Libro completo en https://tinyurl.com/4muabjbz
2026. UNAM, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas,
https://www.juridicas.unam.mx/
Acervo de la BJV: https://biblio.juridicas.unam.mx/bjv

CAPÍTULO DÉCIMO PRIMERO

LEGAL HISTORY IN THE FINNISH LAW CURRICULA: A SUBJECT UNDER THREAT?*

Mia KORPIOLA**

SUMMARY: I. *Introduction*. II. *Legal History Teaching at the University of Helsinki: Societal and Comparative Trends*. III. *Legal History Teaching at the University of Turku: Intellectual Legal History*. IV. *Teaching Legal History at the Arctic Circle: University of Lapland in Rovaniemi.* V. *Legal History at the University of Eastern Finland: Specialized Exam, Marginal and Elective Legal History*. VI. *Studying Legal History at the Åbo Akademi University and Elsewhere.* VII. *Conclusion*. VIII. *Bibliography*.

I. INTRODUCTION

The first professorship in legal history and Roman law was established at the University of Helsinki, then Finland's Imperial Alexander's University (*Suomen Keisarillinen Aleksanterin yliopisto*), in 1907. Queen Christina of Sweden had established the University with its Faculty of Law as the Regia Academia Aboensis in Turku in 1640. After the great fire of 1827, the university was moved from Turku to the new capital, Helsinki, and renamed.[1] Legal history

* The author acknowledges the help of many persons: Katja Arola, Mikko Huttunen, Jukka Kekkonen, Toni Malminen, Ludwig Nyman, Stella Svanberg, and Iisa Vepsä. Part of this chapter revisits research published as Korpiola, Mia, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa? Oikeushistorian pakolliset tutkintovaatimukset Helsingin yliopistossa vuoden 1921 tutkinnonuudistuksesta 2000-luvulle", *Oikeus*, vol. 40, issue 4, 2011, pp. 436-456.

** University of Turku, Finland. ORCID: 0000-0001-5751-705X. Mail: *mia.korpiola@utu.fi*.

[1] Klinge, Matti, *A European University: The University of Helsinki 1640-2010*, Helsinki, University of Helsinki, 2010, *passim*.

did only become a university discipline in 1852.[2] However, our investigation of the teaching of legal history in Finland starts in the twentieth century, since Finland became independent in 1917.

This chapter approaches the teaching of legal history from a historical perspective. The legal history curricula of all the Finnish faculties offering legal history are discussed separately. This chapter analyses the development of the perceived relevance, role, and contents of legal history courses at various universities. Comparative points and a longue durée perspective are presented in order to analyse the development. Printed (and later, online) study guides presenting the curriculum and teaching of the Faculties of Law form the main source material of this chapter.

II. Legal History Teaching at the University of Helsinki: Societal and Comparative Trends

An overview of legal history teaching in Helsinki after 1917 must begin with Ernst Estlander, who was appointed as an extraordinary professor in 1908. He was an active politician, representing the Swedish People's Party in the Finnish Parliament in 1907-1913 and 1916-1945. Therefore, Estlander could spare relatively little time for teaching, writing textbooks or engaging in research. As the (originally Swedish) Code of 1734 was (and still is) in force in the early twentieth century, legal history was rather perceived to antedate the Code. Therefore, the emphasis of the legal history curriculum was especially on medieval and pre-1734 legal history.[3]

The decree on the degrees of the Faculty of Law of 1921 listed the legal history topics and the basic definitions of Roman private law students had to learn. In addition, students had to take a course in Nordic history at the beginning of their studies. Thus, general history was read separately from the Nordic/Swedish legal history and Roman private law. The legal history curriculum was graded into three categories: *approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur*, and *laudatur*. Legal history was an elective subject until 1958 when it was

[2] Letto-Vanamo, Pia and Pihlajamäki, Heikki, "Oikeushistoria", in Kangas, Urpo (ed.), *Oikeustiede Suomessa 1900-2000*, Helsinki, WSLT, 1998, pp. 184-190, here 185.

[3] *E. g.*, Björne, Lars, "Jaakko Forsmanin Suomen lainsäädännön historia", in Kekkonen, Jukka *et al.* (eds.), *Tie tulkintaan: Juhlakirja akatemiaprofessori Heikki Ylikankaalle 6. marraskuuta 1997*, Porvoo, WSOY, 1997, pp. 138-154, here 142; Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 437-442.

made mandatory for those studying for the Candidate of Law (*lainopin kandidaatti*, present-day LL.M.), while students aiming at the lower degree (then *varanotaari*) did not take legal history.[4]

When Estlander retired, Ragnar Hemmer, another Swedish-speaker, took over the extraordinary professorship. Unlike Estlander, Hemmer had more academic interests and was an expert on medieval Swedish legal history.[5] He penned a modest tripartite textbook *Suomen oikeushistorian oppikirja 1-3* (1950-1961) that later also became used in Turku as will be discussed below. Hemmer was first extraordinary professor (1939-1948), then ordinary professor since 1948, and retired a decade later in 1959, the year when his chair was combined with Roman law.[6] After this, even Roman law was included in the exam and course literature. The legal history curriculum retained its tripartite grading (*approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur*, and *laudatur*).[7]

The historian Yrjö Blomstedt became Hemmer's successor for a decade between 1964 and 1974. He wanted to distance legal history from the emphasis —or overemphasis, as Blomstedt saw it— on medieval law that had prevailed during Hemmer's time. Blomstedt, who saw law closer to cultural history, wished to give more attention on the early modern period and the nineteenth century. Yet, the mandatory course literature did not reflect this. Since 1969, the study guide instructed students to focus on trends of change, their reasons and background, rather than learning years and dates by heart.[8] In post-WW II Europe, the European unification trend deepened in stages, and German researchers such as Helmut Coing and Franz Wieacker wrote about the common history of European law, especially through the history of Roman law. Europeanization and unification did not much inspire the mandatory course literature during Blomstedt's professorship. Hemmer's textbooks still formed the core of the course, and they were supplemented by a book on Roman law. An article by Coing was introduced in the course literature in 1969-1970 but disappeared the following year. Since 1968, Max Kaser's book on Roman private law came to

---

[4] Asetus Helsingin Yliopiston Tiedekunnassa suoritettavista tutkinnoista, 30.12.1921; Asetus Helsingin yliopiston lainopillisen tiedekunnan tutkinnoista, 267/26.6.1959.

[5] Finland was part of the Kingdom of Sweden until 1809.

[6] Kekkonen, Jukka, "Hemmer, Ragnar", Online publication Kansallisbiografia. Studia Biographica 4, Helsinki, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 1997, available at: *http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:sks-kbg-001993* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[7] *E. g.*, Helsingin yliopiston lainopillisen tiedekunnan tutkintovaatimukset 1960, Helsinki, Lainopillisen ylioppilastiedekunnan kustannustoimikunta, 1960, pp. 27 and 28.

