

Law and Innovations in the Past. Legal History Back to Future
Conference programme

Kraków, Jagiellonian University Student Zone, Św. Anny Street 6

Friday, 23 October 2026

10:00-10:20 Mateusz Stępień (Jagiellonian University)
Conference Opening

Opening Session – 10:20-11:30

Chair: Łukasz Marzec (Jagiellonian University)

10:20-10:45 Paul J. du Plessis (University of Edinburgh)
*“Through a Glass, Darkly” (1 Cor. 13:12 KJV) –
Reflections on the Responsiveness of Roman Law to Innovations*

10:45-11:10 Martin Loehnig (Universität Regensburg)
Transformation of the World

11:10-11:30 Discussion

11:30-12:00 **Break**

Economy – 12:00-13:20

Chair: Jan Halberda (Jagiellonian University)

12:00-12:25 Krzysztof Fokt (Jagiellonian University)
*Good Fences Make Good Neighbours: Neighbour Law as a
Response to Innovations of the Medieval Urban Revolution*

12:25-12:50 Piotr Guzowski (University of Białystok)
*Centrally Promoted Modernization in the Grand Duchy of
Lithuania and the Realities of Economic Life in the 16th Century*

12:50-13:20 Discussion

13:20-13:50 **Break**



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Railway Revolutions – 13:50-15:50

Wojciech Bańczyk (Jagiellonian University)

- 13:50-14:15 Annamaria Monti (Università degli Studi di Milano)
*Law and Innovation in 19th-20th Century Legal Discourse.
The Railway Revolution in Italy and the Supranational Circulation
of Legal Knowledge*
- 14:15-14:40 Olivier Descamps (Université Paris Panthéon-Assas)
*The Railway Revolution:
When the Locomotive Bumped into the French Civil Code*
- 14:40-15:05 Piotr Michalik (Jagiellonian University)
*The Legal Consequences of the Railway Revolution in Partitioned
Poland: The Chain that Connected or Divided?*
- 15:05-15:50 Discussion
- 15:50 **End of Sessions**

Saturday, 24 October 2026

- 10:00-10:10 Jan Halberda (Jagiellonian University)
Session Opening

Print as an Agent of Change – 10:10– 12:00

Chair: Maciej Mikuła (Jagiellonian University)

- 10:10-10:35 Piotr Alexandrowicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
*Letters of the Law: Printing Technology and Prefatory Letters
in the Corpus Iuris Canonici*
- 10:35-11:00 Marco Castelli (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
*E pluribus unum. The Commentarium as Editorial Construct
at the Dawn of Print: Genre, Standardization, and the Print Market*
- 11:00-11:25 Matthew Cleary (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
*Structuring the Digest in the Age of Print:
Experiment, Organization, and Editorial Design*
- 11:25-12:00 Discussion



12:00-12:20 Break

Privacy – 12:20-13:40

Chair: Karolina Wyrwińska (Jagiellonian University)

- 12:20-12:45 Amy Gajda (Brooklyn School of Law)
*“The Right to Privacy”:
How Words From 1890 Impact Law and Technology in Modern Times*
- 12:45-13:10 Nga Bellis (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Citizens’ Privacy Guardian against Emerging Automated Data Processing. The Original Status of CNIL as France’s First Independent Administrative Authority
- 13:10-13:40 Discussion
- 13:40-14:05 Break

Military Innovations – 14:05-15:50

Chair: Marcin Marcinko (Jagiellonian University)

- 14:05-14:30 Catherine Fletcher (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Firearms, Innovation and the Law in 16th Century Italy
- 14:30-14:55 Valérie Serdon Provost (Université Paris Nanterre)
*A Weapon Too Lethal?
The Crossbow and Attempts to Regulate its Use in the Middle Ages*
- 14:55-15:20 Kacper Górski (Jagiellonian University)
Firearms Laws in the Early Modern Poland (16th–18th Centuries)
- 15:20-15:50 Discussion
- 15:50-16:00 Jan Halberda (Jagiellonian University)
Conference Conclusion