

James Q. Whitman

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EMPLOYMENT

Yale University	Ford Foundation Professor of Comparative and Foreign Law Professor of Law, 1994-1996
Stanford University	Associate Professor of Law, 1992-1994 Assistant Professor of Law, 1989-1992
United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit	Law Clerk to the Honorable Ralph K. Winter, 1988-1989

EDUCATION

Yale Law School	J.D., 1988
University of Chicago	Ph.D. (Intellectual History), 1987 Dissertation Advisor: Arnaldo Momigliano
Columbia University	M.A. (European History), 1982
Yale University	B.A. summa cum laude (Comparative Literature), 1980 Distinction in Major Junior Phi Beta Kappa

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

Spring, 2023	Visiting Professor, Collège de France
Spring, 2009	Michel Villey Visiting Professor of Law, Université de Paris II
Spring, 2007	Visiting Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

VISITING APPOINTMENTS (cont.)

Fall, 2006	Visiting Professor of Law, New York University Law School
2002	Visiting Professor, Università di Roma III
2001	Visiting Professor, Université de Paris II
1997	Visiting Professor, Université de Cergy-Pontoise
1996	Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
1995	Visiting Professor of Law, Harvard University

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

2026	Fellow, British Academy
2021	Honorary Fellow, American Society for Legal History
2017	Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2015	John Merryman Senior Scholar Prize for Lifetime Achievement American Society of Comparative Law
2015	Honorary Doctorate of Laws Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
2014-2015	Fellow, Institute for Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University
2012	Titular Member, Académie Internationale de Droit Comparé
2010-2011	Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS (cont.)

January, 2005	Fellow, Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte, Frankfurt
Spring, 2000	Berlin Prize Fellow American Academy in Berlin
Fall, 1998	Jean Monnet Fellow European University Institute

PUBLICATIONS

Books

From Masters of Slaves to Lords of Lands: The Transformation of Ownership in the Western World. (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Hitler's American Model: The United States and the Making of Nazi Race Law. (Princeton University Press, 2017). German translation, French translation, Japanese translation, Korean translation, Italian translation, Spanish translation, Turkish translation, Russian translation.

The Verdict of Battle: The Law of Victory and the Making of Modern War. (Harvard University Press, 2012). Chinese translation.

The Origins of Reasonable Doubt: Theological Roots of the Criminal Trial. (Yale University Press, 2008). Received Honorable mention, Silver Gavel Award, American Bar Association, 2009. Chinese translation, Spanish translation.

Harsh Justice: Criminal Punishment and the Widening Divide between America and Europe (Oxford University Press, 2003). Received Distinguished Book Award of the Division of International Criminology, American Society of Criminology.

The Legacy of Roman Law in the German Romantic Era: Historical Vision and Legal Change (Princeton University Press, 1990).

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

Articles

“Property Law and the Legal Imagination,” forthcoming in Comparative Legal History.

“Medieval Nominalism and Modern Law: The Visions of Villey and (*Hermann*) Kantorowicz,” forthcoming in Festschrift for Laurent Mayali (Brepols).

“‘History’ and Comparative Law,” Forthcoming in Symposium on Comparative Law and Legal History, eds. Ioanna Tourkochoriti and Mortimer Sellers (Cambridge U. Press)

Review of Montesquieu, *De l’Esprit des Lois*, Comparative Legal History 14 (2026): 125-130.

“The Significance of Beaver Testicles in the Law of Bankruptcy.” In Verbindungslinien im Recht. Festschrift for Christoph G. Paulus (Munich: Beck. 2022), 769-775.

“Comparative Law and Religion.” Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, available at <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198810230.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198810230-e-23>

“The World-Historical Significance of European Legal History: An Interim Report.” Oxford Handbook of European Legal History (2018). Available at <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198785521.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198785521-e-1?print>.

"Heinrich Krieger (? - ?)." Encyclopedia of Arkansas Culture and History (2018). Available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=12484>

“The Hunt for Truth in Comparative Law.” American Journal of Comparative Law 65 (2017): 181-190.

"Presumption of Innocence or Presumption of Mercy? Weighing Two Western Modes of Justice." 94 Texas Law Review 933 (2016)

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

"A Letter from America." Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte (Germanistische Abteilung) 132 (2015): 441-462.

"The Transition to Modernity," Oxford Handbook of Criminal Law, eds. M. Dubber and T. Hörnle (Oxford, 2015): 84-110.