[8] Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinnot 1969, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1969, p. 27; Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 441-446.

represent Roman law, while Erik Anners's Swedish-language book on European legal history was added in 1973.[9]

One of the most fundamental changes in the research and teaching of Finnish legal history took place when historian Heikki Ylikangas became the incumbent of the chair in 1977. He endorsed wholeheartedly a sociopolitical perspective of legal history. Ylikangas became a popular teacher at the Faculty and *Doktorvater* to a new generation of legal historians who were interested in the interaction of law and society. Ylikangas and his pupils were busy writing new textbooks that focused on the nexus of society and law, the latter being very broadly understood. However, the effective production of domestic textbooks left very little space for the history of jurisprudence, Roman law, or European legal history.[10] This contrasted with the intellectual legal history, focusing more on legal science, as researched and taught in Turku as will be discussed below in more detail. However, the emphasis on societal issues especially in domestic legal history was sometimes so pronounced in Helsinki that the doctrine seemed almost irrelevant.[11]

The slow Finnish integration to the European institutions and the EU left its mark on new textbooks discussing European legal history and Continental influences on Swedish and Finnish law. Research on and teaching of the influence of Roman and canon law on domestic legal history can be seen in the Europeanization trend. However, the literature of the mandatory legal history course became really international only in the early 2000s when three of the four textbooks dealt with European and Roman legal history and had been written in the English language. Even global perspectives were implemented, especially in elective courses.[12]

Comparative perspectives were strongly present in Ylikangas's and his successor Jukka Kekkonen's research (as from 1995). This became an important feature of Finnish legal history research and teaching that in another format also permeated the legal history at the Faculty of Turku. The long-term focus on comparative legal history became even more pronouncedly visible when university lecturer Heikki Pihlajamäki was made

---

[9] Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinnot 1969, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1969, p. 27; Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1973–1974, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1973; Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 443 and 444.

[10] *E. g.*, Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1983–1984 [Helsinki], Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1983, pp. 56 and 57.

[11] Letto-Vanamo and Pihlajamäki, "Oikeushistoria", pp. 188 and 189; Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 446-449.

[12] *E. g.*, Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2002-2003, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto 2002, p. 114; Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 450-452.

professor in comparative legal history in 2009, first for five years, and later, permanently.[13]

University pedagogy became trendy at the Faculty of Law of Helsinki in the early 2000s. Legal history was in the frontline here, and legal historians were both participating in and even teaching on university pedagogy courses. This trend also enriched the teaching methods considerably, and problem-based learning, debate, and drama methods became part of the teaching repertoire of Helsinki legal historians.[14]

Helsinki has had the best teaching and research resources in legal history in the country. Nevertheless, this is largely due to external funding. Grants of varying size have camouflaged the fact that legal history has recently been downsized in half. After Jukka Kekkonen retired in 2021, his former chair was discontinued, and Pihlajamäki has the only chair and only permanent position in legal history in Helsinki. Even in Helsinki, where the history of legal history teaching goes back 170 years and where there are many doctoral students, there is no guarantee that legal history will be seen as relevant and important in the future.

III. Legal History Teaching at the University of Turku: Intellectual Legal History

A private university was established in Turku in the spring of 1920 as a result of local and Finnish-language nationalist interests. Unlike the bilingual University of Helsinki, the new university was pronouncedly monolinguistic.[15] The number of chairs increased, and the university was organized into three faculties until the establishment of a Faculty of Law became topical in the 1950s. Despite some reluctance from the Faculty of Humanities that felt under-resourced, a Faculty of Law started its activity with state and private-sector support in 1960, and the teaching began in 1961.[16]

---

[13] Pihlajamäki, Heikki, "When Small is Beautiful: Teaching Legal History in the European Periphery", in Modéer, Kjell Åke and Nilsén, Per (eds.), *How to Teach European Comparative Legal History*, Lund, Juristförlaget, 2011, pp. 39-45. Korpiola, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa?", pp. 446-449.

[14] *E. g.*, Korpiola, Mia and Kotkas, Toomas, "Ongelmalähtöinen oppiminen–raportti käytännön kokeilusta", *Oikeus,* 2001, pp. 237-240.

[15] Vares, Vesa, *Turun yliopiston historia, 1: Kansallinen tehtävä 1920-1974*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2020, pp. 17-73, esp. 68; Perälä, Tauno, "History of Turku University", in Somerkoski, Pirjo and Nurmi, Matti (eds.), *The University of Turku*, trans. Landon, Antony, Turku, University of Turku, 1981, pp. 8-25, here 9-14.

[16] Vares, *Turun yliopiston historia, 1*, 307-310; Perälä, "History", p. 19; *Lex 30 vuotta 1961-1991*, Ojala, Jyrki (ed.), Turku, Oikeustieteen ylioppilaiden yhdistys Lex ry, 1991, p. 14.

The chair of general jurisprudence (*yleinen oikeusoppi*) was also to comprise international private law, legal history, and Roman law.[17] The hallmark of the Turku Faculty was for several decades a more general interest in the intellectual history of law or doctrinal legal history. This can be attributed to a large degree to Otto Brusiin, the first incumbent of the chair of general jurisprudence.[18] Before applying to Turku, Brusiin envisioned in his diary that "[l]egal history, Roman law and international private law will for me become new widening and deepening instruments for general jurisprudence".[19] He was also looking forward to teaching aspects of the law that were "worth thinking of" in an "environment the spirit of which he too would be creating". He devoted efforts to acquire legal history books for the law library from the libraries of Parliament and from the University of Helsinki.[20] Brusiin was especially intrigued by and interested in intellectual history that "whetted his imagination", and he repeatedly returned to his enthusiasm for the history of ideas.[21] Brusiin planned to use his weekly lecture of legal history to the maximum, to widen the perspectives as much as possible to attain the difficult task of teaching the "uninterrupted tradition of the European legal culture and Finland's position in it".[22] Soon thereafter, he observed that he was much more competent and self-confident in teaching legal history and Roman law —partly because the legal history library had been much improved.[23]

The study guide of 1970 illustrates how the Turku Faculty approached legal history from a staunchly European perspective. The Faculty emphasized "the role of Roman law as the foundation of European legal culture".[24] The Middle Ages in particular were considered important as "[f]oreign intellectual trends were understood as impulses for the Swedish and Finnish legal development", and the "domestic development was understood from a European perspective". Sweeping trends and longue durée development were stressed.[25]

---

[17] Vares, *Turun yliopiston historia, 1*, p. 310.

[18] On Brusiin, see *e. g.*, Tontti, Jarkko, "Otto Brusiin – intellektuellin tie", *Historiallinen Aikakauskirja*, vol. 96, issue 3, 1998, pp. 113-120.

[19] Brusiin's diary 1959-1971 has been published: 9.11.1960, *Mielenmaisema: Otto Brusiinin päivä- ja mietekirjamerkistöjä 1959–1971*, Kangas, Urpo (ed.), Helsinki, Forum iuris, 2020, p. 10.

[20] 2.3.1961, *Mielenmaisema*, ed. Kangas, 17; 3.12.1961, *ibidem*, p. 28.

[21] 10.6.1961, *Mielenmaisema*, ed. Kangas, 22. See also 22.6.1961, *ibidem*, 24; 23.–25.5.1962, *ibidem*, 34; 26.6.1962, *ibidem*, 36; 1.6.1963, *ibidem*, 55.

[22] 3.12.1961 and 31.12.1961, *Mielenmaisema*, ed. Kangas, p. 28.

[23] 11.2.1962, 23.4.1962, *Mielenmaisema*, ed. Kangas, pp. 30 and 31.

[24] Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1970, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1970, p. 19.

[25] *Id*.

