

The History of Intellectual Property

Marius Buning: marius.buning@iakh.uio.no

Intellectual property rights (patents, copyrights, trademarks) are more important than ever. They shape and determine what we read, watch and listen to, the technologies we use to do that, the brands we buy, the medicine we use, and so on and so forth. I am interested in supervising projects that examine the history of intellectual property, preferably from a cross-disciplinary (history of knowledge, history of the book, media studies, legal history) and long-term perspective (anywhere between 1469 and 2021). Potential topics include the material history of intellectual property (objects, museums, etc.), the international harmonization of IP rights (the prehistory of the WIPO, Berne Convention, etc.), controversies about the patenting of human DNA and genetically modified organisms, debates on the abolishment of patents in the nineteenth century, or discussions concerning the scope and nature of exclusive ownership over intellectual capital (brands, early printing privileges, design patents, etc.). But I am happy to discuss other options as well. Language of supervision and writing will be in English.