Seminar

Stupid Laws – The Moral Limits of the Criminal Law

The Law Faculty of the University of Zurich is very pleased to announce this seminar in cooperation with Professor Doron Teichman from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The seminar elaborates on the question of what sorts of conduct can be legitimately criminalised by a state. The objective of the course is to discuss fundamental theories which are used to either legitimate or limit a state's power to impose penal sanctions. In doing so, we will examine the reason for criminal liability regarding different «stupid» criminal offences (e.g. drug offences, offences against personal honour, pornography, assisting suicide etc.).

The discussion is going to take place in the form of a block seminar on **21–23 November 2018 in Zurich** together with students from the **University of Bern**.

The following performance is expected of the students:

- Seminar paper (bachelor or master thesis)
- Preparation of group presentations together with students from the University of Bern.
- Attendance at the block seminar in Zurich and oral participation in the discussions.

It will be **presupposed** that all students have a basic knowledge **of both substantive criminal law and criminal procedure law**.

The seminar paper – as a bachelor or master thesis – has to be written in **English.** However the required length is **reduced to 50% of a standard bachelor/master thesis**. The block seminar itself will also be held in English. The topics the seminar papers are to be based on will be announced at the preliminary meeting, which will take place on **March 9 from 12:15 – 13.00h** in the **room KO2-F-153**. As the number of seminar places is limited, topics and seminar places will be assigned bindingly to the students during the preliminary meeting. You are therefore requested to bring your student identification card with you. Students have to attend personally. Substitutes are not allowed.

If you have any questions, please contact Martin Seelmann (martin.seelmann@rwi.uzh.ch).