Student reminiscences generally viewed Brusiin's teaching in a favourable manner. He was perceived as one of the professors who inspired students and created a positive atmosphere in the new faculty. Students considered that his teaching brought wider international and cosmopolitan intellectual perspectives to their studies contrasting with the predominantly national jurisprudence generally taught at that faculty.[26] The other instructor of the course, Hannu Tapani Klami, had from early on —even while being a law student— the reputation of a *Wunderkind*. Later, he defended his doctoral dissertation on Roman law and became a legendary, but controversial professor and personality.[27] As a professor, he was considered scientifically oriented among his colleagues in Turku. His lecturing was referred to as lively, interactive, and interesting; offering "a one-man show," while being mentioned as the "Liberace of Lecture Halls".[28] He taught the history of Roman law at the Faculty, and assumed the professorship in 1973-1976, after Brusiin's sudden death. With time, Klami moved to legal theory.[29]

The legal history curriculum of the early years resembled that of Helsinki, being graded in three categories: *approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur,* and *laudatur*. Moreover, for example in 1970, the course literature for the *approbatur* exam was the same as in Helsinki: namely, Coing's article, Hemmer's tripartite textbook on domestic legal history, and Kaser's book on Roman private law in a Finnish translation. The *cum laude approbatur* and *laudatur* courses had two alternatives each: domestic legal history and Roman law.[30]

The Decree on Degrees in Law of 1974 (that took effect in 1977) supported the role of legal history. It defined what students had to do and learn in order to be granted the law degree. That Decree listed 14 subjects —or combined subjects such as legal history and Roman law— that students had to learn sufficiently.[31] Further, it indicated that legal history was an important part of legal education and spurred faculties to provide the necessary human resources to take care of the teaching. After preparatory work in the period 1977-1980, a curriculum reform took place in Turku in the early 1980s. That reform meant a societal turn in the law curriculum in general.

---

[26] Kunttu, Tapani, *Lex – sui generis: Oikeustieteen ylioppilaiden yhdistys Lex 1961-2011*, Helsinki, Lakimiesliiton kustannus, 2011, pp. 39, 42 and 43.

[27] *Ibidem*, *Lex*, 91 and 92.

[28] *Ibidem*, *Lex*, 92, 191.

[29] Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1970, p. 19; Letto-Vanamo and Pihlajamäki, "Oikeushistoria", p. 189.

[30] Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1970, p. 19.

[31] §11, Asetus oikeustieteellisistä tutkinnoista 18.10.1974/802.

In the new curriculum at Turku, legal history was amalgamated with general history, and economic and social history. The course literature contained both history and legal history books: Finnish economic history, Roman law, and European legal history. Both general as well as Finnish legal and social history were lectured separately by Lars Björne. The latter professor was appointed as Brusiin's successor in 1979, yet to the chair of legal history, which became an independent chair.[32]

The next reform took place in the mid-1990s, when general social history was abandoned. Legal history became the only focus at that point. There was a mandatory basic course (*suppea*; 3 credits) in legal history (and all other mandatory subjects), and an elective specialization course (*laajentava*, 4 credits). The basic course aimed at giving a general introduction of the history of European legal systems and especially of their legal sources, defined as external legal history. The basic course was not onerous: 20 hours of lectures were supplemented by two textbooks, largely focusing on European, but also on Nordic legal history. This concept was maintained for many years. The three specialization courses were seminars: on the history of criminal and procedural law, on the history of civil law, and on the history of Finnish jurisprudence.[33] In 2006, the specialization courses were revised, and Björne taught the history of jurisprudence, of Finnish jurisprudence, or of civil law, depending on the year.[34] The Faculty of Law in Turku was selected as a Centre of Excellence for teaching by the Ministry of Education in the years 1997-1998 and 2004-2006, and as a Centre of Quality in the years 1999-2000.[35] Furthermore, Björne was awarded the University's Teacher of the Year Prize.[36]

After Björne's retirement, however, Satu Lidman, the *locum*, rewrote the aims of the mandatory legal history course. The aims were aligned with the requirements of university pedagogy and called for a complete update of the course literature. In the period 2012–2014, a specialization course

[32] Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1984-1985, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1984, p. 34.

[33] *E. g.*, Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1996-1997, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1996, pp. 67, 101 and 102; Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1998-1999, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1998, 76, pp. 126-128.

[34] *E. g.*, Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2006-2007, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2006, pp. 57, 180; Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2008-2009, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2008, p. 124; Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2009-2010, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2009, pp. 115 and 116.

[35] *E. g.*, [Anonymous], "Taattua laatua!", *LexPress*, 1/2003, p. 16.

[36] Talvio, Markus, "Vuoden opettaja Lars Björne: Itsenäisyyttä ja yleissivistystä", *LexPress*, vol. 1, 2010, pp. 34 and 35.

was taught on the history of sexual crime in early modern Europe.[37] When the author of this chapter was appointed professor in 2014, the mandatory course literature was thoroughly changed to correspond with that of legal history in Helsinki.

In 1981, the Faculty defined itself as having "a character of its own". Distinguishing itself from Helsinki meant that a critical attitude towards legal positivism was stressed through a more pronounced emphasis on legal history and legal theory. The Faculty perceived itself as specializing "in research and teaching in the fields of legal theory, legal history and international law". Brusiin was expressly named "[t]he inspiration behind this general development" towards a "historical and theoretical orientation", as he wanted legal studies to be "comprehensive, embracing history, theory and comparative law".[38] The more general history-of-ideas-approach can be attested by the collection of essays celebrating the Faculty's 30th anniversary. In addition to the articles by legal historians, Björne and Päivi Paasto, there were two other articles, by professors of general jurisprudence and tax law respectively, focusing on historical perspectives.[39] During several decades, during Brusiin's and Björne's professorships, legal history in Turku had a special, international intellectual historical profile that was shared by many faculty members. However, the era of the special Turku school of legal history became history itself with Björne's retirement.

IV. Teaching Legal History at the Arctic Circle: University of Lapland In Rovaniemi

The University of Lapland was established in 1979 as the Institution of Higher Education of Lapland (*Lapin korkeakoulu*) with only a library and two faculties: education and law. A Faculty of Social Sciences was added in 1982,

[37] Turun yliopisto, Oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2012-2013, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2012, pp. 83, 84 and 148-151; Turun yliopisto, Oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2013-2014, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2013, pp. 87, 88 and 159-161.

[38] *University of Turku*, pp. 114-115, all quotations 114.

[39] See articles by Björne, Lars, "Asian luonto 1800-luvun pohjoismaisessa oikeuslähdeopissa", in Saarnilehti, Ari and Nuutila, Ari-Matti (eds.), *Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta 30 vuotta*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1991, pp. 11-22; Paasto, Päivi, "Dominium, communio, proprium – näkökulmia Hugo Grotiuksen luontaisoikeudelliseen käsitteistöön", *ibidem*, pp. 345-364; Tolonen, Hannu, "Eräitä näkökohtia skandinavisesta oikeusrealismista", *ibidem*, pp. 405-419; Wikström, Kauko, "Mitä on historiallinen lainoppi?", *ibidem*, pp. 501-509. Moreover, Antero Jyränki, professor of constitutional and international law, had a historical approach in several of his books.

followed by a Faculty of Art and Design in 1990, before the Institution was transformed into a University in 1991.[40] Regional policy was behind this, because law could only be studied on the south coast of Finland. The decision was criticized by the Association of Finnish Lawyers (then *Lakimiesliitto*). Its journal, *Lakimiesuutiset* (Lawyer News), published debates and discussions around the plans and the establishment of the new university.[41]

One of the points of criticism against the new Faculty of Law was its different curriculum that allegedly resembled much that of a master's degree in administrative science and would render public law more like private law. Important subjects such as procedural law would not be taught sufficiently as societal matters would be stressed more.[42] Another point of criticism related to spreading the same resources amongst three units rather than two. The new exam degree had bolstered teaching in a number of subjects, especially Turku, where the lack of teaching positions resulted in the combination of several subjects under one chair. The existing resources would in fact be diminished for Helsinki, and especially Turku, even if supposedly fewer students would be accepted after the establishing of the new Faculty in Lapland.[43]

At the beginning, the exam in Rovaniemi placed somewhat more emphasis (in total 13 credits) on general jurisprudential studies (legal sociology, jurisprudence, and legal history) in comparison to Helsinki (11 credits).[44] The study guide of 1981 shows that legal history was taught together with the legal systems of the world (comparative law) and jurisprudence. All in all, during this four-credit course, five books had to be read. Two of these were legal history: an introduction to legal history by Ylikangas and parts of an introduction to the system of Roman law by Klami. The course was taught by

---

[40] Salo, Matti and Junila, Marianne, *Pohjoisen puolesta – pohjoista varten: Lapin yliopiston historia 1979-2008*, Rovaniemi, Lapin yliopisto, 2009, pp. 13-63.

