About the Series

Language and law are a well-established subject matter. Until now, language has either been under- or overvalued. It was undervalued by lawyers who believed their own language skills are sufficient to solve all problems. It was overvalued by theorists of the linguistic turn, who believed that language analysis can replace legal argumentation. By expanding and deepening linguistic reflection to include media reflection, we open up a middle way. This middle way does not see language as a mere aid nor as a panacea, rather it examines the connection between social power and law in language.

The subject matter of the Language and Media of Law (SMR) series is the linguistic and media makeup of law. The focus is on the multimodal behaviour patterns, procedures and routines which constitute, reproduce or modify law and lawlessness in different cultures, epochs and technical media settings. Special emphasis is placed on the institutionalised forms of linguistic interaction and legal text work in legislation, jurisdiction and executive action (administration, police etc.); cross-border cooperation (international and transnational law) and multilingualism; the jurisprudential and the digitisation of the legal.

The series is intended as a contribution to interdisciplinary, legal-linguistic theory, and empirical and practical work, and it appeals equally to legal scholars and linguists, philosophers and sociologists, and media (culture) and communication researchers. The series editors invite prospective authors to submit manuscript proposals, either in the form of monographs (e.g. academic dissertations) or joint publications (e.g. conference proceedings). The submitted manuscripts will be peer reviewed by the series editors and at least one external reviewer.

About the Editors

Friedemann Vogel is Professor for media linguistics at the department of Media Culture at the University of Freiburg since 2012 and Coordinator of the »Heidelberger Gruppe der Rechtslinguistik« (Heidelberg group for legal linguistics, established in 1984). He studied German Philology, Psychology and Philosophy and received his PhD from the Faculty of Modern Languages at the University of Heidelberg in 2011. Since 2016 he is Visiting Professor at the University of Siegen.

Ralph Christensen is coach for public law in Cologne and Bonn and co-founder of the »Heidelberger Gruppe der Rechtslinguistik« (Heidelberg group for legal linguistics, established in 1984). He studied Philosophy, Law and Sociology and holds a S.J.D. as well as a PhD. He has published relevant works on the dogmatics of constitutional law, administrative law and European law.

About the Book

With the overriding understanding »law is text«, the field of legal linguistics for the past decades has produced an abundance of empirical researches on the linguistic constitutiveness of modern constitutional states. Against this background, this volume turns to the opposite side and focuses on aspects reversing the transparency of language and law: force, deal, speechlessness, media. The contributions discuss the fabric of language, law and power and show ways for further research.

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edited by
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