



Uses of Civil Justice and Social Policy in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1873–1914

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The project analyzes uses of Habsburg civil justice after the promulgation of the Austrian Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO, 1895/98). This legal norm, regarded in the historical literature as a measure of social welfare, associated with the later Austrian Minister of Justice Franz Klein, and serving as a model for many other countries, was designed to make civil litigation more accessible for the broader population. The procedure was to be faster, more transparent and less costly than before, while increased judicial power was to ensure the protection of the weaker litigants. Interestingly, the introduction of the ZPO in Austria was accompanied by persistently high litigation rates in some crownlands. The project takes this finding as a starting point for qualitative and quantitative analyses of legal behavior in the Habsburg Monarchy and offers a first-time analysis of the social and institutional dimensions of the procedural reforms in terms of social politics and emerging social citizenship rights in the late Habsburg Monarchy.

Members of the FWF Project "Uses of Civil Justice and Social Policy in the Habsburg Monarchy" at the University of Vienna:

Walter Fuchs (Professor, Berlin School of Economics and Law), is co-director of the project and analyzes the common roots of crime and litigation in the Habsburg Monarchy

Mátyás Erdélyi (PhD in 2019 at Central European University in Budapest) is a Postdoctoral Fellow; he focuses on civil litigation patterns across the Habsburg Monarchy at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Borbála Zsuzsanna Török (Habilitation in 2021 at the University of Vienna), director of the project, analyzes the making of procedural reforms as social political measures.

Moderation: Peter Becker