[41] *E. g.*, [Anonymous], "Oikeustieteellistä opetusta suunnitellaan Rovaniemelle", *Lakimiesuutiset* 7-8, 1978, pp. 11-13; Halila, Heikki, "Lakimieskoulutus aluepolitiikan kourissa", *Lakimiesuutiset* 10, 1978, pp. 13-15; Vuorinen, Markku, "Kolmannen oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan perustamisesta", *ibidem*, pp. 16 and 17; [Anonymous], "Uusi tiedekunta", *Lakimiesuutiset* 11, 1978, pp. 3 and 4; Riepula, Esko, "Lapin korkeakoulun lakimieskoulutuksesta", *ibidem*, pp. 85 and 86; Aarnio, Aulis, "Juristikoulutuksen alueellisen hajauttamisen taustaa", *ibidem*, pp. 7 and 8; Halila, Heikki, [Reply to Aarnio and Riepula], *ibidem*, pp. 8 and 9; [Anonymous], "Lakimiesliiton kannanotto Rovaniemen korkeakoulusuunnitelmasta", *Lakimiesuutiset* 12, 1978, pp. 13-17.

[42] Halila, "Lakimieskoulutus", 15; [Anonymous], "Lakimiesliiton kannanotto", pp. 15 and 16.

[43] *E. g.*, Kartio, Leena, "Rovaniemen tiedekunta ja Turun resurssit", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 1, 1979, pp. 21 and 22.

[44] Halila, [Reply to Aarnio and Riepula], p. 9.

assistant professor Seppo Laakso, a specialist in public law.[45] In 1982, it became a five-credit course (and six credits in 1983), taught by licentiate Rauno Halttunen. There were four mandatory lecture series, all in all 95 hours of which legal history was allotted 20 hours. The two legal history books were the same, except that Klami's book was to be read in its entirety, until the book on Roman law was no longer included in the exam as from 1986.[46]

Halttunen's assistant professorship was not permanent but rather filled by fixed-term employment contracts.[47] This enabled other applicants to compete for the position. Moreover, licentiate Halttunen was not as qualified as doctors. In 1986, Jukka Kekkonen first taught the 20-hour mandatory legal history course in Lapland, while Helsinki-based licentiate Jussi Pajuoja did it in his turn in 1987 and Kaisa Korpijaakko in 1988 —when she taught the whole subject— and 1989, when she defended her legal history dissertation in Rovaniemi. By this time, there were only 15 hours of lectures in legal history.[48]

In 1990, Jukka Kekkonen became assistant professor in Lapland. At this point, the major change involving legal history was that there were three lecture courses (in comparative law, legal history, and jurisprudence), all 15 hours each,[49] and the students could choose two of them. The same four books remained, one of which was Ylikangas's introduction, but the following year two of four books were legal history textbooks. The following year, the content of the course remained the same, but it had only 4 credits, and three out of the four books were legal history textbooks.[50] Kekkonen

---

[45] Lapin korkeakoulu, oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas, syyslukukausi 1981. Rovaniemi, 1981, pp. 28 and 29.

[46] Lapin korkeakoulu, oikeustieteiden osasto, opinto-opas, syksy 82, Rovaniemi, Lapin korkeakoulu, 1982, 39-41, p. 162; Oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas, syksy 1983, Rovaniemi, Lapin korkeakoulu, 1983, p. 53.

[47] [Anonymous], "Matkalle lähdetään ennen kuin lähdetään", *Digesta* 2, 2014, pp. 12-14, here 13.

[48] Lapin korkeakoulun oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas, syksy 1986, Rovaniemi, 1986, p. 47; Lapin korkeakoulun oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas 1987-1988, syksy 1987, Rovaniemi, 1987, p. 37; Lapin korkeakoulun oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas 1988-1989, syksy 1988, Rovaniemi 1988, p. 39; Lapin korkeakoulun oikeustieteiden osaston opinto-opas, syksy 1989-1990, Rovaniemi, 1989, p. 48.

[49] Salo and Junila, *Pohjoisen puolesta*, p. 310.

[50] Oikeustieteiden osasto, opinto-opas 1990-1991, Rovaniemi, Lapin korkeakoulu, 1990, pp. 39 and 40. Oikeustieteiden osasto, opinto-opas 1991-1992. Lapin yliopisto, Rovaniemi 1991, pp. 31 and 32. See also Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 1992, Rovaniemi, Lapin korkeakoulu, 1992, p. 30.

reminisces that the elective legal history lectures were popular among the students.[51]

Kekkonen left Lapland in 1993 and later was appointed to the chair of legal history in Helsinki. In 1994, Halttunen defended his doctoral dissertation in Rovaniemi that helped him reobtain the assistant professorship. After this, the role of legal history diminished to two out of four books. Ylikangas's introduction remained, but a book on the European intellectual history of law by Stig Strömsholm was added.[52] Perhaps this was a nod towards the ongoing Europeanization and the approaching Finnish membership in the EU that became a reality on 1 January 1995.

Halttunen held the chair in Lapland for a long time. He also lived in Lapland —unlike many other professors— and Halttunen left a mark on both the Faculty and students.[53] As his interests were firmly in legal theory, legal history was rather at a standstill during his period. Halttunen expressed in an interview in 2014 that legal theory and jurisprudence were the only things that he was "ever really interested in". He would have accepted "an opportunity to teach [these two subjects] even if it had been in Timbuktu".[54] Consequently, the legal history course literature remained the same for two decades. However, as another reflection on the emphasis on and dominance of legal theory in Finland, by 2012, legal theory/jurisprudence had its own three-credit entity, like legal history and comparative law. In the latter, the three books were still the same as in the 1990s and did not mirror the changes in the field.[55]

The Decree on Degrees in Law of 1996 no longer specified the subjects required for law degrees, and thus authorized faculties to arrange teaching more freely than before. As a consequence, legal history was no longer considered a necessary part of the law curriculum at certain universities.[56] In 2013, during the term of Kirsi Kuusikko, professor of administrative law

---

[51] E-mail from Jukka Kekkonen to M.K., 2 May 2024.

[52] Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 1993-1994. Lapin yliopisto, Rovaniemi 1992, p. 30; Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 1993-1994. Lapin yliopisto, Rovaniemi 1992, pp. 30 and 31. On Halttunen's defence, see Laurila, Petri (ed.), *Suomen lakimiehet – Finlands jurister 2011*, Helsinki, Talentum, 2011, p. 155.

[53] Salo and Junila, *Pohjoisen puolesta*, 294, pp. 300 and 301; [Anonymous], "Matkalle lähdetään", pp. 12-14.

[54] [Anonymous], "Matkalle lähdetään", p. 13 (both citations here).

[55] Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 2012-2013, Rovaniemi, Lapin yliopisto, 2012, pp. 53 and 54.

[56] Asetus oikeustieteellisistä tutkinnoista, 12.2.1996/86.

and docent in legal history, legal history became an elective methodological six-credit course. The lectures on the methods of legal history were mandatory, but there was no agenda of teaching the substance of European or domestic legal history to the students.[57] Since then, legal history is in Lapland an elective methodological course (5 credits) that plies for students' attention together with law and economy, as well as "Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to EU and International Law".[58] However, a lightweight version of legal history/comparative law was included in a three-credit course on "European legal cultures in a comparative context". It contains 12 hours of lectures, and an essay supported by an introductory book on global legal cultures.[59] There are no bachelor or master's thesis seminars in legal history in Lapland.

