



The Fabric of Law and Language

Discovering Patterns through
Legal Corpus Linguistics

Academy Conference, Heidelberg
18 – 19 March 2016

HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

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LOCATION

The conference takes place at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Karlstraße 4, 69117 Heidelberg, Old town / „Altstadt“), please find the Google location here: [Google Maps](#)



HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

Akademie der Wissenschaften
des Landes Baden-Württemberg

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Venue: Akademie der Wissenschaften
Karlstraße 4
69117 Heidelberg

Date: 18 – 19 March 2016

Beginning: 18 March 2016, 10:00 a.m.

What do law and language have in common? Law and language are emergent: they emerge from theory-based rules, not by way of arithmetic or logic - but by collective habits giving rise to patterns of usage. Further considering that law can only be conceived of through and in language, it even forms a second-order usage pattern: law is one manifestation of how we use rules and norms stated in language, and is per se our way of using semantic symbols in general. This understanding of law and language as an interwoven pattern-based fabric opens up exciting avenues for research: How does the practice of speaking and writing in and about law shape our view of justice? What can we learn from looking at large collections of legal texts through the lens of corpus linguistics? How do patterns (pre-)determine law, language and law-through-language? And once we recognize such patterns, how much chaos remains?

The conference addresses these and other questions through a systematic investigation of patterns in law and language, particularly through the lens of corpus linguistics as applied to textual mass data. It aims to bring together legal scholars, linguists, computational linguists, media and communication analysts and policy makers, but also welcomes interested members of other disciplines and faculties.

The workshop takes place in the context of the WIN program "Measuring and understanding the world through the sciences" at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

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Organization

Dr. Dr. Hanjo Hamann
(Max Planck Institute Bonn)
Prof. Dr. Friedemann Vogel
(University of Freiburg)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, 18 MARCH 2016

10:00 Welcome

I. Patterns in Language and Law

10:30 Lawrence M. Solan
(New York, USA)

Patterns in the Fabric of Law and Language

Stephen C. Mouritsen
(New York, USA)

Patterns in Law – Applying Corpus Linguistics
in Practice

12:30 Lunch Break

II. Patterns in Discourses and Translations

14:00 Łucja Biel
(Warsaw, Poland)

Fitting Textual Patterns:
Using Corpora to Analyse Multilingual Law in
Translation

Stanisław Goźdz-Roszkowski
(Łódź, Poland)

Discovering patterns of evaluative language in
judicial argumentation

16:00 Coffee Break

III. Computational Assistance and Corpora

16:30 Stefan Höfler
(Zurich, Switzerland)

Corpus-Based Assessment of Legislative
Drafting Style

Ruth Breeze
(Navarra, Spain)

Corpora and Computation in Teaching Law and
Language

18:30 Free Time

19:30 Conference Dinner

SATURDAY, 19 MARCH 2016

IV. Corpus Projects 1

09:00 María José Marín Pérez
(Murcia, Spain)

The British Law Corpus (BLaR) and Specific
Applications of Vocabulary Analysis

Giulia Venturi
(Pisa, Italy)

Italian legal corpora seen through the 'lenses' of
linguists and jurists

11:00 Coffee Break

V. Corpus Projects 2

11:30 Rema Rossini Favretti
(Bologna, Italy)

The Bononia Legal Corpus (BoLC) and its
Potential as a General Reference for Legal
Language

Hanjo Hamann & Friedemann Vogel
(Bonn and Freiburg, Germany)

The German Reference Corpus (JuReko) –
Towards an International Research Network

13:30 Snack Break

VI. Panel Discussion: Making law more explicit – Conclusions

14:00 Chair: Dieter Stein (Düsseldorf, Germany)

Lawrence M. Solan (New York, USA)
Łucja Biel (Warsaw, Poland) and
Andreas Abegg (Winterthur, Switzerland)

15:00 Farewell

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