

Making private law resilient: The role of private litigation in a democracy - PhD scholarship at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

Axel Halfmeier (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany) has kindly shared the following advertisement for a 3-year PhD scholarship with us, which will be part of a research project on 'Making private law resilient: The role of private litigation in a democracy'.

The research project will investigate the role of private litigation in a democracy, in particular collective litigation, public interest actions or strategic litigation. There is an ongoing discussion about these phenomena and whether they support deliberative democracy by empowering citizens or are anti-democratic in the sense that they transfer excessive power to the judiciary in political questions. To answer this question, normative (legal doctrine, legal theory, political theory) but also empirical approaches are possible. The project can also focus on specific areas of private law, such as media and data protection law, climate litigation, capital markets or tort law in general. The exact study design will be discussed with a view to the interests and qualifications of the candidate.

Application deadline is October 1st, 2025.

Further information on the 'Embracing Transformation' scholarships can be found [here](#).

Further information on the specific research project on 'Democratic Resilience' is available [here](#).

Questions may be directed to Axel Halfmeier.