V. Legal History at The University of Eastern Finland: Specialized Exam, Marginal and Elective Legal History

The University of Eastern Finland (UEF, earlier: University of Joensuu) is one of the latest to receive the right to deliver general Master of Laws exams. The University of Joensuu was first established as a university of applied science (*korkeakoulu*) in 1969. After first being transformed into a university, it merged with the University of Kuopio to be reborn as the UEF.[60]

In the mid-1990s, law teaching started modestly by a professorship of public law. Soon, it expanded to tax law and criminal law. By 1998, the nucleus expanded into a law department of public law. A couple of years later, professorships in criminal law and in the "law of natural resources" (soon renamed as environmental law) were established. However, law was studied as part of other degrees, namely administration and environmental sciences. However, UEF included the right to grant law degrees into its strategy plan for the period 2003-2009. The department of public law became

[57] Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 2013-2014. Lapin yliopisto, Rovaniemi 2013, p. 223; Online study guide, available at: *https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/fi/opintojakso/OTM0010/9391* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[58] Available at: *https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/en/programme/22482* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[59] Available at: *https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/fi/opintojakso/ONPOOL31/9082* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[60] Nevala, Arto. *Uudisraivaaja: Joensuun yliopiston 40-vuotishistoria*, Joensuu, Joensuun yliopisto, 2009, esp. pp. 28-45, 60-123 and 483-488.

the department of law, and the UEF made several attempts to be awarded the right to deliver LL.M. exams, in 2004 and 2009. Chairs in constitutional law and jurisprudence were also established to expand the availability of courses and make it more attractive to students.[61] The other faculties of law in Finland and the lawyer's associations resisted this with partly the same arguments as when the University of Lapland had been granted the same right in 1979.[62] Despite this resistance, the government authorized this in June 2012, and the first students started their LL.M. studies in the autumn of 2013.[63]

In general terms, the degree at the UEF is more specialized —with a focus on administrative and environmental law— than the more traditional generalist degrees of Helsinki, Turku, and Lapland (Rovaniemi). This is understandable considering that the new degree and curriculum were built on the staff that had taught students engaged in administrative and environmental studies. This is also reflected in the fact that the UEF does not have a faculty of law. Rather, its school of law (*oikeustieteiden laitos*) is a department of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies.[64] Currently, the school of law of UEF especially emphasizes its research in "welfare law" and environmental law, including international climate change, environmental, and energy law. In addition, the school devoted efforts to develop empirical legal research.[65] The school offers teaching and does research in 17 subjects.[66] Legal history is not one of those.

---

[61] Nevala, *Uudisraivaaja*, pp. 449 and 450.

[62] *E. g.*, Alinen, Henri, "Kiistaa neljännestä tiedekunnasta", *Lakimiesuutiset* 2/2012, pp. 42-45.

[63] *E. g.*, Väinämö, Jouki, "Itä-Suomen yliopisto sai luvan kouluttaa yleisjuristeja", available at: *https://yle.fi/a/3-6198818* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[64] English-language homepage of the University of Eastern Finland, available at: *https://www.uef.fi/en/university*; *https://www.uef.fi/en/unit/uef-law-school* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[65] English-language homepage of the UEF Law School, available at: *https://www.uef.fi/en/unit/uef-law-school* (last accessed: 28 January 2025); Finnish-language homepage of the UEF Law School, available at: *https://www.uef.fi/fi/yksikko/oikeustieteiden-laitos* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[66] Finnish-language homepage of the UEF Law School, subjects of legal studies (only available in Finnish), available at: *https://www.uef.fi/fi/yksikko/oikeustieteiden-laitos/oikeustieteiden-oppiaineet* (last accessed: 28 January 2025). The webpage claims they offer teaching and do research in 16 subjects, but the list contains 17 subjects. These are: philosophy, jurisprudence (*yleinen oikeustiede*), legal regulation research (*lainsäädäntötutkimus*), financial/tax law, constitutional law, EU law, administrative law, environmental law, "welfare law," social law, (public) international law, commercial law, property law (*varallisuusoikeus*), family and inheritance law, labour law, procedural law, and criminal law.

In 2014, Toomas Kotkas was appointed to the chair of jurisprudence (*yleinen oikeustiede*) and social law. He had defended his legal history dissertation in Helsinki before focusing on social law. Kotkas had the responsibility of teaching an introductory course on jurisprudence and legal history (5 credits) that was part of a 15-credit course on the basics of legal thinking for first-year students. However, legal history was only nominally present in the course as the content dealt mainly with legal theory and the history of legal philosophers.[67]

Legal history has been relegated into an elective theoretical and methodological course in the Master of Laws degree at the UEF since 2018. As such, that elective course competes with several other subjects: sociology of law, philosophy of law, philosophy of well-being (*hyvinvoinnin filosofia*), theory of legal decisions (*oikeudellisen ratkaisun teoria*), legal argumentation, regulation theory, and theory of normative research (*lainsäädäntötutkimuksen teoria*). Students must choose two of these five-credit courses. Yet, the content of this elective legal history course is not really methodological. The current instructor, Toni Malminen, aligned the contents with the legal history course offered at the University of Turku in 2019, and the literature is the same, including domestic legal history, European legal history, and an introduction to Roman law. The lectures are not mandatory, and the students have to write an essay.[68] There are no bachelor or master's thesis seminars in legal history at the UEF.

According to Malminen, though being an elective course, legal history has been a popular subject among students. However, there is little interest at the school of law to maintain legal history as part of the curriculum —unlike legal theory. Furthermore, since Malminen has only a fixed-term contract, the future of legal history at the UEF seems very uncertain.[69]

VI. Studying Legal History at the Åbo Akademi University and Elsewhere

The Åbo Akademi University (*Åbo Akademi*) (ÅAU), founded in 1918, is the only exclusively Swedish-language university in Finland, having been a pri-

[67] Itä-Suomen yliopisto, Yhteiskuntatieteiden ja kauppatieteiden tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2014–2016, Joensuu, Itä-Suomen yliopisto, 2014, pp. 131-133; E-mail from Iisa Vepsä to M.K., 6 May 2024.

[68] See on *https://opas.peppi.uef.fi/fi/ohjelma/94600?period=2021-2022; https://opas.peppi.uef.fi/fi/ohjelma/121817?period=2023-2024* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[69] E-mail from Toni Malminen to M.K., 3 May 2024.

vate university until 1981. The ÅAU started with three faculties (arts, science, and social sciences), to be followed by the establishment of several more faculties.[70] The plans included several chairs in law: administrative law, private law, trade, and social law. However, partly due to lack of funding, the first chair in law (1921) was soon renamed "private law with jurisprudence" (*privaträtt med allmän rättslära*) in 1922. Alexander Wilhelm Gadolin became its first incumbent.[71] Gadolin had defended a legal history dissertation on mortgaging of land according to Swedish medieval law in 1909 and had worked as assistant professor in "jurisprudence and legal encyclopaedia" (*yleisen lakitieteen ja lainopin ensyklopedian apulainen*) in the period 1910-1920 in Helsinki. His research was mostly in legal history or private law (*e. g.*, mortgage and lease of land, bills of exchange and cheques, as well as legal guardianship).[72]

Gadolin's successor in 1948, Lars Erik Taxell, was especially known for his works on contract and company law. Some of his research had policy considerations and had influences of Scandinavian legal realism, nevertheless his research or teaching interests did not fall within the realm of legal history. A chair in constitutional and international law (*Armfeltska professuren i statsrätt och folkrätt*) was finally established in 1968; and its first ordinary professor, Tore Modeen, held that position until 1978.[73] During Modeen's professorship —as well as his and Taxell's successors in the 1970s and 1980s— the emphasis of the ÅAU on minority rights and human rights more generally, international law, maritime and international transport law became more pronounced. This emphasis was also mentioned in 1993 as the fields of specialization of the Department of Law of ÅAU.[74] It is worth mentioning that Lars Björne, who would then be appointed professor of legal history at the University of Turku, worked as an assistant in private law

[70] Villstrand, Nils Erik, *Åbo Akademi i sin början 1918-1945*, Åbo, Åbo Akademis förlag, 2019, esp. pp. 13-35, 145-153 and 197-239; Widén, Solveig, "The Foundation of Åbo Akademi University", in Widén, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Grapes, Christopher, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993, pp. 10 and 11; Taxell, Lars Erik, "How Åbo Akademi University Became a State University," *ibidem*, pp. 11 and 12.

