

## THE INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE OF THE NORWEGIAN 1814 CONSTITUTION 1814-1920

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo and the Research Committee for the Norwegian Constitution Bicentennial 1814-2014 invite scholars to submit papers to be presented at an international conference on “The International Influence of the Norwegian 1814 Constitution 1814-1920” to be held on 18-20 November 2015 at the University of Oslo.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 August 2015.

On 29 July 1848, the Austrian newspaper *Die Presse* wrote that “Norwegen is in diesem Augenblicke die einzige Demokratie Europas.” This demonstrates an interest in the Norwegian Constitution that has been very little researched. After 1814, the Norwegian Constitution was the only European constitution in force based on modern popular sovereignty. All other constitutions from the revolutionary period had been abolished. It has been well established in the Constitution Bicentennial Research Project that liberal opposition in Denmark and Sweden referred to the Norwegian Constitution in their demand for a constitution or liberal reforms, respectively. It has also been shown that the Norwegian Constitution was one point of reference for the British chartists as well as for the Irish opposition. The Norwegian Constitution was also referred to in the discussions in Bavaria and Baden, and probably also in other German states. The idea of the conference is to study the interest in and impact of the Norwegian Constitution in constitutional and political debate in other countries, including newspaper reporting and discussions in the period from 1814 to approximately 1920. A hypothesis is that the Norwegian Constitution was a closer possible model for liberal or democratic opposition in monarchies than the US presidential system. The conference will explore the emanation of knowledge of the Constitution as well as the understanding of how it worked in practice in all relevant countries, also including Latin America with its constitutional reforms. Possible influence can also be discussed in the light of different national post 1814 constitutional developments.

Please submit paper abstracts of approximately 500 words along with a brief CV resume (1 paragraph) to Professor Ola Mestad ([ola.mestad@jus.uio.no](mailto:ola.mestad@jus.uio.no)) with a copy to Eugenia Blücher ([eugenia.bluecher@jus.uio.no](mailto:eugenia.bluecher@jus.uio.no)) no later than 15 August 2015.

The proposals will be reviewed and decisions taken by 1 September 2015. The organizers will cover travel costs, accommodation and meals of the accepted speakers. The working language will be English. The intention is to develop papers from the conference into a book that will be published in English.

See also on the Norwegian Constitution research: [http://www.forskningsradet.no/prognett-grunnlov/Home\\_page/1253960269685](http://www.forskningsradet.no/prognett-grunnlov/Home_page/1253960269685)