"The Case for Penal Modernism," Critical Analysis of Law 1 (2014): 143-198, with commentary by Darryl K. Brown and Lindsay Farmer, and a response

"Verdict of Battle: Modern War and Humanitarian Law," Insights on Law and Society 13, no. 3 (2013): 20-24.

"Response to my Reviewers," Quaderni Fiorentini 38 (2010): 772-775 (Response to symposium on The Origins of Reasonable Doubt)

"Western Legal Imperialism: Thinking About the Deep Historical Roots." 10 Theoretical Inquiries in Law 305 (2009).

"Equality in Criminal Law: The Two Divergent Western Roads." 1 Journal of Legal Analysis 119 (2009)

"Separating Church and State: The Atlantic Divide." 34 Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques 86 (2008)

"No Right Answer." In John Jackson, Maximo Langer and Peter Tillers, eds., Crime, Procedure and Evidence in a Comparative and International Context: Essays in Honour of Professor Mirjan Damaska. Oxford: Hart, 2008, 371-392.

"Response to Shapiro." 2 Law and Humanities 175 (2008).

"Consumerism versus Producerism: A Study in Comparative Law." 117 Yale Law Journal 340 (2007).

“Comment expliquer la peine aux États-Unis?” Archives de Politique Criminelle 27 (2005): 225-233.

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

“Comparative Criminal Punishment.” Annual Review of Law and Social Science 1 (2005): 17-34.

“Response to Garland,” Punishment and Society 7 (2005): 389-396.

“‘Human Dignity’ in Europe and the United States: The Social Foundations.” Human Rights Law Journal 25 (2004): 17-23.

“Between Self-Defense and Vengeance/Between Social Contract and Monopoly of Violence.” Tulsa Law Review 39 (2004): 901-924

“The Two Western Cultures of Privacy: Dignity versus Liberty.” Yale Law Journal 113 (2004): 1151-1221.

“A Plea Against Retributivism.” Buffalo Criminal Law Review 7 (2004): 85-107.

“Bring Back the Glory!” Rechtsgeschichte 4 (2004): 74-84.

“Long Live the Hatred of Roman Law!” Rechtsgeschichte 2 (2003): 40-57.

“The European Transformation of Harassment Law.” With G. Friedman. Columbia Journal of European Law 9 (2003): 241-274.

“From Nazi ‘Honour’ to European ‘Dignity’” in C. Joerges and N. Ghaleigh, eds., The Darker Legacy of European Law: Perceptions of Europe and Perspectives on a European Order in Legal Scholarship during the Era of Fascism and National Socialism. Cambridge: Hart, 2003, 243-266.

“The Neo-Romantic Turn.” in P. Legrand and R. Munday, eds., Comparative Legal Studies: Traditions and Transitions. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, 312-344.

“Aux Origines du ‘Monopole de la Violence’.” in C. Colliot-Thélène and J.-F. Kervégan, eds., De la Société à la Sociologie. Lyon: ENS Éditions, 2002, 71-91.

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

“Zum Thema der Selbsthilfe in der Rechtsgeschichte.” In W. Fikentscher, ed., Begegnung und Konflikt. Eine Kulturanthropologische Bestandsaufnahme. Abhandlungen der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, N.F. 120 (2001): 97-105.

“The Opposition to Public Punishment in Germany: At the Christian Sources,” in Grundlagen des Rechts. Festschrift für Peter Landau, eds. Helmholz, Mikat, Müller and Stolleis (Paderborn, 2000), 759-776.

“Enforcing Civility and Respect: Three Societies.” Yale Law Journal 109 (2000): 1279-1398.

“What is Wrong with Inflicting Shame Sanctions?” Yale Law Journal 107 (1998): 1055-1092.

“Jhering Parmi les Français,” in O. Beaud and P. Wachsmann, eds., La Science Juridique Française et la Science Juridique Allemande de 1870 à 1918 (1997):151-164.

“At the Scholarly Sources of Weber’s Melancholy,” Quaderni Fiorentini per la Storia del Pensiero Giuridico Moderno 26 (1997): 325-362.

“The Moral Menace of Roman Law and the Making of Commerce: Some Dutch Evidence,” Yale Law Journal 105 (1996): 1841-1889.

“At the Origins of Law and the State: Monopolization of Violence, Mutilation of Bodies, or Fixing of Prices?” Chicago-Kent Law Review 71 (1996): 41-84.

“The Seigneurs Descend to the Rank of Creditors: The Abolition of Respect, 1790,” Yale Journal of Law and Humanities 6 (1994): 249-283.

“Les seigneurs descendent au rang de simples créanciers: Droit romain, droit féodal, et Révolution,” in Droits. Revue française de théorie juridique 17 (1993): 19-32 (French version of previous item).