[71] Rosas, Allan, "Rättsvetenskap", in Widén, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi 1918-1993: Forskning och institutioner, 3. Ekonomisk–statsvetenskapliga fakulteten – Pedagogiska fakulteten*, Åbo, Åbo Akademis Förlag, 1993, pp. 121-135; Rosas, Allan, "Law", in Widén, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Grapes, Christopher, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993, pp. 56 and 57, here 56. On the first chairs in law and their incumbents, see Villstrand, *Åbo Akademi*, pp. 219 and 220.

[72] *Aikalaiskirja: Henkilötietoja nykypolven suomalaisista 1934*, Helsinki, Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava, 1933, p. 140.

[73] Rosas, "Rättsvetenskap", pp. 126, 127, 129 and 130.

[74] *Ibidem*, pp. 129-133; Rosas, "Law", p. 57.

at the ÅAU in 1970-1976, before defending his legal history dissertation at the University of Turku in 1977.[75]

The Faculty of Economics and Political Science was created in 1980 as a merger of the Faculty of Political Sciences and the School of Economics, and at the end of the decade, two of its 13 chairs were in law (public and civil law).[76] After the administrative reform in 2010, the Institution of Law became part of the Faculty of Social Studies, Economy and Law.[77] Since its establishment, students of the ÅAU could follow master degrees in political science, majoring in law. However, the ÅAU obtained the right to grant law degrees on the bachelor level (*oikeusnotaari*) in Swedish.[78] The Institution of Law states that it focuses especially on human rights and commercial law, and the ÅAU has an Institute of Human Rights. The human rights emphasis is reflected in the fact that animal law and two human rights courses are amongst the mandatory courses.[79] ÅAU collaborated with the Faculty of Law at the University of Turku, and therefore ÅAU students could participate in legal history courses and take exams at the Faculty of Law. However, the ÅAU was granted the right to offer LL.M degrees in Swedish in 2022, and the first students for the master's program started in the autumn of 2023.[80] Consequently, the cooperation between the two Turku universities ended in 2024.

The ÅAU now teaches and examines their students. Legal history is currently one of the 19 mandatory subjects (*ämnesstudier*), 5 credit each, of the LL.B. degree at ÅAU. [81] The specialization and emphasis on human

[75] *Ibidem*, p. 128.

[76] Anckar, Dag and Anckar, Olle, "The Faculty of Economics and Political Science", in Widén, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments,* trans. Grapes, Christopher, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993, pp. 49 and 50, here 50.

[77] Available at: *https://www.abo.fi/en/about-abo-akademi-university/organisation-and-strategy/organisational-chart/* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[78] Asetus oikeustieteellisistä tutkinnoista annetun asetuksen 2§:n muuttamisesta, 23.2.1990/204. Rosas, "Rättsvetenskap", p. 133; Rosas, "Law," p. 57.

[79] Available at: *https://www.abo.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/rn-struktur-2023-2024.pdf* (last accessed: 28 January 2025); *https://www.abo.fi/en/institute-for-human-rights/* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[80] Available at: *https://www.abo.fi/fi/uutiset/abo-akademi-saa-oikeuden-kouluttaa-oikeustieteen-maistereita/* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[81] Available at: *https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/program/27438?period=2022-2024* (last accessed: 28 January 2025). The compulsory subjects in addition to legal history are: contract law, competition and IPR law, tort law, company law, property law, tax law, family and inheritance law, labour law, public EU law, environmental law, animal law, constitutional law, administrative law, introduction to international law, Finland and international law, criminal law, procedural law, as well as legal sociology and criminology.

rights is also visible in the legal history contents. According to the study guide, students are to learn the "basics of Roman law, the origins of the legal systems especially in the Nordic Countries, Swedish and Finnish legal development and the origins of fundamental and human rights thinking".[82] The instructor responsible for legal history, Markku Suksi, holds the position of professor of public law.[83] That mandatory course teaches students an introduction of Roman law, the birth of human rights thinking, as well as the formation of legal systems in the Nordic Countries, with an emphasis on the joint legal history of Finland and Sweden.[84] The legal history course contains a mandatory part with Roman and European legal history, and the rest has been divided into two elective lines of study with an emphasis either on fundamental and human rights or on Nordic and constitutional law, depending on the student's choice. Suksi's publications deal prominently with public law and legal history.[85]

Legal subjects —including public law (administrative law, constitutional law, and tax law), criminology and business law (company, tax, and contract law, and so on)— can also be studied as part of degrees in economy and administration, for example at the universities of Tampere, Vaasa, and Aalto (Helsinki).[86] However, the subjects do not include legal history. In contrast to the Finnish free-of-charge university education, Tallinn University offers and markets Bachelor studies with tuition fees in Helsinki. It should be noted that its curriculum does not include legal history or Roman law.[87]

A number of open universities and liberal adult education colleges offer courses in legal history that correspond with university courses and therefore can be included in a law degree. For example, the Päivölä Institute in Valkeakoski offers a legal study package (57 credits) with courses in many legal subjects, many of which correspond with those at the universities of

---

[82] Available at: *https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/kurs/RN00CP06/27640* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[83] Available at: *https://www.abo.fi/kontakt/markku-suksi/* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[84] Available at: *https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/kurs/RN00CP06/27640?period=2022-2024* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[85] Available at: *https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/kurs/RN00CP06/27640?period=2022-2024* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

[86] *E. g.*, Kaarninen, Mervi, Harjula, Minna and Sipponen, Kauko, *Murros ja mielikuva: Tampereen yliopisto 1960-2000*, Tampere, Tampereen yliopisto & Osuuskunta Vastapaino, 2000, pp. 313-315.

[87] See the website of the program at *https://www.tlu.ee/en/yti/law* (last accessed: 28 January 2025); Website of the Tallinn University's law studies in Helsinki, *https://primuscollegium.fi/tallinn-university/* (last accessed: 28 January 2025). The pages of the study programme in law, *https://ois2.tlu.ee/tluois/programme/AKLB/23.YK#*, contain a file presenting the curriculum.

Turku and UEF. Students tend to be young, arriving directly from high school, and the size of the groups varies, but they usually are smallish. According to Iisa Vepsä, the director of Päivölä legal study program, legal history was taught according to the curriculum of the UEF as "Introduction to legal theory and legal history" until 2017. As the literature in the UEF course only comprised legal theory, students were consequently taught practically no legal history.[88] Currently, the legal history course in Päivölä corresponds with that of Turku (6 credits; 5 credits after summer 2024) and is taught by Vepsä, who defended her legal history dissertation in Helsinki in 2009.[89]

VII. Conclusion

While legal history and/or Roman law has been taught in Finland since the nineteenth century, it became a compulsory subject in Helsinki in 1958 and in Turku in 1961. As I have demonstrated, trends in Finnish academia have led to the marginalization of legal history teaching in several universities, especially Lapland and the UEF. Legal history was never strong in Lapland, notwithstanding a shorter period, as it was only taught on a "introduction to" level. It is now only an elective methodological course in both universities, not necessarily taught by instructors who engage in legal history research. At ÅAU, legal history is still being taught, but in a strongly profiled version and by non-legal historians. Helsinki and Turku lost teaching resources (one professor in Helsinki, a half university lecturer in Turku). These two institutions are the only ones that continue to maintain a traditional legal history profile with mandatory courses and elective advanced special studies, LL.M. thesis seminars, and doctoral students.

