



Laudatio aus Anlass der Verleihung der Ehrendoktorwürde an Herrn Professor Dr. Eli Salzberger am 19. Juni 2019

Dear Eli,

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what an honor to be standing here and to deliver a laudatio in your honor. When I heard that my faculty was planning to award you an honorary degree – I was actually quite excited. And now I even have the honor to deliver a short laudation.

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For those of you, who do not know Prof. Salzberger yet, let me say a couple of words on his background: His father was a well-known Jerusalem-based gynecologist and his mother used to be the deputy mayor of Jerusalem between 1970 and 1980 – the time when Teddy Kollek served as mayor. Between 1978 and 1983 he was part of the intelligence unit within the Israeli Defense Forces, a unit in which he would meet many future colleagues among which also his future wife Fania, who is here today. Already during his time in the military, Salzberger started to study social sciences at Tel Aviv university. He received his first degree in law in 1987 at the Hebrew University as the best student of his year. Simultaneously, he was awarded a bachelor's degree in economics. Subsequently, he clerked with Aharon Barak at the Israeli Supreme Court and later with Dorit Beinisch who was the deputy prosecutor of Israel at the time. Both Barak and Beinisch would later become the chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court and I believe it is fair to say that Barak was one of the most influential judges of the second half of the 20th century worldwide. So he has proven on multiple occasions that he is able to pick the right persons – not only with regard to his wife, but also with regard to whom to clerk for.

Between 1988 and 1993, Salzberger worked on his dissertation at Lincoln College in Oxford. The title of the dissertation is „*Economic Analysis of the Doctrine of Separation of Powers: The Independence of the Judiciary.*“ This topic should remain an important and central one in your research for many years to come.

Salzberger has been teaching at the University of Haifa since 1993. In both research and teaching, he covers a wide array of topics ranging from the philosophical bases of law, to the economic analysis of law, the analysis of intellectual property rights and the consequences of digitization. These research interests have led to a high number of publications, many of which with co-authors. Among law scholars, this is noteworthy as it is still not self-evident. But it nicely shows that others like to cooperate with you and it is inspiring to cooperate with you (from our joint projects, I vividly remember your sentence “I am easy” when I was proposing to add, modify, or cancel something).

From among your books, let me just mention two namely *Law, Economics and Cyberspace: The Effects of Cyberspace on the Economic Analysis of Law* which appeared in 2004 and *Economic Analysis of Intellectual Property in the Digital Age: The Limits of Analysis* which appeared in 2012, both co-authored with your Haifa colleague Niva Elkin Koren. Besides documenting your ability to cooperate with others, they also show that you have an excellent feeling for new topics.

Salzberger has published many papers in internationally renowned journals such as the *Journal of Law and Economics* or the *International Review of Law and Economics*. Some of which were among the first to identify and describe a novel research topic: the empirical analysis of judicial independence is one example, the implications of a far-reaching delegation of powers and the potential relevance of the independence of prosecutors for a well-functioning system of separation of powers are others.

Thanks to the internet, everybody can get an overview over your written oeuvre within minutes. This is why I now want to turn to your unwritten or oral oeuvre. In academic discussions, it is often Eli who makes truly novel arguments, connecting things where nobody had seen connections before. Eli is an extremely inspiring teacher and colleague full of ideas who is encouraging others to dare not only to jump onto new topics but also to do so in an innovative fashion. Just one example: Some ten years ago, Eli sensed that democracy might be in decline and that work on possible reasons for this should be done. At the time, I saw a number of singular events but no trend. Had I listened to Eli, both of us would have many more citations than we actually have.

Another aspect of Eli's work needs to be mentioned: he is an academic entrepreneur. Just two examples: He was the founder and co-director of the *Center for the Study of Crime, Law, and Society*. Some eight years ago, he approached me with the idea of applying for a Minerva center

(these are centers financed by a foundation of the Max Planck Society to foster cooperation between Israeli and German academics). The call was for centers under the heading “life under extreme conditions” and we applied for a Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under extreme conditions, a topic sadly fitting for Israel. Interestingly, it was the first Minerva Center ever in which German and Israeli colleagues serve as principal investigators on exactly the same footing. Last year, the grant was renewed, so the center will run for another six years.

The close relationship between you and German academic institutions is further documented by Eli having been the director of the Haifa Center for German and European studies which is financed by the DAAD. It is moreover documented by many personal relationships. Let me just mention that Sonja Lahnstein Kandel is here today. She has been heading the German association of supporters of the University of Haifa. She is accompanied by her husband, Manfred Lahnstein, who as a member of the board of governors of the University of Haifa for many years, some as the chairperson of the board.

In a sense, one could even say that today the circle sort of completes: Your family has a close connection to Hamburg. The Wreschners, your great greatparents moved to Bogenstraße in Eimsbüttel a mere one and a half kilometers away from here early in the 20th century. You have not only advanced academia but have rendered outstanding services for the cooperation between the university of Hamburg and the university of Haifa and more broadly: for the cooperation of Israeli academics with their German colleagues. On a more personal note: You have been an inspiring colleague and very good friend. Pls join me in congratulating Prof. Salzberger for his honorary degree.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Voigt