



DEAD/LINES: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LEGAL AND POLITICAL THEORY

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Doctoral students are invited to send abstracts of papers to be presented at Dead/Lines – Contemporary Issues in Legal and Political Theory, a Doctoral Colloquium to be held on Wednesday 28 - Thursday 29 May 2008, at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh.

The theme for the Colloquium is Dead/Lines. The theme has been chosen to facilitate the exploration of a broad range of issues in legal and political theory that engage with the prospect of a 'dead/line.' It could be a deadline in the sense of an impending time, a question of some urgency that necessitates re-thinking and new solutions. It could be a deadline in the sense of borders and boundaries, an observation on lines that are drawn or even fractured, on dispersions and diasporas. The theme might be taken to denote an end or loss of some sort, engaging in perspectives on death, absence, grief and irreversibility. Or, it might be interpreted with a focus on new alternatives and life-lines; law, politics and combinations of the two addressing possible deadlock. Possible topics include: the treatment of past and future generations in political and legal theory, the treatment of refugees and migrants, war and/or weapons of mass destruction, climate change, territorial delimitation, political transition, emergency rule, humanitarian intervention, globalisation, and social movements. Possible theoretical echoes include: systems theory, theories of legal and value pluralism, post-positivism, theories of sovereignty and nationhood, and environmental political philosophy.

The deadline for abstracts is Monday 28 January 2008. Abstracts are to be 500-800 words in length, and should be sent to the following email address: M.T.Del-Mar@sms.ed.ac.uk. Eight (8) papers will be chosen for presentation. A further eight (8) applicants will be chosen as commentators. Funding has been obtained to reimburse modest travel and accommodation costs for presenters and commentators. The Selection Panel will decide the successful presenters and commentators by Monday 11 February 2008. Full papers (between 7,000 and 10,000 words) are to be submitted by Monday 28 April 2008.

The Colloquium will have two keynote speakers, and academics from Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow Universities will chair the sessions. More up-to-date information is available on the Colloquium website: www.law.ed.ac.uk/festivaloflegaltheory/colloquium. The Colloquium is part of the Edinburgh Festival of Legal Theory – a five day event (28 May 2008 to 1 June 2008), which includes a variety of paper presentations, workshops, book launches, and other events.

The Organising Team wishes to express its gratitude to the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Politics and Law Departments at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the University of Stirling, and the Adam Smith Research Foundation.