As the pursuit of external funding has gained ground in Finnish academia, the profiling exercises of the different faculties and schools have caused them to specialize to the extent that jeopardized the role and the future of legal history. As has been demonstrated in recent research, the general jurisprudential studies —including legal history— have lost professorships both absolutely (from seven in 1980 to six in 2022) and relatively (from 12.7% of professorships to 5.5%). During the same period, the num-

[88] E-mail from Iisa Vepsä to M. K., 6 May 2024. On the history of Päivölä, see Kuuliala, Ilari, *Päivölä: Kansanopisto – Aikuiskoulutuskeskus 100 vuotta*, Valkeakoski, Päivölän kansanopisto, 1994.

[89] *E. g.*, *https://www.paivola.fi/opintolinjat/oikeustiede/oikeustieteen-opinnot* (last accessed: 28 January 2025); E-mail from Iisa Vepsä to M. K., 6 May 2024.

ber of professors (omitting professors of practice) has almost doubled from 55 to 102. The real winners are the "profiling professors", often either representing or attracting external funding, and the research of the faculty. The number of such professors has multiplied at an accelerating pace especially since 2010, from 12.5% in 2010 to 33.9% in 2022, and they now represent one third of all professorships.[90]

This development is advantageous to the faculties and schools if their "profiled professors" are more successful in obtaining external funding. It may also contribute to a positive diversification of legal research as had been suggested.[91] Yet, the negative effects for legal history teaching are clearly visible already.[92] It is not surprising that the UEF and Lapland, where the number of "profiled" professors have increased the most,[93] demonstrate the least interest in teaching legal history.

Similarly, it is an increasing trend that the instructors have very broad work descriptions that are not ear-marked to any subject or chair. Anyone could basically teach any legal subjects —especially legal history. When everyone is a potential "legal historian," nobody is a real legal historian.[94] This is also leading to an erosion of perceptions of what legal history is and what it should be in academia. The development of relegating legal history into an elective methodological subject is already visible in Lapland and in UEF. The lack of legal history research goes hand in hand with the lack of specialized teaching and human resources. This threatens to relegate legal history again to an auxiliary or methodological subject, a perspective for approaching current legal phenomena, something Finnish legal historians have been attempting to dispel for many decades.

VIII. Bibliography

Aarnio, Aulis, "Juristikoulutuksen alueellisen hajauttamisen taustaa", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 11, 1978.

[90] Vuorela, Miikka and Määttä, Tapio, "Oikeustieteen professuurien nimikkeet oikeustieteen itseymmärryksen kuvastajina", *Lakimies*, vol. 120, issue 7-8, 2022, pp. 1305-1331, esp. 1318 and 1321.

[91] Vuorela and Määttä, "Oikeustieteen professuurien", p. 1329.

[92] See also the concerns expressed in Kekkonen, Jukka and Malminen, Toni, "Keskustelua uudesta oikeustieteen tutkimuksen oppi- ja käsikirjasta sekä oikeustieteen tilasta ja tulevaisuudesta", *Lakimies*, 2024, pp. 122, 123, 124 and 570-581, esp. 576-578.

[93] Vuorela and Määttä, "Oikeustieteen professuurien", Table 1, p. 1330.

[94] See, *e. g.*, Kekkonen, Jukka, "Oikeushistoria ja oikeustiede – Tutkinnonuudistuksen herättämiä ajatuksia", *Lakimies*, vol. 94, issue 7, 1996, pp. 1073-1077.

Aikalaiskirja: Henkilötietoja nykypolven suomalaisista 1934, Helsinki, Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava, 1933.

ALINEN, Henri, "Kiistaa neljännestä tiedekunnasta", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 2, 2012.

ANCKAR, Dag and ANCKAR, Olle, "The Faculty of Economics and Political Science", in WIDÉN, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Grapes, Christopher, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993.

[ANONYMOUS], "Lakimiesliiton kannanotto Rovaniemen korkeakoulusuunnitelmasta", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 12, 1978.

[ANONYMOUS], "Matkalle lähdetään ennen kuin lähdetään", *Digesta* 2/2014.

[ANONYMOUS], "Oikeustieteellistä opetusta suunnitellaan Rovaniemelle", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 7–8, 1978.

[ANONYMOUS], "Taattua laatua!", *LexPress*, 1/2003.

[ANONYMOUS], "Uusi tiedekunta", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 11, 1978.

ASETUS Helsingin Yliopiston Tiedekunnassa suoritettavista tutkinnoista, 30.12.1921.

ASETUS Helsingin yliopiston lainopillisen tiedekunnan tutkinnoista, 267/26.6.1959.

ASETUS oikeustieteellisistä tutkinnoista, 12.2.1996/86.

ASETUS oikeustieteellisistä tutkinnoista annetun asetuksen 2§:n muuttamisesta, 23.2.1990/204.

BJÖRNE, Lars, "Asian luonto 1800-luvun pohjoismaisessa oikeuslähdeopissa", in SAARNILEHTO, Ari and NUUTILA, Ari-Matti (eds.), *Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta 30 vuotta*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1991.

BJÖRNE, Lars, "Jaakko Forsmanin Suomen lainsäädännön historia", in KEKKONEN, Jukka *et al.* (eds.), *Tie tulkintaan: Juhlakirja akatemiaprofessori Heikki Ylikankaalle 6. marraskuuta 1997*, Porvoo, WSOY, 1997.

E-mail from Iisa Vepsä to M.K., 6 May 2024.

E-mail from Jukka Kekkonen to M.K., 2 May 2024.

E-mail from Toni Malminen to M.K., 3 May 2024.

HALILA, Heikki, "Lakimieskoulutus aluepolitiikan kourissa," *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 10, 1978.

HALILA, Heikki, [Reply to Aarnio and Riepula], *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 11, 1978.

HELSINGIN yliopiston lainopillisen tiedekunnan ylioppilastiedekunnan kustannustoimikunta. Helsinki, 1960.

ITÄ-SUOMEN yliopisto, Yhteiskuntatieteiden ja kauppatieteiden tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2014-2016, Joensuu, Itä-Suomen yliopisto, 2014.

KAARNINEN, Mervi, Harjula, Minna and Sipponen, Kauko, *Murros ja mielikuva: Tampereen yliopisto 1960-2000*, Tampere Tampereen yliopisto & Osuuskunta Vastapaino, 2000.

KANGAS, Urpo (ed.), *Mielenmaisema: Otto Brusiinin päivä- ja mietekirjamerkistöjä 1959-1971*, Helsinki, Forum iuris, 2020.

KARTIO, Leena, "Rovaniemen tiedekunta ja Turun resurssit", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 1, 1979.

KEKKONEN, Jukka, "Oikeushistoria ja oikeustiede – Tutkinnonuudistuksen herättämiä ajatuksia", *Lakimies*, vol. 94, 1996.

