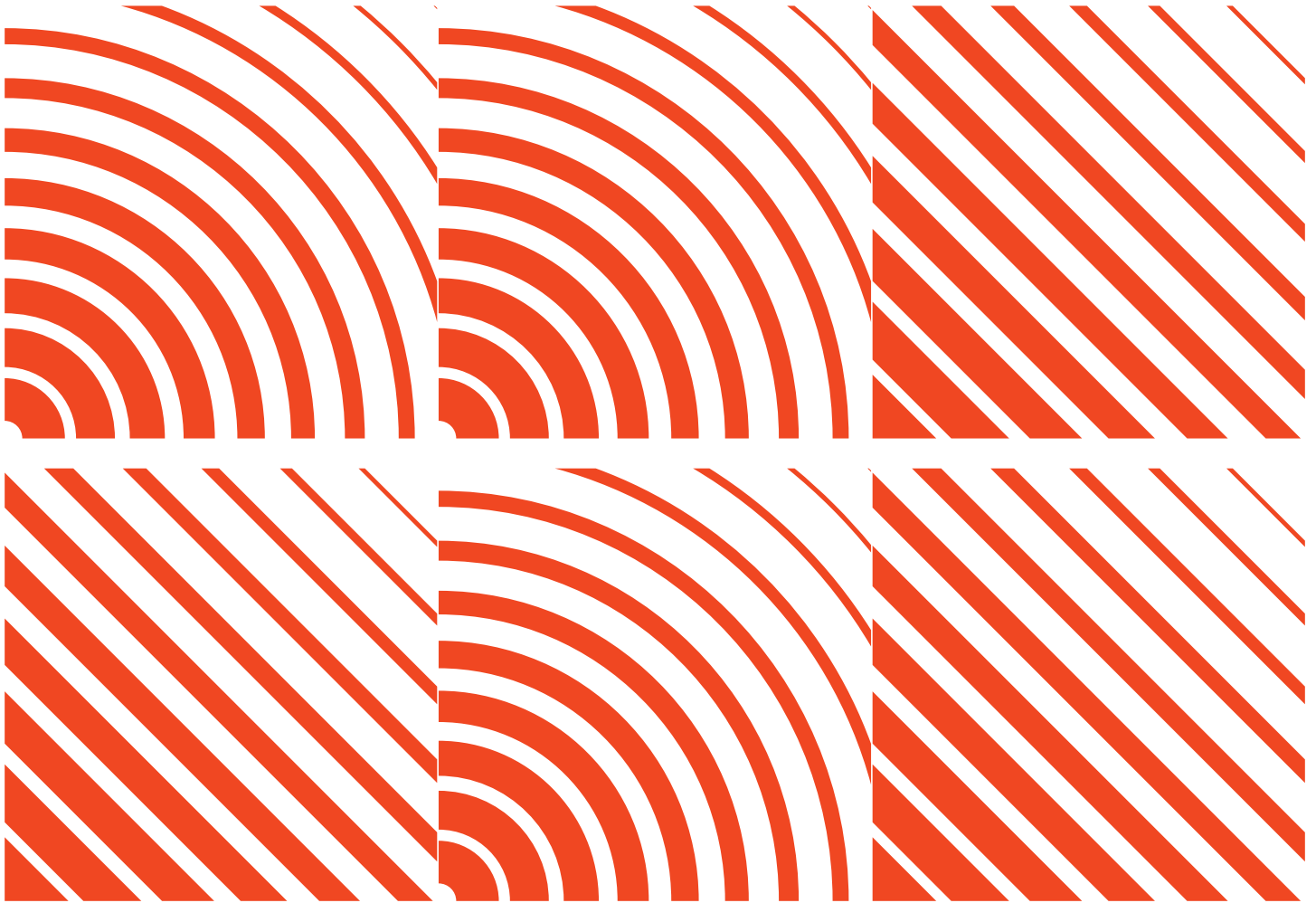
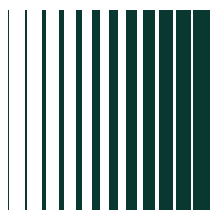


