“Principles and values in criminal law: judicial dialogue between European and national courts”

In recent years, it has become increasingly apparent how much European supreme courts, along with the European legislator, are essential in defining the validity and application of national criminal law. The dialogue between European courts (Court of Justice of the European Union and European Court of Human Rights) and domestic supreme courts (in respect to Italy, Corte costituzionale and Corte di cassazione) plays a central role in this regard, since a successful implementation of international standards can only take place if it considers the national, democratically legitimized legal system and its fundamental values.

Some recent decisions epitomise the key challenges surrounding the relationship between European and international law, on one hand, and national criminal justice systems, on the other hand. In this connection, the principles of primacy and effectiveness of EU law play a key role.

Investigating how this judicial dialogue takes place allows exploring the concepts of “constitutional identity” and “national identity”, giving valuable insights into the core of the Italian criminal law system. Precisely the thrust of such a dialogue promises to be a valuable source for the interpretation of national criminal law and the protection of fundamental rights.

In the framework of the joint lectures, prominent criminal law experts are going to analyse, together with the participants, the complexity of contemporary criminal law, therefore raising awareness on the most controversial issues sparked by the judicial dialogue between national and European courts.

University of Trento – Joint lecture I
12.04.2019, 15.00 h, aula 5
„Il dialogo tra le Corti in materia di diritto penitenziario“

Carlo Renoldi, judge at the Corte di Cassazione, Rome
Antonia Menghini, professor of penitentiary law, University of Trento
Elena Mattevi, adjunct professor of criminal law and criminal enforcement law, University of Trento

University of Bozen/Bolzano - Joint lecture II
Campus Brixen/Bressanone
06.05.2019, 14.30 h, aula 1.60
„Decisioni di fine vita tra Costituzione e Cedu“

Stefano Canestrari, professor of criminal law, University of Bologna
Discussant: Luigi Cornacchia, professor of criminal law, University of Bergamo

University of Innsbruck - Joint lecture III and closing round table
20.05.2019, 14.00 h, aula 3108
„Il dialogo tra le Corti nel caso Contrada“

Mauro Ronco, professor emeritus of criminal law, University of Padova
Discussant: Maurizio Riverditi, professor of criminal law, University of Torino

Closing round table with the students and the participation of
Margareth Helfer (University of Innsbruck), Kolis Summerer (University of Bozen/Bolzano), Antonia Menghini (University of Trento), Elena Mattevi (University of Trento), Gian Marco Caletti (University of Bozen/Bolzano) Domenico Rosani (University of Innsbruck).

The lectures are held in Italian.
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University of Innsbruck – University of Bozen/
Bolzano – University of Trento

JOINT LECTURES IN
CRIMINAL LAW 2019

Scientific committee
Margarith Helfer - University of Innsbruck
Kolis Summerer - University of Bozen/Bolzano
Antonia Menghini - University of Trento