroad and helping to organize the project's conferences and symposia.

Selection criteria

Applicants must hold a master's or doctor's degree in History, Classics, Philosophy or Political Science, should specialize in early modern intellectual history and the reception of classical antiquity, and have a keen interest in international law. Excellent command of written and spoken English as well as good knowledge of Latin are imperative.

Applications

Please submit your application (PDF) by **November 13, 2020**, containing:

- a detailed CV with your academic track record and publication list
- a motivation letter
- scans of all supporting documents
- a published article, or excerpt (no more than 20 pages) from Master's thesis

Further informations and application: Dr. Benjamin Straumann: benjamin.straumann@uzh.ch