

Geschichte & Region/
Storia & regione Bozen

Kompetenzzentrum für
Regionalgeschichte Brixen,
Universität Bozen/Università
di Bolzano

Südtiroler Landesarchiv
Bozen

Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften
und Europäische Ethnologie

Cluster „Politische Kommunikation“
(Forschungsschwerpunkt „Kulturelle
Begegnungen – Kulturelle Konflikte“)
Universität Innsbruck

Call for Papers

for the concluding conference of our project
„Legal spaces and gender order as social processes in a trans-regional perspective.
Negotiating and stipulating property in urban and rural contexts of southern Tirol
from the fifteenth to the early nineteenth century“

on:

Stipulating – Litigating – Mediating Negotiation processes within the competing fields of gender and property

Bozen/Bolzano, October 22-24, 2015

The conference focuses on the social implications of marriage property regimes and inheritance structures from the late Middle Ages to the nineteenth century. To this day, marital, familial and kinship relations are shaped by transfers of resources and claims on property. These could refer to real estate, moveables, money, as well as interest or provisions. Transfers and claims implicated potential rivalries and conflicts of interests between the sexes, between different generations, and the guardians but also intra-generational controversies between siblings, and half- or stepsiblings. Such conflicts were structurally inherent in the prevalent inheritance practice, in the negotiated or stipulated inter-generational and marital arrangements, and in the transactions of assets. On the other hand, preferences and disadvantages could be guided by social, economic, cultural, and political principles.

Many types of contracts, wills, confirmations and declarations were especially designed to avoid conflicts. But such documents did not always achieve their objective: wills were challenged; terms of contract led to disputes; and further claims were prosecuted. To mediate disputes, diverse legal instruments were available: a compromise or settlement, a new contract, a court decision and many more. However, many cases were protracted across several generations.

Starting from property issues in marital, familial and relational contexts, the purpose of the conference is:

- to interconnect scopes of negotiation, powers of disposition, structurally inherent potentials of conflict, constellations of dispute, and methods of resolution;
- to determine constellations of specific inheritance structures and marital property regimes, social milieus, different stages in the life course, and contexts which were especially prone to cause conflicts;

- to explore how much significance gender was given;
- and to identify possible tendencies and chronologies of change.

The conference languages are German, Italian and English (with simultaneous translation into English). A budget for travel expenses and accommodation is available.

We invite abstracts of c. 350 words and brief biographical information (max. five lines). Please email the conference committee at margareth.lanzinger@univie.ac.at. The deadline for submission is January 10, 2015.