



THE OXFORD-BERLIN PARTNERSHIP

**PROFESSOR
BIRKE HÄCKER**

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**Money, Books,
and the Interpretation of Wills**
*The Case of All Souls College v.
Codrington (1720)*

- ▶ **Monday, 12 July 2021, 18:30 hours s.t.**
- ▶ **For ZOOM details please register at: events.gbz@gmail.com**

This lecture will trace the fascinating history behind the early 18th-century case of *All Souls College v. Codrington*. It involves a bequest which eventually led to the foundation of one of Oxford's most beautiful libraries. At the same time, the case raises an important point of testamentary interpretation – with a perhaps surprising twist.

Should someone who leaves to a College "my Library of Books now in the Custody of [X]" be understood to mean only the books which s/he had at the time the will was made or also those which were acquired between the making of the will and the testator's death? To our modern eyes, it seems obvious that a "will speaks from death", yet this was not nearly as evident to lawyers at the time when the *Codrington* case was decided. The lecture will explore from a historical and comparative perspective how the approach towards testamentary interpretation gradually evolved.

Birke Häcker is Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Oxford, Director of Oxford's Institute of European and Comparative Law, and a Professorial Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. She was previously for many years a Fellow of All Souls College.

*This lecture is a co-operation between the
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School, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
and the Oxford-Berlin Partnership.*



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