

Obituary

Obituary – Cornelia Vismann

Peer Zumbansen, Russell Miller & Alexandra Kemmerer

It is with great sadness that we inform our readers that our long-time editorial colleague, Professor Cornelia Vismann, has passed away. Cornelia joined the Journal in 2003, while she was pursuing post-doctoral research at the Max-Planck-Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt, and was – *inter alia* – the Symposium Editor (with Florian Hoffmann) of the Commemoration Issue for the late Jacques Derrida in January 2005.¹ Cornelia Vismann completed her doctorate in Frankfurt (Main),² and it was here that she was promoted to professor in legal history, public law and legal theory with a work on constitutional and media theory in the digital age (*“Verfassung nach dem Computer”*) in 2007. The following year she moved to a chair in Cultural Theory at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. Previously, she had practiced labour law in Berlin before embarking on an ambitious scholarly program, which encompassed legal theory, history, philosophy and media theory. She held posts at the Einstein-Forum in Potsdam and the Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder) and soon began to illuminate the still too-dimly lit idea-rooms between legal and cultural studies. Beyond a wonderfully prolific and widely-published author in both worlds, Cornelia was an outstanding teacher and an extraordinary nodal point. Her writing bridged related, but often too-isolated discourses and inquiries, thereby opening our eyes for the need to think anew and in different ways about the foundations and the practices, the processes and forms of legal argument and adjudication. Moreover, she connected scholars and artists, practitioners and public intellectuals in a generous, never self-promoting way. Coming into contact with Cornelia always coincided with an enriching host of further encounters, inspirations and exchanges.

The German Law Journal is grateful for her contribution to a journal, which we believe found her support not least for its form, its medium. Besides her membership in the editorial board of the Internet-based GLJ, Cornelia co-edited the *“Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte”*, the Series *“Tumult – Schriften zur Verkehrswissenschaft”* as well as the unique collection of scholar-biography-work monographs, *“Zur Einführung”*, published with Junius. In the spring of 2011, the German Law Journal is convening a Symposium in her honour.

¹ SYMPOSIUM: A SPECIAL DEDICATION TO JACQUES DERRIDA (Florian Hoffmann & Cornelia Vismann, eds.), 6 German Law Journal 1-243 (2005), available at: http://www.germanlawjournal.com/pdfs/FullIssues/pdf_vol_06_no_01.pdf

² AKTEN. MEDIENTECHNIK UND RECHT (Frankfurt: Fischer, 2000; engl.: FILES. LAW AND MEDIA TECHNOLOGY, Geoffrey Winthrop-Young transl., Stanford University Press, 2008)