

Call for abstracts/papers - World Comparative Law (WCL)
Special Issue on Public Law and Political Oppositions
Deadline for abstracts: 1st April 2024

World Comparative Law invites submissions for an upcoming special issue on public law and political oppositions. Despite widespread acknowledgement of the critical role of the opposition in political dynamics, the legal protections afforded to political oppositions and their precise functions in the context of public law remain relatively underexplored. This inquiry becomes increasingly urgent against the backdrop of a global decline of constitutional democracy. In this context, opposition groups are theoretically considered crucial agents in resisting constitutional decay/erosion.

Themes and Topics of Interest

We seek contributions that address a diverse array of themes, including but not limited to:

- The contours of legal protections for political oppositions (including, without being limited to, rights of electoral minorities, rules explicitly referring the “opposition” etc.)
- The effectiveness of legal protections for political oppositions.
- Dynamics of compliance (and non-compliance) of legal protections for political oppositions.
- Conditions and mechanisms influencing political opposition’s role in public law.
- Normative perspectives on the functions of the political opposition within public law.
- The practical impact of legal norms on political opposition.

This issue will encompass analyses across varying political regimes (democratic, hybrid, authoritarian) and governmental structures (parliamentary, semi-presidential, presidential). We are open to a wide spectrum of methodological approaches (including descriptive, typological, explanatory, and normative) and diverse research designs (like case studies, comparative research, quantitative analysis, and historical and theoretical explorations). In alignment with the Journal's commitment to broadening the geographical scope of legal scholarship, submissions should compare states and regions beyond Europe and North America, and/or examine interactions between the Global South and the Global North. The journal’s mission statement is available here <https://www.nomos.de/en/journals/vrue/>.

Timeline

- Deadline for **abstracts** (200-300 words, including name(s), institutional affiliation(s), email address): 1st April 2024
- Notification of **acceptance** for paper submission: 1st May 2024
- Submission of **paper** for peer review: 1st October 2024
 - papers shall not exceed 10,000 words (including footnotes) and conform to the editorial guidelines of WCL (<https://www.nomos.de/en/journals/vrue/#guidelines-for-authors>).
- **Publication** in early 2025

Contact:

Please send abstracts to Danny Schindler: schindler@iparl.de

Questions regarding this call can also be addressed to Amal Sethi amal.sethi@uni-hamburg.de or Michael Riegner: michael.riegner@uni-erfurt.de .