



Intergenerational Justice Prize 2015/2016

The Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG) and the Intergenerational Foundation (IF) invite entries for the eighth Intergenerational Justice Prize. Prizes totalling €10,000, funded by the Stiftung Apfelbaum, will be awarded to the best papers submitted.

The topic for the 2015/16 Prize is

“Constitutions as millstones? Are regular national constitutional conventions the solution, to give successive generations the flexibility they need?”

Topic

The FRFG and the IF invite submissions that address the tension between constitutions and intergenerational justice, and how that tension can be resolved. How can constitutions be written to protect the rights and/or interests of future generations without at the same time becoming a barrier to future generations who wish to exercise full political sovereignty in the future?

This tension between durability and flexibility informed the discussion in the course of founding the United States of America. Thomas Jefferson represented the position that every law and therefore every constitution should lose its validity after 19 years while James Madison referred to the uncertainty that would emerge from such an arrangement. Thomas Paine sided with Jefferson and formulated the following famous sentence: “Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself in all cases as the ages and generations which preceded it.”

Submitted entries should be positioned between the poles of “eternity clauses” and “expiration dates” for constitutions. Submissions that test the feasibility of new ideas, such as a “permanent constitutional convention” that reassesses the current constitution at fixed intervals, are especially welcome.

Target group

The Intergenerational Justice Prize is primarily aimed at young academics (undergraduates, graduates, PhD students), but is open to all who take a similarly academic approach to their writing. The submission of group projects is also welcome.

Submission requirements and deadline

Submissions will be accepted until 1 August 2016. For more information about the competition, please consult the IF website (www.if.org.uk; see under Prizes). To request formal entry requirements, email antony@if.org.uk.

The jury will include

Prof. Dr. Bruce Auerbach, Albright College (Reading, USA)

Prof. Dr. Horst Dreier, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (GER)

Prof. Dr. Axel Gosseries, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (BG)

Prof.-Jun. Dr. Dr. Jörg Tremmel, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (GER)

Anna Braam, Board Member of the FRFG