Call for Papers

Justice, Care, Responsibility: Rethinking the Family from a Legal and Philosophical Perspective

February 8-9, 2024

Conference organized by Prof. Michelle Cottier, Prof. Simone Zurbuchen and Prof. Anne Kühler on behalf of the Swiss Association of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Collaboration with the Centre for Legislative Studies (CETEL) at the University of Geneva

In Western societies, barely any social institution has been changing so rapidly as the family. While the traditional nuclear family, which became predominant in the 19th century, still exists, it goes along with single parent families, patchwork families, homoparental families, grandparent families, etc. Today’s diversity of family models challenges traditional accounts of care and responsibility within the family, leaving space to reflect on the legal and ethical parameters that govern our notions of the various relations within the family. It therefore comes as no surprise that marriage and the family have recently gained increased attention not only in sociology and anthropology, but also in law and philosophy. The Conference aims at discussing the family and its future from an interdisciplinary standpoint, bringing together philosophy and law (including sociology of law), and in a global perspective.

The Conference comprises 4 Sessions:

- The Family: Past, Present and Future;
- Philosophical Perspectives on the Regulation of Personal Relationships;
- Caring and Justice;
- Globalisation and the Family – The Global Family

Confirmed speakers: Gabrielle Radica (University of Lille), Alice Margaria (University of Zurich), Elisabeth Holzleithner (University of Vienna), Clare Chambers (Cambridge University), Monika Betzler (University of Munich), Caroline Arni (University of Basel), Jonathan Herring (University of Oxford), Amrita Pande (University of Cape Town), Ivana Isailovic (University of Amsterdam), Janine Dahinden (University of Neuchâtel), Makane Moïse Mbengue (University of Geneva)

Workshop for Junior Researchers

The Conference includes a Workshop for Junior Researchers on February 9, 2024 (2:15 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

Early career scholars are invited to present a paper at the Workshop that will be reviewed and commented by an expert, followed by an open discussion. Paper proposals dealing with one of the main topics of the Conference from a legal or philosophical perspective are especially welcome.

If you wish to participate in the Workshop for Junior Researchers, please send an abstract of max. 400 words by October 15, 2023 to:

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