

Popular science abstract

Are the norms of law motives of conduct? And if so, when and why? These questions are not only crucial for examining the essence of law and the impact of law on the conduct of people in society, but also have a fundamental meaning for all social sciences. At the beginning of the twentieth century Leon Petrażycki tried to answer these questions, considering it necessary to adopt a psychological perspective in the examination of law. The basis of his innovative and visionary theory of law is the scientific (psychological) theory of motivation. The analysis of this theory and an attempt to try to update it based on the results of modern research in the field of non-legal sciences (e.g. psychology and the cognitive sciences) is the main purpose of this project.

The basic research hypothesis of the project is the idea that it is possible to develop an updated based on modern scientific knowledge version of Petrażycki's theory of motivation that coherently and adequately explains the motivational nature of the law.

In order to verify the presented hypothesis, the first stage of the project will be an analysis of Petrażycki's theory of motivation to establish its basic theoretical assumptions, as well as to capture its weak points. As a result, the assumptions of a new concept of motivation will be identified. In the next stage of the project's implementation, the current state of knowledge will be determined in the area of key issues of the theory of motivation. Within this area of the project, research in such disciplines as contemporary psychology and cognitive sciences will be analyzed. Interdisciplinary research carried out in this part of the project will enable the construction of an adequate motivation theory that will take into account the current state of knowledge. At the next stage, the research will focus on an attempt to develop a new concept of motivation, which will be based on the philosophical and theoretical foundations of Petrażycki's motivation theory and will take into account the achievements of modern science in the indicated thematic range. The final stage of the project's implementation will be to test the possibilities of using the new model to assess the motivational ability of the current legal institutions in force.

Three basic arguments speak for the legitimacy of undertaking research on Petrażycki's theory of motivation. First, examining the motivational nature of law is a particularly important issue for the study of law. Without clarifying the mechanisms of people's internal motivation, which directs their behavior, it is not possible to understand the essence of law. Second, the proposed study will allow to verify the possibility of using the accomplishments of modern sciences to solve problems in the field of law. Third, research carried out as part of the project will contribute not only to the dissemination of knowledge and increased interest in Petrażycki's views, but also to a better understanding of the psychological current of legal realism.

The implementation of the project may significantly expand knowledge about the mechanisms of the law. On the basis of the research conducted within the framework of the project, a new concept of motivation will be developed which will be a coherent model based on the achievements of modern science. The theory of motivation developed in the project may become the basis for a new psychological approach to the law. The project will also verify the possibility of using the achievements of modern science to update the psychological approach to the law. The project will adopt an interdisciplinary approach that will allow to conduct research that will fully take into account the achievements of science in the context of the theory of motivation. The significance of the project is also manifest in the fact that the subject matter is not widely understood. The model developed under the project will have an important impact on legal dogmatics. The significance of the project for legal dogmatics manifests itself above all, at the stage of designing and creating law. By understanding the mechanism of motivational impact of the law, we are able to fundamentally influence a change in the approach to the law-making process. The concept of motivation based on the contemporary model of human behavior, will allow the introduction of such legal regulations that will affect people's behavior in an efficient and effective manner. The results of the research project will become a voice in the wide-ranging discussion on the use of achievements from the field of non-legal sciences to develop theoretical legal concepts.