CRN 55

Law and Political Economy



SAN FRANCISCO
MAY 28–31, 2026



**Law and
Political
Economy
Collective**

Program at a Glance

Thursday 28 May

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Legal Architectures of Capitalism and Accumulation Golden Gate 05

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

China's Foreign-Related Rule of Law: Concept and Rationale Union Square 23

Property and Asset Fetishism Continental 07

Teaching Law & Social Change in Very Bad Times Union Square 19

The Law and Political Economy of Food Systems Transformation Golden Gate 05

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Operationalizing a Right to Stay Golden Gate 05

Radical Legal Advocacy Union Square 13

Friday 29 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Attacks on Universities, Academic Freedom, and Constitutional Democracy in the United States (Panel 1)
Union Square 23

Between Sanctuary and Challenge: Intersections of Law, Society, and Marginalized Communities Golden Gate 05

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Latin America's Law and Politics under Trump II: The New Monroe Doctrine? Union Square 17

Author Meets Reader: Legal and Political Foundations of Capitalism — The End of Laissez-Faire? Golden Gate 05

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Business Meeting: CRN 55 Law and Political Economy Union Square 17

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

Author Meets Reader: Alter-Native Constitutionalism — Common-Ing 'Common' Law; Transforming Property in South Africa Union Square 12

Attacks on Universities, Academic Freedom, and Constitutional Democracy in the United States (Panel 2)
Union Square 23

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Imperial Priorities? Accounting for the Crackdown on Free Expression at the American University Golden Gate 02

Author Meets Reader: Legal Plunder — The Predatory Dimensions of Criminal Justice Plaza Room B

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

New Horizons in Property Law: Legal Realism, Political Economy, & Sociolegal Research Union Square 18

The Pull of the Carceral Frame and the Political Economy of Intra-Family Harm: Where Now? Union Square 17

Saturday 30 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Cultural Approaches to the Study of Law and Crisis Golden Gate 01

Legal Education, Public Policy, and Social Inequalities in the Global South Golden Gate 05

Whither Critique? Order and Disorder at the Nexus of Science and Law Plaza Room B

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Author Meets Reader: Traders, Speculators, and Captains of Industry — How Capitalist Legitimacy Shaped Foreign Investment Policy in India Union Square 17

How Big Data and Algorithms Reflect, Constitute, and Contradict Trends in Law and Society Union Square 13

Safety and the State: Power, Protection, and Inequality Golden Gate 02

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

Law and Society as ‘Third Space’: Plural Identity and Interdisciplinary Study as Sanctuary, Laboratory, and Renewal Golden Gate 04

On Method, LPE, and Feminist Political Economy: Confronting the Free Market Illusion Union Square 02

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Blurred Boundaries: Conceptualizing Health Justice and Safety in Light of Carceral Creep Continental 03

Critical Approaches to Alternative Dispute Resolution Golden Gate 06

Delegating Authority: Technoscience, Law and the Social Compact Golden Gate 05

Toward a Grey Criminology Continental 07

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Contesting Authority: Legal Frontiers of Labor and Democratic Power Golden Gate 05

Sunday 31 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Governing Risk: Welfare, Debt, and State Capacity Union Square 04

CRN 55 Happenings

Pre-LSA Workshop

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 · UC Berkeley

2026 Global Law & Political Economy Workshop on “Reconstructing State Capacity”. See pp. 14–17.

CRN 55 Business Meeting

Friday, May 29 · 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM · Room: Union Square 17

Join us to discuss the future of CRN 55, how to get involved, and learn more about networks, projects, and programs in the LPE field.

CRN 55 Happy Hour

Friday, May 29 · 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Tempest Bar, 431 Natoma St, San Francisco — ten minutes’ walk from the conference venue.

LPE Early Career Paper Award

Apply before June 30, 2026

Recognizing outstanding scholarly work by an early career scholar in the field of Law and Political Economy. See page 13 for full details.

