

"Historical Legacies: Law, Memory, and Reconciliation in Shaping National Histories and European Identity"

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Keywords

Historical Legacies; Collective Memory; National Identity; Reconciliation; European Identity

Main Research Objective

The research cluster "Historical Legacies: Law, Memory, and Reconciliation in Shaping National Histories and European Identity" aims to explore how the legacies of various historical powers and occupations— whether political, cultural, or economic—have influenced historical narratives, collective memory, and national identities across Europe. The research examines how institutionalized memories, which can be contested or manipulated, impact reconciliation processes and the development of authentic commemoration practices. By investigating these dynamics across both Western and Eastern European contexts, this project assesses the interplay between law, memory, and reconciliation, contributing to contemporary debates on European identity, ethical memory practices, and the role of historical monuments and places.

This research is valuable because it addresses how contested historical narratives and public memory shape national identities and societal cohesion, ultimately contributing to the broader challenge of reconciliation and fostering a more inclusive understanding of history in Europe. Furthermore, it emphasizes the significance of the past in informing the future of democracy in Europe, highlighting the need for democratic practices rooted in a comprehensive understanding of historical contexts.

Main Research Outcome

The expected outcomes of the research cluster include the initiation of collaborative research projects that foster lasting partnerships and produce joint publications, alongside the establishment of an open access repository and a podcast series to disseminate findings and engage a broader audience.

Additionally, the cluster will strengthen networks among researchers and policymakers while developing policy recommendations that address the ethical and legal challenges of memorialization and historical narratives, ensuring sustainable impact and ongoing cooperation.

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