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

“Early German Corporatism in America: Limits of the Social in the Land of Economics,” in Continental Ideas in Anglo-American Law ca. 1800-1920, M. Reimann, ed., (Duncker & Humblot, 1993): 229-252.

“Why Did the Revolutionary Lawyers Confuse Custom and Reason?” University of Chicago Law Review 58 (1991): 1321-1368.

“Of Corporatism, Fascism and the First New Deal,” in American Journal of Comparative Law 39 (1991): 747-778.

“The Lawyers Discover the Fall of Rome,” Law and History Review 9 (1991): 191-220.

“A Note on the Medieval Division of the Digest,” Tijdschrift voor Rechtsgeschiedenis 59 (1991): 269-284.

“The Last Generation of Roman Lawyers in Germany,” in The Uses of Greek and Latin: Historical Essays (Warburg Institute, 1988).

Note, “Commercial Law and the American Volk: A Note on Llewellyn's German Sources for the Uniform Commercial Code,” Yale Law Journal 97 (1987): 156-175.

“Nietzsche in the Magisterial Tradition of German Classical Philology,” in Journal of the History of Ideas, XLVII, 3 (1986) 453-468. Reprinted in New Nietzsche Studies 10 (2017-2018): 153-168.

“From Philology to Anthropology in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Germany,” in Functionalism Historicized: History of Anthropology II, G. Stocking, ed., (University of Wisconsin Press, 1984) 214-229.

Selected Book Reviews, Op-Eds, Comments, and Occasional Pieces

“Why the Nazis Loved America,” Time Magazine, Mar. 21, 2017

"Hitler's American Model," BBC World Service March 8, 2017

"When the Nazis Wrote the Nuremberg Laws, They Looked to Racist American Statutes, Los Angeles Times, Feb. 22, 2017

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

"Eine Lobby für die Menschenwürde," Süddeutsche Zeitung, June 27, 2014

Book Review Essay, "The Free Market and the Prison." 125 Harvard Law Review, 1212 (2012) (Review of B. Harcourt, The Illusion of Free Markets).

"Of Neo-Liberalism and Comparative Punishment." Review of L. Wacquant, Punishing the Poor. Critical Sociology 37 (2010)

Review of Lacey, The Prisoners' Dilemma, New Criminal Law Review 13 (2010): 625–632

Book Review Essay, "Making Happy Punishers." Harvard Law Review 118 (2005): 2698-2724. (Review of M. Nussbaum, Hiding from Humanity).

Review of C. Fasolt, The Limits of History, Law and History Review 23 (2005): 459.

"Prisoner Degradation, At Home and Abroad." Washington Post, May 10, 2004.

"A Simple Story." Rechtsgeschichte 4 (2004): 206. (Review of P. Glenn, Legal Traditions of the World.)

"La justice française vers une américanisation?" Libération, November 27, 2003, p. 36.

Review of W. Wiecek, The Lost World of Classical Legal Thought, in 68 Tijdschrift voor Rechtsgeschiedenis 188 (2000)

Review of P. Quint, Imperfect Union, in 103 American Historical Review 1275 (1998)

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

Review of M. Stolleis, Recht im Unrecht, in 69 Journal of Modern History 889 (1997)

“Reason or Hermeticism?” 5 Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal 193 (1997)

“From Cause Célèbre to Revolution,” Review of D. Bell, Citizens and Lawyers, 7 Yale Journal of Law and Humanities 457 (1995)

Review of Quaderni Fiorentini per la storia del pensiero giuridico moderno, vol. 20: François Gény e la Scienza Giuridica del Novecento, in Journal of Modern History 67 (1995): 176.

“The Disease Idea of Roman Law, A Century Later.” 20 Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce 227 (1994)

Review of T. Kuehn, Law, Family and Women: Toward a Legal Anthropology of Renaissance Italy, in 12 Law & History Review 185 (1994).

“Law and the Pre-Modern Mind,” review of Donald Kelley, The Human Measure, 44 Stanford Law Review 205 (1991).

“Memories of Arnaldo Momigliano,” in Remembering the University of Chicago (University of Chicago Press, 1991), 351-59.

AREAS OF TEACHING SPECIALTY

Comparative Law, Criminal Law, Comparative Legal History

LANGUAGES

Good command of German, French and Latin; competent command of Italian; serviceable reading knowledge and some spoken command of Spanish, Dutch; reading knowledge of Ancient Greek; some knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, Sanskrit, Mandarin.