Session Program

Thursday 28 May

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

LEGAL ARCHITECTURES OF CAPITALISM AND ACCUMULATION

Golden Gate 05 · Panel

Chair: Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley) **Discussant:** John Cioffi (University of California, Riverside) **Participants:** Esther Staes (Jagiellonian University), Tanina Rostain (Georgetown Law Center), B.V. Alaka (Cornell University), Raul Carrillo (Boston College Law School), Joanna Wuest (Stony Brook University)

Law shapes not only rules and institutions but also the distribution of power and resources in society. This panel examines how law constructs, legitimizes, and safeguards contemporary capitalist power. From digital monopolies and space-finance arbitrage to corporate law firms enabling oligarchic wealth and the structuring of global energy markets, the papers present law as an active engine of accumulation rather than a neutral regulator. Together, they map the legal infrastructures that concentrate wealth, insulate private actors from accountability, and generate new forms of economic and political authority, highlighting law's central role in organizing markets, shaping governance, and structuring contemporary society.

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

CHINA'S FOREIGN-RELATED RULE OF LAW: CONCEPT AND RATIONALE

Union Square 23 · Panel · Co-sponsored with CRN 01, 23

Chair: Xuejiao Li (Harvard Law School) **Discussant:** Ji Li (UC Irvine) **Participants:** Ryan Mitchell (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Ying Zhu (University of Hong Kong), Suhong Yang (University of Hong Kong), Tihao Zeng (University of Geneva), Jinyang Xu (London School of Economics & Political Science), Qiandai Wang (Sciences Po)

'Foreign-Related Rule of Law' (FRROL) is a concept emphasized by China to modernize and manage its legal relations with foreign actors. This panel will examine the contemporary challenges and institutional innovations shaping FRROL — a broad framework that encompasses the full spectrum of domestic and international laws governing China's engagement with the world.

PROPERTY AND ASSET FETISHISM

Continental 07 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 03, 52

Chair: Michael Yarbrough (CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice) **Participants:** Caylee Hong (University of Alberta), Monica Eppinger (Saint Louis University), Xiaoqian Hu (University of Arizona), Allison Tait (University of Richmond)

Affordable housing shortages, environmental burdens, bubbles, disappointments: property today materializes problems that challenge its role as a sanctuary for capitalism. Assetization (acquiring to secure future revenue streams) may be eclipsing commodification (acquiring to resell for a killing). In the process, what time bombs are laid? What work is property doing in power relations and legal imagination today? Informed by comparative ethnographic work — on deserted oil wells of LA; bomb-blasted farmlands of Ukraine; reimagined inheritance in the US; assetized housing in China; and beyond — participants reconsider property's materialization of past, future, risk, and loss. The goal is to look beyond property as sanctuary of the capitalist imaginary and consider futures of property optimism, pessimism, or perhaps something more open.

TEACHING LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE IN VERY BAD TIMES

Union Square 19 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 19, 21

Chair: Nan Hunter (Georgetown Law) **Participants:** Scott Cummings (University of California, Los Angeles), Nan Hunter (Georgetown Law), Karen Porter (Brooklyn Law School), Sameer Ashar (UC Irvine)

With the onslaught of authoritarian policies and attacks on the legal system since the Trump administration took office combined with the most right-wing Supreme Court in our lifetimes, law and social change courses are not only more important than ever before but also more challenging to teach. Participants will discuss the role of theory in such courses; selection of materials to enhance strategic thinking in an integrated advocacy context; whether the course should include organizing techniques or marketing-style communications skills; how to use such classes as nodes for social justice affinity or alumni groups; and the incorporation of perspectives geared to the defense of past successes.

