

On October 17th, the conference „Aspects of Transitional Justice in Colombia” offered first-hand insights into the Colombian peace process. Fourteen Colombian students rendered presentations on various aspects of the armed conflict and its aftermath in Colombia as well as the attempts and measures taken to build peace.

The conference was opened with a brief introduction by Prof. Bettina Weisser, who gave an overview of the German experience and difficulties regarding the question on how to cope with the past throughout the German history since 1945. Prof. Weisser explained the unsatisfying approaches of German courts during that time and the theory of perpetration through an organization (by Claus Roxin) as the most important scholarly invention to properly deal with issues of macro criminality.

The first panel focussed mainly on legal aspects of the peace process in Colombia. As an introduction Pablo Rodríguez Pineda and Pedro León Callejas gave an overview of the transitional justice system and the main mechanisms of the peace agreement concluded in 2016. The second presentation by Humberto Sierra Olivieri, Valentina del Sol Salazar Rivera and Paloma Morales Carillo raised the question whether the Colombian truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition systems meet the standards of the ICC. Following Santiago Espitia Restrepo and Nicolás Otero Álvarez shed light on the problem of criminal liability in the Colombian transitional justice process. To conclude the first panel Laura Arévalo Roldán and Pablo Muñoz Madrid touched upon victims' rights in the peace agreement.

The second panel in the afternoon had a more interdisciplinary approach to the topic. First Dr. Nathalia Bautista Pizzaro elaborated on the possibility of restauration of law through social models of reconciliation and the role of culture in the transition to peace. During her discourse she also gave insights on “Ubuntu”, a South African philosophy and model of reconciliation. Following, Cristian Salazar Reyes, Sebastián Torres Orozco and Paula Asprilla Arriaga touched upon the possibility of implementing art as a complementary mechanism or as a form of punishment in the Colombian transitional model. Closing the second panel Daniela León, González and Gina Torres López analysed the peace agreement from a gender perspective.

We would like to thank all participants for insightful presentations and fruitful discussions. Our special thanks go to the Colombian students who made all the way from Colombia to share the results of their research with us and tell us about their everyday experience with the reality of the peace process.