Reflections of a Legal Historian

Abstract: The need to codify law and customs in territories populated by people speaking different languages is a recurring motif throughout European medieval history. This necessity has been tackled by two different approaches favoring either linguistic mediation or integration under a common dominant language. Each produced substantial and long-lasting effects on legal culture and legal and social relations. We now wonder: what will be the impact of neglecting the methodological and cultural contributions of Italian lawyers and legal historians traditionally passed down through their native language?

Keywords: Legal history, Legal culture, Linguistic mediation, Latin, Vulgar latin.