THE LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY OF FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Golden Gate 05 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 23, 50

Chair: Amy Cohen (Temple University) **Participants:** Matthew Canfield (Leiden University), Amy Cohen (Temple University), Sajjad Malik (University of Oregon)

The profound impacts of industrial agriculture on the climate and human health have led to a growing global consensus on the need to ‘transform’ food systems. Yet what kind of transformation this will be remains an open question. Rival global actors — governments, corporations, and social movements — offer vastly different visions of transformation, reflecting divergent diagnoses of contemporary problems and interests. This roundtable considers different dimensions of this struggle, focusing on how law serves as an important arena through which competing actors seek to institutionalize their power over food systems and on how analysts can use sociolegal methods to surface alternative imaginations.

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

OPERATIONALIZING A RIGHT TO STAY

Golden Gate 05 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 26, 56

Chair: Marissa Jackson Sow (University of Richmond) **Participants:** Allison Tait (University of Richmond), Carliss Chatman (SMU Dedman), Carla Spivack (Albany Law School), Alina Ball (UC Berkeley), Juan Carlos Ibarra (University of San Francisco), Chaumtoli Huq (CUNY School of Law)

This roundtable moves a step past the debate over the laws of migration and citizenship in the United States to one that assumes a welcoming democracy and considers what is necessary to operationalize a right to stay. The discussion will consider the use of private organizing mechanisms — workers’ and housing co-ops, mutual aid, preservation of assets through wills and establishments of trusts, and beyond — to make a place a home: the right and ability to put down roots and build social, cultural, legal, political, and economic abundance.

RADICAL LEGAL ADVOCACY

Union Square 13 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 44

Chair: Daniel Farbman (Boston College Law School) **Participants:** Scott Cummings (University of California, Los Angeles), Catherine Fisk (UC Berkeley), Andrew Lanham (University of Houston), Rebecca Horwitz-Willis (Harvard University), Amalia Perez Martin (CSU Sacramento), Daniel Fernandez (University of Chicago)

What does it mean to pursue radical change through or against the legal system? This roundtable gathers scholars approaching these questions from various disciplinary and methodological directions to ask fundamental questions about how lawyers and legal strategies have been part of struggles for radical systemic and institutional change — and what ‘radical’ legal advocacy means in the current chaotic present.

Friday 29 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTACKS ON UNIVERSITIES, ACADEMIC FREEDOM, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES (PANEL 1)

Union Square 23 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 21, 59

Chair: Amanda Shanor (University of Pennsylvania) **Participants:** Jacqueline Stevens (Northwestern University), Adrienne Davis (Washington University, St. Louis), Leila Kawar (University of Michigan), David Kaye (University of California, Irvine), Naomi Oreskes (Harvard University)

Intensifying longer-standing assaults on knowledge institutions, the second Trump administration and its allies have used antidiscrimination law, plenary immigration authority, federal funding cutoffs, and other punitive measures to threaten and control universities, stifle dissent, and consolidate autocratic power. This is the first of two linked roundtables that assesses impacts on academic freedom and constitutional democracy in an era of rising global authoritarianism. This panel will discuss longer-term threats to academic freedom and faculty governance, while the second will focus on the current crisis, resistance, and ongoing organizing efforts in a time of autocratic capture.

BETWEEN SANCTUARY AND CHALLENGE: INTERSECTIONS OF LAW, SOCIETY, AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Golden Gate 05 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 39, 53

Chair: Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber (Suffolk University) **Participants:** Inbal Blau Maimon (Ono Academic College), Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber (Suffolk University), Efrat Fudem (College of Management Striks Law School), Renana Gan Goldenberg (College of Management)

The law serves as both a sanctuary of power and a mirror of societal hierarchies, but it can also be a tool to challenge power. This roundtable explores how the interaction between law and society shapes, sustains, or deconstructs power relations affecting marginalized groups, examining three case studies: legal violence in contentious family proceedings against women; the social-legal phenomenon of sulha as an alternative justice mechanism; and the Yemenite, Mizrahi, and Balkan Children Affair as a site of contested meaning, state accountability, and historical justice.

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

LATIN AMERICA'S LAW AND POLITICS UNDER TRUMP II: THE NEW MONROE DOCTRINE?

