



A New Centre for Advanced Studies in Berlin

## Reflexive Globalization and the Law: Colonial Legacies and Their Global Implications in the 21st Century (ReCoL)

A new Centre for Advanced Studies is now underway at [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](https://www.hu-berlin.de/) after the German Research Foundation (DFG) approved funding of € 4.2 million in its prestigious *Kolleg-Forschungsgruppen*-programme.

The Centre is dedicated to exploring the role *of* law and the impact *on* law in the context of colonialism and its legacies by providing a platform for cutting-edge research and sustainable conversations between scholars from the South and the North. It will be established in 2025.



The Centre rests on two central ideas – one substantive, one procedural: In terms of substance, the basic assumption is that globalization has entered a new phase in recent years. It is less perceived in economic terms and as uni-directional ‘Westernization’ but instead with important intellectual dimensions and as multidirectional. South and North, centre and periphery are redefined and rebalanced. This new phase may, tentatively, be termed ‘reflexive globalization’. The Centre wants to study the role of law in reflexive

globalization and its implications for basic concepts of law, rethinking concepts (such as democracy or punishment) through a South-North lens, reflecting asymmetries in global structures of knowledge production and developing a better understanding of meaning, contextual preconditions and scope of legal notions.

In terms of procedure, the Centre is based on the premise that sustained, iterative conversations between voices from South and North are the essential path to those studies. Thus, a fellows programme will form the heart of the Centre. It will host up to 15 fellows per year, ranging from senior professors to postdocs. Particular challenges to create truly horizontal conversations, following from the South-North dimension of the Centre’s theme shall be addressed through a particular process of selecting fellows, through specific formats of fellowships and conversations, and by sending the ‘Center on tour’. While an interest in law forms the connecting line, fellows will also come from other disciplines (such as global history, political theory, and anthropology) as well as civil society.



The Centre will be headed by Humboldt law professors [Philipp Dann](#) and [Florian Jeßberger](#) who will be supported by the Centre’s administrative team, a research group of postdocs and doctoral students, and four strategic interlocutors with expertise in global history, legal anthropology, political sciences and legal activism. An international Advisory Board of distinguished scholars and senior practitioners will provide advice and counsel on the Centre’s strategic direction.

### Contact

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