

# Lectio

KU LEUVEN

## Call for Papers



**Doctoral Seminar by Prof. Dr. Emily Kadens**  
(Northwestern University School of Law - Chicago)

### **The Trouble with Custom**

followed by paper presentations by early-stage scholars

Friday 3 October 2014 - Museumzaal MSI 02.08 9.00am-5.00pm  
Mgr Sencie-Institute, Erasmusplein 2, Leuven (B)

### **The Trouble with Custom**

*Historians of all types take for granted that something called "custom" existed. Then they use the term lazily, as did people in the pre-modern era, to refer to many types of legal rules and norms. But if we take seriously the Roman law definition adopted by the medieval jurists that custom is repeated behavior over time to which the majority of the community has tacitly consented to be bound, then how did this custom work? How was it formed? How did it evolve over time? What effect did writing have on it? What was its relationship to enacted and learned law? Is the Roman concept of custom and its reality in practice the same as the German distinction between Gewohnheitsrecht and Rechtsgewohnheit? And, most fundamentally, did custom as defined by the Roman law actually ever exist at all? If not, why did the jurists spend so much energy debating its intricacies?*

On the occasion of the presentation of LECTIO's new book series, Professor Emily Kadens (Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago) will deliver a public lecture on Thursday 2 October entitled '**The Intellectual History of Custom**'. In addition, on Friday 3 October she will lead a seminar on '**The Trouble with Custom**'.

After **an introductory session** by Professor Kadens, the seminar will provide the opportunity to selected doctoral and post-doctoral scholars to present their research during **a paper session** and to discuss it with Professor Kadens and the other participants. We particularly welcome paper proposals that deal with one of the following topics:

1. The relationship between custom as it worked in daily life and the legal theory of custom;
2. The use of custom as an argument in law, philosophy, theology, philology, history, etc.;
3. The interaction between legal history and intellectual history

Interdisciplinary approaches and case studies that illustrate these topics from a historical or present day perspective are an asset. Successful applicants are expected to give a **10-minute 'Work-in-Progress' talk** in English followed by a **20-minute discussion**.

A **paper** (max. 10 pages) and a **short CV** should be submitted no later than 25 August 2014 to [lectio@kuleuven.be](mailto:lectio@kuleuven.be)

For organizational purposes, scholars who want to attend the seminar without presenting a paper are also asked to register before that date.

All participants of the doctoral seminar will receive a **reading assignment** by the end of August 2014.

### Provisional Program

Thursday 2 Oct 2014 – Venue: Lipsiuszaal Faculty of Arts LETT 08.16, Blijde Inkomststraat 21, Leuven (B)	
17.00	<b>Public lecture</b> – Prof. Dr. Emily Kadens (Northwestern University School of Law – Chicago) <i>'The Intellectual History of Custom'</i>
18.00	<b>Book presentation</b> – Prof. Dr. Gerd Van Riel (KU Leuven) <i>'Lectio. Studies in the Transmission of Texts &amp; Ideas'</i>
Friday 3 Oct 2014 – Venue: Museumzaal MSI 02.08, Mgr. Sencie-Institute, Erasmusplein 2, Leuven (B)	
09:00	Introduction – Prof. Dr. Wim Decock (KU Leuven)
09:10	<b>Seminar</b> – Prof. Dr. Emily Kadens (Northwestern University School of Law – Chicago) <i>'The Trouble with Custom'</i>
11:00	Coffee break
11:15	Paper Session 1 (2 papers)
12:15	Lunch
13:15	Paper Session 2 (3 papers)
14:45	Coffee break
15:00	Paper Session 3 (3 papers)
16:30	Final conclusions

### Scientific and organizing committee

KU Leuven      Wim Decock, Pieter De Leemans, Marleen Reynders  
 UGent            Dirk Heirbaut  
 VUB              Dave De ruyscher



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