Union Square 17 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 23, 36

Chair: Fabio de Sa e Silva (University of Oklahoma) **Participants:** Javier Couso (Universidad Diego Portales/Utrecht University), Jonathan Miller (Southwestern Law School), Alexandra Huneeus (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

This roundtable focuses on the new law and politics of the Western Hemisphere under Trumpism, or 'the Donroe Doctrine'. Participants consider whether this is Monroe Doctrine déjà vu or something completely distinct; how China's gigantic economic role in the region plays into changes underway; how regional institutions are being impacted and where their future lies; whether Latin America's democratic and constitutional institutions and doctrines provide sites of resilience; and the role of socio-legal studies.

AUTHOR MEETS READER: LEGAL AND POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CAPITALISM — THE END OF LAISSEZ-FAIRE?

Golden Gate 05 · AMR session

Author: Jamee Moudud (Sarah Lawrence College) **Chair:** Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley; Journal of Law and Political Economy) **Readers:** Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School), Diana Reddy (UC Berkeley), Anna Chadwick (University of Glasgow), Reshard L. Kolabhai (Yale Law School)

The title of this book is an extension of John R. Commons' classic 'Legal Foundations of Capitalism' and an important article by John Maynard Keynes, 'The End of Laissez-Faire'. Drawing on the insights of the Original Institutional Economics and American Legal Realist tradition, it provides new insights on the nature of institutions in capitalism. Beginning by arguing that society is a political community, it challenges the private law versus public law or state versus markets distinction. With a central focus on property and money it uses the Law and Political Economy framework to understand power in different contexts, ranging from monetary sovereignty and colonialism to comparative constitutional law and social rights, the political economy of corporations, social costs, and authoritarianism.

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

BUSINESS MEETING: CRN 55 LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

Union Square 17

Join us to discuss the future of CRN 55, how to get involved, and learn more about networks, projects, and programs in the LPE field!

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

AUTHOR MEETS READER: ALTER-NATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM — COMMON-ING 'COMMON' LAW; TRANSFORMING PROPERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Union Square 12 · AMR session · Co-sponsored with CRN 13, 28

Author: Sindiso Mnisi (University of Massachusetts Amherst) **Chair:** Bernadette Atuahene (University of Southern California) **Readers:** Penelope Andrews (New York Law School), Michael Yarbrough (CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice), Olaf Zenker (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Thirty years post-1994, 'the Natives' still lack 'property'. This cannot be remedied until the 'common' law is returned to them. This book takes seriously increasing sociopolitical challenges to the legitimacy of South Africa's post-apartheid legal order and scathing critiques of the constitutional settlement. It argues that jurists' belief that the worst that could happen to the Rule of (un)common Law is for liberal constitutionalism to be abandoned is perplexing given the country's persistent sense of constitutional crisis. It contends that the real 'worst-case scenario' is that South African constitutionalism could continue its unresponsiveness to its own precarity born of ordinary people's alienation from the so-called 'common law', ultimately leading to the 'anarchy' jurists fear. Alter-Native Constitutionalism is offered instead.

ATTACKS ON UNIVERSITIES, ACADEMIC FREEDOM, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES (PANEL 2)

Union Square 23 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 21, 59

Chair: Adrienne Davis (Washington University, St. Louis) **Participants:** Ariela Gross (UCLA School of Law), Serena Mayeri (University of Pennsylvania), Kim Lane Scheppele (Princeton University), Amanda Shanor (University of Pennsylvania), Cheryl Harris (UCLA School of Law)

This is the second of two linked roundtables assessing impacts on academic freedom and constitutional democracy in an era of rising global authoritarianism. The second Trump administration and its allies have used antidiscrimination law, plenary immigration authority, federal funding cutoffs, and other punitive measures to

threaten and control universities. This panel will focus on the current crisis, resistance, and ongoing organizing efforts in a time of autocratic capture.

