

@LPE Europe

'Law and Political Economy' in Europe: Foundations, Themes, Entanglements

An open & collaborative syllabus

Welcome to a digital experiment that hopefully translates into a joint and long-lasting initiative of scholars and civil society actors : An open and collaborative syllabus on 'Law and Political Economy in Europe'. Please see below on how you can contribute, add texts and join the debate.

'Law and Political Economy'?

Law and Political Economy (LPE) is an approach to legal scholarship that seeks to highlight the constitutive role of law in the economy. Underpinned by public authority and enforcement, legal entitlements play a determining role for the coercive power of market actors. Recognizing that legal arrangements generate private power harbours the notion that a reconstitution of economic dynamics by means of legal instruments is – at least to some extent – possible. In that direction, the [LPE manifesto](#) called for normative legal thinking oriented towards democratic participatory parity and substantive equality.

Why a syllabus? Why this syllabus?

This syllabus follows up on a number of initiatives exploring the potential for a research network in the direction of Law and Political Economy in Europe. As a first step, thinking about LPE in Europe *in the format of a syllabus* can lead to more than a mere enumeration of texts. We believe that this syllabus can 1) inspire our courses, 2) create a basis of exchange among peers and 3) form a background for further collaboration and elaboration of a LPE in Europe research agenda. The [collection of syllabi at the LPE project](#) is a perfect illustration for all three.

The proposed syllabus is envisioned as a *collaborative project*. As such, the initial input is only meant to serve as an introduction and an invitation for scholars to contribute with their own knowledge – it is by no means comprehensive. The aspiration is to build a loose research network spanning across Europe, activating diverse sources of knowledge, and catalyzing new energies of collaboration.

The focus of the syllabus is on texts that reflect the theoretical premises and normative inquiries of the LPE research agenda in the context of Europe. These are inspiring texts that have covered similar ground as LPE, even if not under this specific label, and which capture the diversity of voices in the continent, or texts that might not fit the normative dimension of the agenda but are worth engaging with. The suggested rubrics are a suggestion to guide – but not restrict! – our collective thinking.

Special attention should be given to non-English texts that may have not (yet) received international recognition. The project seeks to unearth ‘hidden treasures’ that exist in the multilingual and multi-jurisdictional European legal space. In addition, the syllabus aspires to include non-legal texts, especially from the field of political economy. Finally, the qualification ‘European’ should be understood relatively broadly and not necessarily construed based on the nationality or affiliation of the authors.

Get involved!

Add texts and rubrics below and comment upon or engage with the existing ones. Every contributor is invited to add their name to the **‘Contributors’ section** at the bottom of the document.

On **March 10th, at 17h CET**, contributors and everyone interested are invited to discuss the stage and the extent of the syllabus, its potential uses, and project ideas based thereupon. We will convene via **Zoom** under [this link](#). Following this initial meeting, one potential direction would be the regular meeting of a **Reading Group**, delving deeper into some of the texts and discussing their relevance for an LPE in Europe research agenda.

Netiquette

To suggest a text, just add the reference where you want it to appear. To discuss a text, or suggest its deletion, please **use the “comment” function** to make a comment.

As a reference format, preferably use the [OSCOLA](#) style.

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A. Introductory Texts

1. Law and the evolution of capitalism: Early intersections of law and political economy

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2. Contemporary theoretical inquiries in the law/economy nexus

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B. Themes

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