

# Natural Law 1625-1850. An International Research Project

## WORKSHOP

Saxo Institute. 9–10 February 2023

*Enlightened Libraries: Natural Law Collections and their Role in the Intellectual Infrastructure between Lund, Copenhagen and Northern Germany 1650-1800*

Modern natural law was a migratory intellectual culture in which books, circulating manuscripts and libraries played a central role. Natural law works, canonical and those now forgotten, were discussed, translated and adapted in a range of scholarly and popular genres and were accessible in public and, especially, private libraries. Surviving collections, catalogues and individual books with indication of ownership and evidence of use are important sources. In other words, the history of natural law is also book history.

In Northern Europe the University of Lund has a central role in this history because Samuel Pufendorf taught and published his two main works on natural law in Lund. And although his tenure was short, his prominence ensured the lasting significance of natural law in Sweden. In Denmark the new ideas were taken up in earnest around 1700, and from then on there was an important and influential circle of natural law inspired intellectuals in Copenhagen.

As elsewhere, natural law in these two neighbouring institutions should be the subject of both institutional history and book history. The aim of the workshop is to initiate a systematic survey of the development of natural law in Copenhagen and Lund as it manifested itself in the books and collections both inside and, especially, alongside the institutional framework. It was typically in professors' private—but often liberally accessible—libraries that young men encountered the new natural law that was dominated by German ideas. Closer investigation of the libraries offers new perspectives on their owners and their users.

Accordingly, the workshop gathers scholars working on Danish, Swedish and key German collections with significant natural law material. In addition, in order to open up for comparative perspectives on this European phenomenon, there is a presentation of corresponding Spanish collections. And comparison again leads to a general consideration of collections as historical sources.

- Support**           The workshop has been generously supported by Einar Hansens Forskningsfond and by the Saxo Institute at the University of Copenhagen
- Organisation**   Knud Haakonssen, Sebastian Olden-Jørgensen, Mads Langballe Jensen and Kristoffer Schmidt
- Participation**   The workshop is open for anyone interested. For practical reasons we request that you notify one of us if you want to participate:
- Sebastian Olden-Jørgensen ([olden@hum.ku.dk](mailto:olden@hum.ku.dk))  
                          Knud Haakonssen ([haakonssen@hum.ku.dk](mailto:haakonssen@hum.ku.dk))
- Venue**             University of Copenhagen, South Campus (Amager Campus), Njalsgade 76, Room 4A.1.13 (in building 4A, to the left of the entrance Njalsgade 76, on the first floor)

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 09.02.2023

10.00–10.10 Welcome—Knud Haakonssen

#### Morning sessions chaired by Sebastian Olden-Jørgensen

10.10–10.55 Laura Beck Varela (Madrid), 'The Libraries of the Translators. Natural Law Books in the Ibero American World'

10.55–11.15 **COFFEE**

11.15–12.00 Gábor Gángó (Erfurt/Padua), 'Contribution and Interpretation: Natural Law Theory from Grotius to Leibniz in the Mirror of the Library of Johann Christian von Boineburg (1622-72)'

12.00–12.45 Knud Haakonssen (Copenhagen/St. Andrews), 'Samuel Pufendorf (1632-94)'

12.45–14.00 **LUNCH** & brief presentation of *The Cambridge Companion to Pufendorf* (Knud Haakonssen)

#### Afternoon sessions chaired by Knud Haakonssen

14.00–14.45 Anna Fredriksson (Uppsala), 'Johannes Schefferus (1621-79)'

14.45–15.30 Frank Grunert (Halle-Wittenberg), 'Christian Thomasius (1655-1728)'

15.30–16.00 **WALK** to The Royal Library

16.00–17.30 Anders Toftgaard (Copenhagen), 'The Library of Otto Thott (1702-85)'. Display of natural law material, especially from the collection of Otto Thott, at The Royal Danish Library.

### Friday 10.02.2023

#### Morning sessions chaired by Kristoffer Schmidt

9.30–10.15 Mads Langballe Jensen (Halle-Wittenberg), 'Andreas Hojer (1690-1739)'

10.15–10.45 **COFFEE** & brief presentation of *Early Modern Natural Law: Studies and Sources* (Frank Grunert)

10.45–11.30 Martin Kühnel (Halle-Wittenberg), 'Johann Gottlieb Heineccius (1681-1741)'

11.30–12.15 Per Nilsén (Lund), 'The Library of David Nehrman Ehrenstråhle (1695-1769)'

12.15–13.30 **LUNCH**

#### Afternoon sessions chaired by Mads Langballe Jensen

13.30–14.15 Kristoffer Schmidt (Copenhagen), 'Jean Barbeyrac's (1674-1744) Dependence on His Private Library'

14.15–15.00 Mikkel Munthe Jensen (Erfurt), 'The Library of the Natural Law Scholar Johann Phillips Palthenius (1672-1710)'

15.00–15.30 **COFFEE**

15.30–16.15 Sebastian Olden-Jørgensen (Copenhagen), 'Christian Reitzer (1665-1736)'

16.15–17.30 Jonas Nordin (Lund), 'Ideas and books and libraries'