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

IMPERIAL PRIORITIES? ACCOUNTING FOR THE CRACKDOWN ON FREE EXPRESSION AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Golden Gate 02 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 21, 23

Chair: Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts) **Participants:** Danya Reda (Wayne State University), Leo Yu (University of Massachusetts), Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts)

It is a familiar narrative that universities are utopias of free expression. Recent developments, however, demand a reassessment of that premise. Under the Biden administration, universities actively facilitated the weaponization of allegations of antisemitism to silence student protesters. This tendency only intensified under the second Trump administration, revealing just how vulnerable academic communities are to state-driven persecution. In asking ‘why Palestine?’, this panel invites a critical examination of the boundaries of permissible dissent on American campuses and probes the Palestine exception in American academic and public life alongside its antecedents.

AUTHOR MEETS READER: LEGAL PLUNDER — THE PREDATORY DIMENSIONS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Plaza Room B · AMR session · Co-sponsored with CRN 12, 27

Authors: Joshua Page (University of Minnesota), Joe Soss (University of Minnesota) **Chair:** Heather Schoenfeld (Boston University) **Readers:** Megan Comfort (RTI International), Forrest Stuart (Stanford University), Monica Bell (Yale University)

Since the 1980s, U.S. policing and punishment have been remade into tools for stripping resources from the most oppressed communities and turning them into public and private revenues. Legal Plunder traces this development’s origins, operations, consequences, and the struggles surrounding it. Using historical and contemporary evidence and original ethnographic research, the authors examine what they call the predatory dimensions of criminal legal governance. They show how, as tax burdens fell for the affluent, practices that criminalize, police, and punish were refitted to siphon resources from subordinated groups, subsidize governments, and produce corporate profits. Financial extraction, now central to the sprawling criminal legal apparatus, compounds race, class, and gender inequalities.

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

NEW HORIZONS IN PROPERTY LAW: LEGAL REALISM, POLITICAL ECONOMY, & SOCIOLEGAL RESEARCH

Union Square 18 · Panel · Co-sponsored with CRN 49

Chair & Discussant: Matthew Dimick (University at Buffalo) **Participants:** Tucker Reyes (University at Buffalo), Walker Kahn (Tulane University), Matthew Dimick (University at Buffalo); Mateo Taussig-Rubbo (University at Buffalo), Mekonnen Ayano (University at Buffalo)

Property law offers a natural bridge between scholars working in Law & Political Economy, Legal Realism, and Law & Society: property rights are fundamentally relational, and the social values they embody precede market values and define exchange. Property is not merely a coordinating framework, but constitutes both market relations and the social order itself. This panel builds on the core insight that law constructs markets by incorporating the full range of property-adjacent laws, mechanisms of enforcement, and normative frameworks through which property law creates and perpetuates inequality.

THE PULL OF THE CARCERAL FRAME AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTRA-FAMILY HARM: WHERE NOW?

Union Square 17 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 07, 27

Chair: Deborah Weissman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) **Participants:** Deborah Weissman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Donna Coker (University of Miami), Barbara Fedders (University of North Carolina), Kristina Kersey (The University of Tennessee)

The last 20 years have seen changes in progressive thinking about the wisdom of centering family violence, child protection, and family concerns in the punitive state. Years of organizing, mostly by women of color, has made a difference: community efforts to support non-carceral responses, build capacity, and transform the conditions that foster adversity. Despite these changes, there is a powerful pull to continue to analyze family dysfunction in individualistic terms, promote surveillance, and punish. We consider how to build a social justice response without succumbing to crime control logics, together with grass-roots community organizations centering repair over punitiveness.

Saturday 30 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

CULTURAL APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF LAW AND CRISIS

Golden Gate 01 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 12, 21

Chair: Matthew Clair (Stanford University) **Participants:** John Halushka (San Jose State University), Mona Lynch (University of California, Irvine), Marisa Omori (University of Missouri-St. Louis), Michelle Phelps (University of Minnesota), Javier Wilenmann (Universidad Adolfo Ibanez)

Law has been central to myriad crises — from democratic backsliding to mass incarceration and deportation. How could the study of culture sharpen understanding of law-related crises? Existing research shows how culture motivates legal officials and structures the institutional life of the legal organizational field. Yet, less work has specified the precise ways culture works in relation to law, especially in a moment of upheaval. How might cultural concepts — norms, frames, narratives, cultural capital, and legal consciousness — be used to explain the causes and consequences of law-related crises? And how might cultural methods — interviews, content analysis, and ethnography — be leveraged to document legal change in this unsettled time?

