

Before Judgment (Florence, 29–30 May 17)

Florence, Istituto degli Innocenti, Sala Brunelleschi, Piazza della SS. Annunziata 12,
May 29–30, 2017

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Kunsthistorisches Institut
in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Before Judgment. Critiquing Imagery and Style of 'Good' and 'Evil'

Conference organized by the Minerva Research Group "The Nomos of Images. Manifestation and
Iconology of Law"

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
Florence, 29-30 May 2017

An uncanny play of prefixes to the German term 'Urteil' (judgment or adjudication) mirrors the common observation that every act of sentencing ('Verurteilen') is preceded by prejudice ('Vorurteilen'). Judicial judgments are as much shaped by images and forms as by language. Hence, legal norms themselves can be apprehended as artefacts of social and cultural practices, which not just regulate actions, but co-create the identity of subjects and communities acting through them.

The conference analyzes the place and significance of visual media in determining the interplay between norm and deviation: How is "evil" visualized and framed in normative terms? In what ways are "good" and "evil" manifested as opposing forces and by which means do these images – directly or indirectly – refer to perceptions of legality?

Ranging from demonically imbued images, figurations of "evil" (devil, demon, monster, tyrant) and the techniques of its exorcism (apotropaics) to visual strategies of criminalisation, from the forensic commensurability of representations, proportion and dimensionality to its unrepresentability and banality, from the figures of judicial language to the status of images as witnesses, the question of "evil" will serve as a leitmotif for reconsidering the relationship of society, legal practice and visual culture.

PROGRAM

Monday 29 May

14:00

Welcome

Alessandro Nova | KHI Florenz

Introduction

Carolin Behrmann & Felix Jäger | KHI Florenz

14:40

PANEL I EVIL IMAGES

Chair: Felix Jäger

Face-to-Face with Demons: Images of Possession and the Judicial Aspects of Exorcism

Henry Kaap | Freie Universität Berlin

The Iconoclasts and the Aesthetic of Judgment

Bruno Sotto Mayor | Ethnologisches Museum Berlin

16:00 Break

16:20

PANEL II DEMONIZATIONS

Chair: Carolin Behrmann

A Bad Image: Representing Rulers as Tyrants

Johannes v. Müller | Warburg Institute London

Revealing Evil: Demonization as an Operation of Exclusion in Political Protests

Florian Göttke | University of Amsterdam

17:40 Break

18:00

Evening Lecture

Leviathan und Behemoth im Zeitalter der Distanzvernichtung

Horst Bredekamp | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Tuesday 30 May

09:40

PANEL III IMAGES OF JUDGING

Chair: Alessandro Nova

Codification and Visualization of Wartime Sexual Violence: Political Allegories by Giotto di Bondone and Ambrogio Lorenzetti

Peter Bokody | Plymouth University

The Good, the Evil, and the Mediocre: Renaissance Iconographies of Saint Michael with the Scales

Annette Vowinckel | Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam

11:00 Break

11:20

PANEL IV BODIES IN CONFINEMENT

Chair: Gabriel Gorodetsky

Claude Lamouroux: Severed Head and Fist

Dominic-Alain Boariu | Université de Fribourg

Where is 'Habeas Corpus'? Imprisoned Bodies and the Construction of Liberty

Lisa Haber-Thomson | Harvard University

12:40 Lunch Break

13:40

PANEL V BEFORE THE COURT

Chair: Merel van Tilburg

When the Law Itself Becomes Evil: On the Iconology of the Old Law in Criminal Courtroom Decorations around 1900

Stefan Huygebaert | Ghent University

The Imagery of Evil in the Narrative of Criminal Law

Michele Papa | Università degli Studi Firenze

Images from the Bench: The Judge's Perspective

Ruth Herz | Birkbeck College London

15:40 Break

16:00

PANEL VI SEEING AND ADJUSTING

Chair: Stefan Grundmann

Pictures as Witnesses

Ludger Schwarte | Kunstakademie Düsseldorf

World View and Judiciary Methods: The Unwritten Rules of Legal Practice in 19th Century Japan

Lena Foljanty | MPI Rechtsgeschichte Frankfurt am Main

Sehen und Juridisches Urteilen

Sabine Müller-Mall | Technische Universität Dresden

LOCATION

Istituto degli Innocenti

Sala Brunelleschi

Piazza della SS. Annunziata 12

50121 Florence

We thank the Istituto degli Innocenti for the collaboration.

CONTACT

Carolin Behrmann

carolin.behrmann@khi.fi.it

FURTHER INFORMATION

Internet: www.khi.fi.it

Newsletter: www.khi.fi.it/newsletter

Facebook: www.facebook.com/khi.fi.it/

Reference:

CONF: Before Judgment (Florence, 29-30 May 17). In: ArtHist.net, May 3, 2017 (accessed Jul 13, 2025),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/15415>>.