



Vienna Lectures on Legal Philosophy

We would like to invite you to the following lecture:

Recht als Vermittlung

**Was das Recht ist und was es von anderen Sozial- und
Kulturgebilden unterscheidet**

by

Dietmar von der Pfordten

University of Göttingen

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

06:30 pm

Juridicum

SEM 33

Schottenbastei 10-16

1010 Wien

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this lecture.
Elisabeth Holzleithner – Anne Kühler - Alexander Somek

Abstract:

Law affects human life in various ways, such as judicial decisions, statutes, common law, constitutions, regulations, contracts, administrative acts. What do all these types of law necessarily have in common? And what distinguishes law from other types of social formations, such as morality, politics and religion? Or to put it more briefly:

What is the nature of law?

The nature of law is examined in the lecture in three steps:

At a first, most general level of understanding, it is asked what the most fundamental kind of object in the world law is. The answer is: Law is fundamentally not a thing or a mere property, but a relationship and a relationship that is related to meaning.

On a second level, from the basic concept of relationship and to the explanation of the meaning-relatedness, there is a concretizing descent over seven stages with the help of seven increasingly concrete concepts. In this way one arrives at the central goal of law: the goal of mediating between potentially opposing, conflicting concerns in a community.

Finally, on a third, even more concrete level, we examine how law differs from the neighboring social phenomena of recommendation, mediation, custom, politics, morality, administrative regulation and religion.

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