

Call for Papers:

Pre-LSA Workshop on

The Law & Political Economy of Social Reproduction

May 21, 2025

University of Chicago, Hyde Park, Chicago

*** Deadline for paper abstracts: February 1, 2025 ***

We are pleased to announce a one-day workshop on the Law & Political Economy of Social Reproduction, to be held on May 21, 2025, at the University of Chicago. This workshop will precede the Law and Society Association's (LSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago (May 22-25, 2025) and provide an opportunity for scholars to engage in focused discussions on the topic of LPE, production, and reproduction.

Workshop Theme: The workshop will explore the intersection of law, political economy, and social reproduction, examining how legal frameworks, socio-cultural norms, and economic systems shape the recognition, regulation, and allocation of reproductive and productive labor. Social reproduction refers to the activities and relationships necessary to sustain life and maintain socioeconomic systems over time, including caregiving, child-rearing, maintaining households, and other essential forms of care work. Despite their critical importance, these activities are often undervalued, unpaid, or inadequately supported, even as they underpin the economic production that is formally recognized and rewarded.

The workshop aims to investigate how law interacts with political and economic structures to determine the value and distribution of these forms of labor, particularly concerning gender, class, race, and migration. How do changes in labor markets, social policies, and economic frameworks influence the value, organization, and experience of productive and reproductive work? Papers may explore how law defines, normalizes, or transforms concepts of work, how legal systems interact with economic forces in shaping labor markets and social policies, and how different legal frameworks affect the distribution of reproductive responsibilities within society. We are particularly interested in submissions that critically engage with the mechanisms through which law constantly shapes the boundaries between what is considered economic (productive) and non-economic (reproductive) work and how this distinction impacts broader socioeconomic inequalities, both locally and globally.

We welcome papers on a wide range of topics related to the law and political economy of social reproduction, with particular interest in the following areas:

- Legal definitions and boundaries of productive and reproductive labor
- Regulation of labor markets, including laws affecting care work and domestic labor
- Law and the distribution of economic resources, including healthcare, social security, and pensions

- The intersection of gender, immigration, and labor in reproductive work
- Law's role in shaping family support networks and community organizing
- The relationship between law, unions, and collective bargaining in sectors tied to social reproduction, such as care work, domestic labor, and other forms of reproductive labor

Submission Guidelines: We invite scholars to submit abstracts of no more than 300 words by **February 01, 2025**. Final papers should be between 3,000 and 4,000 words and will be pre-circulated among participants. Full drafts are due in early May. Submissions to the workshop will not count towards the LSA Annual Meeting presentation limits. Workshop participants do not need to register for the LSA Annual Meeting to attend this workshop. Abstracts should be submitted via the following link: <https://forms.gle/6LoG5AL365jD3ztE7>.

Workshop Format: The workshop will feature thematic sessions where pre-circulated papers are discussed by participants and assigned discussants. Papers may be self-contained drafts or sections of larger projects. The workshop will also include a roundtable featuring international scholars and a community event in collaboration with local Hyde Park/Woodlawn partners, offering reflections on how production and social reproduction manifests in everyday life.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the local organizers from the University of Chicago: [Natalia](mailto:nniedmannalvarez@uchicago.edu) (nniedmannalvarez@uchicago.edu) and [Juan](mailto:jiwilson@uchicago.edu) (jiwilson@uchicago.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!