

**Professorin Dr. Silja Vöneky**

[SVOENEKY@JURA.UNI-FREIBURG.DE](mailto:SVOENEKY@JURA.UNI-FREIBURG.DE)

---

## **Curriculum Vitae**

---

**Prof. Dr. Silja Vöneky** is the (Co-)Director of the Institute of Public Law, a professor of international law, ethics of law, and comparative law, and an associated member of the Institute of Political Science and Legal Philosophy at the University of Freiburg. Since July 2024 she has been a member of the Verfassungsgerichtshof Baden-Württemberg. From October 2019 to October 2021, she served as the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Freiburg.

Her research focuses on international law and legal ethics, particularly in the areas of human rights, innovation and tech law, environmental and maritime law, humanitarian law, and security law. She also leads various interdisciplinary research initiatives and third-party projects, especially in the field of responsible AI and adaptive governance of emerging tech, and is a member of the research project ReScale. From 2018 to 2022, she was a Fellow of the interdisciplinary research group on Responsible Artificial Intelligence at FRIAS. Since January 2019, she has been a member of the Freiburg CIBSS Excellence Cluster in the field of biotechnology law.

Silja Vöneky studied law and legal philosophy at the universities of Freiburg, Bonn, Edinburgh (UK), and Heidelberg. After completing her doctoral thesis on environmental protection in armed conflicts at the University of Heidelberg and her legal clerkship (*Referendariat*) at the Kammergericht Berlin, she began her academic career at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg as a researcher under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Wolfrum. In 2005, she was appointed by the Max Planck Society as director of the independent research group "Legitimation of Ethical Decisions in the legal sphere".

Following her habilitation at the University of Heidelberg with a thesis on „Recht, Moral und Ethik“ (*Law, Morality and Ethics*) and a temporary position at the University of Kiel, Silja Vöneky has been teaching and conducting research at the University of Freiburg and - 2015 to 2016 - as a Fellow at Harvard Law School. She was offered a position at the University of Graz in 2018. She continues her research - that started at Harvard Law School - on risk governance in the fields of artificial intelligence and biotechnology at Freiburg University.

Silja Vöneky is also a member of various national and international research networks. Since 2019, she has been a member of the BioRISC Programme (St Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK) and Senior Advisor for the CSER project "A Science of Global Risk" (University of Cambridge). She was a member of the interdisciplinary working group „Internationale Gerechtigkeit und institutionelle Verantwortung“ (International Justice and Institutional Responsibility) at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and a member of

the beard of the project „Kompetenznetzwerk für das Recht der zivilen Sicherheit in Europa“ (KORSE) (Competence Network for Civil Security Law in Europe) at Freiburg University.

Silja Vöneky is also actively - on a pro bono basis - taking part in knowledge transfer and providing legal advice: In 2017, she was appointed to the prestigious Advisory Board of International Law by the German Federal Foreign Office and included in the list of arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. Since 2019, she has also served as an arbitrator at the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

Since 2001, she has been a scientific legal advisor to federal ministries, particularly the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, as well as the German Environment Agency. Since 2001, she has also been a member of the German delegation for the ATCMs (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings) and was involved in negotiating the Antarctic Liability Annex (Zustimmungs- und Umsetzungsgesetz zur Implementierung des Haftungsannexes zum Umweltschutzprotokoll des Antarktisvertrages, *Approval and Implementation Act for the Liability Annex to the Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty*)

For many years, she has provided a pro bono scientific legal and ethical advice to various bodies dealing with links between science and tech law and human rights in the 21st century. Until 2016, she was appointed to the German Ethics Council (Ethikrat) for four years appointed by the German government and chaired the Biosecurity Working Group. Silja Vöneky was also a member of the Scientific Commission on the Ethics of Science at the Leopoldina (2014-2021) (National Academy of Sciences in Germany). Today, she is a member of the Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society and Co-Director of the Connecticut-Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium (HRRC).