

# Law – Technology – Society

LunchTime Series

Prof. Jørn Øyrehagen Sunde | University of Bergen, Norway

## Law and technological change in past, present and future

Freitag, 1. Dezember, 12:00 – 13:30

Gutenberg Haus | Seminarraum SR 02, EG  
Feistmantelstraße 4, 1180 Wien  
Universität für Bodenkultur

Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos. Um Anmeldung bis zum  
24. November 2017 wird gebeten: [law@boku.ac.at](mailto:law@boku.ac.at)

*Jørn Øyrehagen Sunde (1972) received his doctoral degree in 2007, and became professor in Legal History the same year at the Faculty of Law at the University in Bergen. Since 2006 he has been head of research at the museum the Barony Rosendal, between 2008-2010 he was also professor at the Centre for Medieval Studies in Bergen, since 2010 Sunde has been head of the Research Group for Legal Culture, and since 2014 he has headed the Code of 1274-project on legislation and governance in the Middle Ages. Sunde has written and edited eight books, he has published over 100 articles and essays, and features frequently in Norwegian media.*



The speech will in the first part address two fundamental topics concerning law and technology based on empirical investigations. First, that technology has historically had legal relevance. Usually religion, philosophy, art and maybe even economics has been used to explain legal changes, but rarely technology. By asking the simple question: can legal certainty be obtained without the art of printing, we see how misleading it is to disregard technology as a source of legal change.

Secondly, that the technological changes experiences today is unique. On one hand, every historical period is unique. On the other hand, the underlying structures is not. Technology is such a fundamental structure shaping society and hence law, and technological change has brought by radical legal change several times before in history. The second half of the speech will be an attempt to draw lessons from the historical and empirically founded investigations on how the technological changes today will influence law. To narrow down this broad topic, the focus will be on the two cultural and fundamental constructs of liability and certainty.