KEKKONEN, Jukka, "Hemmer, Ragnar," Online publication Kansallisbiografia. Studia Biographica 4. Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 1997, disponible en: *http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:sks-kbg-001993* (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

KEKKONEN, Jukka and MALMINEN, Toni, "Keskustelua uudesta oikeustieteen tutkimuksen oppi- ja käsikirjasta sekä oikeustieteen tilasta ja tulevaisuudesta", *Lakimies*, vol. 122, 2024.

KLINGE, Matti, *A European University: The University of Helsinki 1640-2010*, Helsinki, University of Helsinki, 2010.

KORPIOLA, Mia, "Mitä oikeushistoriaa? Oikeushistorian pakolliset tutkintovaatimukset Helsingin yliopistossa vuoden 1921 tutkinnonuudistuksesta 2000-luvulle", *Oikeus*, vol. 4, 2011.

KORPIOLA, Mia and KOTKAS, Toomas, "Ongelmalähtöinen oppiminen–raportti käytännön kokeilusta", *Oikeus*, vol. 2, 2001.

KUNTTU, Tapani, *Lex – sui generis: Oikeustieteen ylioppilaiden yhdistys Lex 1961-2011*, Helsinki, Lakimiesliiton kustannus, 2011.

KUULIALA, Ilari, *Päivölä: Kansanopisto–Aikuiskoulutuskeskus 100 vuotta*, Valkeakoski, Päivölän kansanopisto, 1994.

LAURILA, Petri (ed.), *Suomen lakimiehet – Finlands jurister 2011*, Helsinki, Talentum, 2011.

LETTO-VANAMO, Pia and PIHLAJAMÄKI, Heikki, "Oikeushistoria", in KANGAS, Urpo (ed.), *Oikeustiede Suomessa 1900-2000*, Helsinki, WSLT, 1998.

Lex 30 vuotta 1961-1991, Ojala, Jyrki (ed.), Turku, Oikeustieteen ylioppilaiden yhdistys Lex ry, 1991.

NEVALA, Arto, *Uudisraivaaja: Joensuun yliopiston 40-vuotishistoria*, Joensuu, Joensuun yliopisto, 2009.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinnot 1969, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1969.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1973-1974, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1973.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1983-1984, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, 1983.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2002-2003, Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto 2002.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2006-2007, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2006.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2008-2009, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2008.

Oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 2009-2010, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2009.

Oikeustieteiden osasto, opinto-opas 1990-1991, Rovaniemi, Lapin korkeakoulu, 1990.

Oikeustieteiden osasto, opinto-opas 1991-1992, Rovaniemi, Lapin yliopisto, 1991.

Oikeustieteiden tiedekunta, opinto-opas 1992, Rovaniemi, Lapin yliopisto, 1992.

PAASTO, Päivi, "Dominium, communio, proprium – näkökulmia Hugo Grotiuksen luontaisoikeudelliseen käsitteistöön", in SAARNILEHTO, Ari and NUUTILA, Ari-Matti (eds.), *Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta 30 vuotta*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1991.

PERÄLÄ, Tauno, "History of Turku University", in SOMERKOSKI, Pirjo and NURMI, Matti (eds.), trans. Antony Landon, *The University of Turku*, Turku, University of Turku, 1981.

PIHLAJAMÄKI, Heikki, "When Small is Beautiful: Teaching Legal History in the European Periphery", in MODÉER, Kjell Åke and NILSÉN, Per (eds.), *How to Teach European Comparative Legal History*, Lund, Juristförlaget, 2011.

RIEPULA, Esko, "Lapin korkeakoulun lakimieskoulutuksesta", *Lakimiesuutiset*, vol. 11, 1978.

ROSAS, Allan, "Law", in WIDÉN, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918–1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Grapes, Christopher, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993.

ROSAS, Allan, "Rättsvetenskap", in WIDÉN, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi 1918–1993. Forskning och institutioner, 3. Ekonomisk–statsvetenskapliga fakulteten – Pedagogiska fakulteten*, Åbo, Åbo Akademis Förlag, 1993.

SALO, Matti and JUNILA, Marianne, *Pohjoisen puolesta – pohjoista varten: Lapin yliopiston historia 1979-2008*, Rovaniemi, Lapin yliopisto, 2009.

TAXELL, Lars Erik, "How Åbo Akademi University Became a State University", in Widén, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Christopher Grapes, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993.

TOLONEN, Hannu, "Eräitä näkökohtia skandinavisesta oikeusrealismista", in SAARNILEHTO, Ari and NUUTILA, Ari-Matti (eds.), *Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta 30 vuotta*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1991.

TONTTI, Jarkko, "Otto Brusiin – intellektuellin tie", *Historiallinen Aikakauskirja*, vol. 96, no. 3, 1998.

Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1970, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1970.

Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1984-1985, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1984.

Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1996-1997, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1996.

Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1998-1999, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1998.

Turun yliopisto, Oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2012-2013, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2012.

Turun yliopisto, Oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta, Opinto-opas 2013-2014, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2013.

Turun Yliopiston Oikeustieteellisen Tiedekunnan opinto-opas 1970, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1970.

VÄINÄMÖ, Jouki, "Itä-Suomen yliopisto sai luvan kouluttaa yleisjuristeja", available at: *https://yle.fi/a/3-6198818* (accessed 28 January 2025).

VARES, Vesa, *Turun yliopiston historia, 1: Kansallinen tehtävä 1920–1974*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2020.

VILLSTRAND, Nils Erik, *Åbo Akademi i sin början 1918–1945*, Åbo, Åbo Akademis förlag, 2019.

VUORELA, Miikka and MÄÄTTÄ, Tapio, "Oikeustieteen professuurien nimikkeet oikeustieteen itseymmärryksen kuvastajina", *Lakimies*, vol. 120, 2022.

WIDÉN, Solveig, "The Foundation of Åbo Akademi University", in WIDÉN, Solveig (ed.), *Åbo Akademi University 1918-1993: Research and Departments*, trans. Christopher Grapes, Åbo, Åbo University Press, 1993.

WIKSTRÖM, Kauko, "Mitä on historiallinen lainoppi?", in SAARNILEHTO, Ari and NUUTILA, Ari-Matti (eds.), *Turun yliopiston oikeustieteellinen tiedekunta 30 vuotta*, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 1991.

Online Sources:

https://ois2.tlu.ee/tluois/programme/AKLB/23.YK#, contains an rtf-file presenting the curriculum (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://opas.peppi.uef.fi/fi/ohjelma/94600?period=2021-2022 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://opas.peppi.uef.fi/fi/ohjelma/121817?period=2023-2024 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/en/programme/22482 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/fi/opintojakso/ONPOOL31/9082 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://opinto-opas-lay.peppi4.lapit.csc.fi/fi/opintojakso/OTM0010/9391 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://primuscollegium.fi/tallinn-university/ (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/kurs/RN00CP06/27640 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/kurs/RN00CP06/27640?period=2022-2024 ((last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/sv/program/27438?period=2022-2024 (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.abo.fi/en/about-abo-akademi-university/organisation-and-strategy/organisational-chart/ (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.abo.fi/en/institute-for-human-rights/ (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.abo.fi/kontakt/markku-suksi/ (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.abo.fi/fi/uutiset/abo-akademi-saa-oikeuden-kouluttaa-oikeustieteen-maistereita/ (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.abo.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/rn-struktur-2023-2024.pdf ((last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.paivola.fi/opintolinjat/oikeustiede/oikeustieteen-opinnot (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.tlu.ee/en/yti/law (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.uef.fi/en/unit/uef-law-school (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.uef.fi/en/university (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.uef.fi/fi/yksikko/oikeustieteiden-laitos (last accessed: 28 January 2025).

https://www.uef.fi/fi/yksikko/oikeustieteiden-laitos/oikeustieteiden-oppiaineet (last accessed: 28 January 2025).