

# **Empty Shells. Three Tales on the Relativization of the Axiological Core of Democracy – Abstract**

JUDr. Bc. Filip Horák

The purpose of this thesis is to discuss the problem of gradual softening of the democratic political system's axiological core. Firstly, the thesis illustrates the problem via three tales narrated by Carl Schmitt, Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss, who in a very similar manner critically analyzed the "axiological leap" leading to the disintegration of fundamental values and principles of democracy. Secondly, the thesis offers a new methodological approach combining empirical functional analysis of the individual values constituting democracy's axiological core (i.e. equality, liberty, justice and dignity) with a teleological approach focusing on the original purposes and functions of these values. Using functional analysis, the thesis examines possible interpretations and functions of the aforementioned values and shows that all of them evince a high degree of vagueness and ambiguity, which makes them so-called "empty shells" that can be filled with almost any content, meaning or function. This is also the main cause of the disintegration of the democracy's axiological core. Thirdly, the thesis theoretically reconstructs the original and stable axiological core using teleological approach. Finally, the thesis verifies the created theory of the axiological core using qualitative analysis of six selected constitutions. The research concludes that *a)* the democracy's axiological core indeed consists solely of the four aforementioned values and *b)* the theoretical assumptions regarding the functions of these values as well as the principles derived from them fit very precisely to the actual functions and principles found in the analyzed constitutions.