LECTIO MAGISTRALIS

EXPERIMENTAL COMPARATIVE LAW

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Speaker:
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Abstract
There are more than 200 sovereign states. Many of them are federations. Therefore the number of legal orders is even larger. Seemingly, comparative law is fertile soil for quantitative analysis. There are many good research questions: is some legal order more economically or socially beneficial than another? Is the solution that one legal order has found for a prevalent social problem better than another? Does the rationale behind one approach better resonate with the moral intuitions of the law’s subjects? Yet if one takes statistical tests seriously, comparative law is almost hopeless. I will argue that lab experiments are a viable solution, and will illustrate the general point with applications from our lab.

Christoph Engel