

SOCIETY FOR COMPARATIVE LAW

German National Section of the International Association of Legal Scholars

German national committee of comparative law ♦ Comité national allemand de droit comparé
Comité nacional alemán de derecho comparado ♦ Comitato nazionale tedesco di diritto comparato

Call for Papers

The 40th Conference on Comparative Law will be held from 23 to 25 September 2027 at Saarland University in Saarbrücken as a joint conference by all subject groups (*Fachgruppen*) of the Gesellschaft für Rechtsvergleichung. Plenary sessions will explore the overarching theme

Comparison in Law: methodological – practical – political

from a range of perspectives. Working sessions will address the following topics:

- Lawyers under National Socialism – the epistemic value of historical comparison
- Interdisciplinarity in comparative law
- Empiricism and language in comparative law
- Methodological challenges for comparative law in practice:
economic power imbalances, instrumentalised selectivity and bias
- Comparative law in the legislative process –
a driver of innovation or mere window dressing?

To deepen and complement these issues, an additional workshop format will feature short presentations (15–20 minutes) followed by discussion in parallel sessions. It will provide the opportunity to present ongoing or recently completed comparative law research projects that offer new methodological insights and impulses. Contributions (in German or English) should be focused on comparative legal methodology, in particular its challenges, innovations and potential for developing new solutions and strategies. Proposals offering additional insights or perspectives regarding specific aspects of the topics addressed in the plenary sessions are therefore particularly welcome. The following list, by no means exhaustive, is intended to provide inspiration for possible topics:

- inter- and intra-disciplinary comparative law projects
- innovative approaches to collecting data and gaining knowledge
as a basis for comparative legal work
- critical reflection on and adaptation of traditional methods of comparative law
- the role and limitations of comparative law as a method for addressing legal
and social challenges
- strategies for dealing with the absence of established legal solutions to existing
practical problems

Following the conference, presenters will have the opportunity to publish their papers in a conference proceedings volume.

Comparative legal scholars from all disciplines are warmly invited to submit proposals for the presentation of their projects. We particularly encourage researchers at an early stage of their careers (doctoral, *Habilitation*, postdoctoral or junior professor stage) to participate.

We kindly ask you to submit an anonymised abstract of no more than 500 words in PDF format, and to provide your name, contact details and institutional affiliation separately. Proposals are to be submitted by email to gfr@jura.uni-freiburg.de no later than **14 December 2026**. Presentations will be selected by way of a blind peer review process.

We look forward to receiving a wide range of proposals and to a lively and diverse workshop!

Freiburg im Breisgau, 1 September 2026

Prof. Dr. Caroline S. Rapatz
– Secretary General –