Arriving with Public Transport

Train from the main station (Hauptbahnhof): Take the underground, route U4 (Seckbacher Landstraße direction) or U5 (Preungesheim direction) and leave at the next stop (Willy-Brandt-Platz). From there, take the route U1, U2, U3 or U8 (note: all directions but the Südbahnhof direction) and get off the train at Holzhausenstraße/Uni Campus Westend. From there it’s a 5-minute walk to the campus.

Alternatively, you can take the ‘s-train’ route S 1-9 from the main station (Hauptbahnhof) to Hauptwache and change to the underground route U1, U2, U3, or U8 (all directions but the Südbahnhof direction).

Bus: From the main station (Hauptbahnhof Südeife): Take the bus line 64 (Ginnheim direction) to Bremer Straße or Bremer Platz.

From the city center: Take the bus line 36 (Westbahnhof direction) to Uni Campus Westend (in front of Poelzig-Bau).

Taxi: The address of Campus Westend is Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1.
On 4th November 2020, the 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) will be celebrated. For 60 years, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has been watching over its application. The Council of Europe, the ECHR’s umbrella organization, had its 70th anniversary on 5th May 2019. These jubilees are reason enough to take a closer look at how these institutions contributed to make human rights and the rule of law a common matter.

Their work had diverse impacts on furthering European integration. In its beginnings, the Council of Europe was thought to be the organization from which the European Union should originate. Its task “to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realizing the ideas and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress”, as it is stated in Art. 1 of its statute, has been incorporated in the EU’s catalogue of aims and values. The ECHR’s human rights have been the basis for the European Court of Justice’s case law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The work of the so-called Venice Commission, another body of the Council of Europe, is tightly connected with the rule of law framework under which the European Commission monitors critical constitutional developments in EU member states. (The procedures under this framework have been discussed at the 16th Walter Hallstein Symposium in 2017.)

The Council of Europe as well as the European Union recently have been confronted with tendencies of renationalization and an emphasis on interests of national governments in the politics of several European states. An increase in reservations concerning the validity of the ECHR and judgements of the ECHR can be observed on the level of high courts in some European states. These tendencies, although different in their causes, seem to fit into a global political climate and rough times for individual rights and the rule of law. At the 19th Walter Hallstein Symposium the central question will therefore be, in how far these observations can be validated by looking at the practice of the involved institutions. It might be possible to divide their history, as is the case with other international institutions, into different phases (such as foundation, consolidation, expansion, backlash). However, this question cannot be answered by an abstract historical periodization, but rather by taking a closer look at the central individual elements of the European Council’s system of values. Therefore, after a reminder of the origins of the ECHR, the different protection systems (ECHR, systems established by other treaties, Venice Commission) will be discussed individually in the light of the highly sensitive cross-sectoral fields of procedural rights flowing from the rule of law and rights of refugees and migrants. The second day will be devoted to the Venice Commission and the ECHR, which will be discussed on a panel of judges of national constitutional courts and the ECHR.

14:15 Welcome
Rolf van Dick,
Goethe-University Frankfurt,
Stefan Kadelbach,
Center for European Integration and International Economic Order

14:30 The Origins of Human Rights Protection in the Council of Europe
Wilfried Loth,
University of Duisburg-Essen

15:15 Treaty Monitoring in the Council of Europe
Thomas Giegerich,
University of Saarbrücken

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Procedural Rights and Article 6 ECHR
Stefanie Schmahl,
University of Würzburg

17:00 Discussion

17:15 Refugees, Asylum, Migration
Jurgen Bast,
University of Giessen

17:45 Discussion

5 March 2020

10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Past and Future of the European Convention of Human Rights and its Protection System - Progressive Development or Backlash?
Christoph Grabenwarter,
Vice-President at the Constitutional Court, Vienna
Doris König,
Judge at the Federal Constitutional Court, Karlsruhe
Angelika Nüßberger,
Formerly Vice President and Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Cologne
Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque,
Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg

11:30 General Discussion

12:15 Concluding Remarks
Rainer Hofmann,
Center for European Integration and International Economic Order