LEGAL EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICY, AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Golden Gate 05 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 59

Chair: Fabio de Sa e Silva (University of Oklahoma) **Participants:** Thais Duarte Zappelini (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Fabio de Sa e Silva (University of Oklahoma), Fabio Braga (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Irene Nohara (Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie)

This roundtable examines how legal education, public policy, and institutional frameworks shape social inequalities in the Global South, focusing on Brazil while highlighting connections and contrasts with the United States. Drawing on law, political science, and critical theory, panelists explore how race, gender, and class influence access to justice, entry into the legal profession, career trajectories, and democratic participation. The session examines structural mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion, the role of law schools, courts, and professional institutions, and implications for comparative legal scholarship, policy reform, and advancing social justice internationally.

WHITHER CRITIQUE? ORDER AND DISORDER AT THE NEXUS OF SCIENCE AND LAW

Plaza Room B · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 07, 23

Chair: Nicole Bassoff (University of Virginia) **Participants:** Luis Eslava (La Trobe University), Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard Kennedy School), Aziza Ahmed (Boston University School of Law), Ben Hurlbut (Arizona State University)

Critical studies of technoscience and law have questioned the promises and commitments that underlie both sets of institutions and practices. However, constructivist critical approaches that foreground the contestability of truths and norms have provoked resistance from those who prefer to defend or fortify the strongholds of legality and facticity. At a time when powerful leaders seem to be set on dismantling expectations of good governance, and are deeply attuned to the constructedness of epistemic, legal, and social orders, what can critique from the academy offer? Can critique generate knowledge and can it restore the vocations of science and politics? This roundtable convenes scholars in Science and Technology Studies and critical legal theory, seeking shared wellsprings of critique for our troubled times.

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

AUTHOR MEETS READER: TRADERS, SPECULATORS, AND CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY — HOW CAPITALIST LEGITIMACY SHAPED FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY IN INDIA

Union Square 17 · AMR session · Co-sponsored with CRN 23, 52

Author: Jason Jackson (MIT) **Readers:** Amy Cohen (Temple University), Luke Herrine (Alabama School of Law), Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts)

This session focuses on the role of moral beliefs in shaping markets institutions, economic development and capitalist transformation. ‘Traders, Speculators, and Captains of Industry’ highlights the role of moral categories of capitalist legitimacy in shaping policymaking in India, from the demise of the East India Company to the rise of new classes of Indian industrialists in the late nineteenth century; to clashes between foreign and domestic companies in the twentieth; to more recent efforts to centralize political power through controversial market-governance projects. It extends these findings to other country contexts showing how the economy is fundamentally constituted by a moral order.

HOW BIG DATA AND ALGORITHMS REFLECT, CONSTITUTE, AND CONTRADICT TRENDS IN LAW AND SOCIETY

Union Square 13 · Panel · Co-sponsored with CRN 37

Chair & Discussant: William Darwall (UC Berkeley) **Participants:** T.J. Mertikas (UC Berkeley), Dorna Mohaghegh (UC Berkeley), Chad Harper (Kavli Center for Ethics, Science, and the Public), Sarah Lageson (Northeastern University), Pranav Ramakrishnan (UC Berkeley), Isabella Mariani (UC Berkeley), James Takezoe (UC Berkeley), Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley)

How do Big Data and algorithmic decision making affect political and legal norms and structures in American society? Our panel examines applications of these tools to various areas of law and society, including the utility of these tools for data collection purposes that previously relied on human responders such as surveys; the potential use of mechanistic interpretability methods to systematically develop less discriminatory algorithms under US civil rights legal regimes; how the attention economy has been resisted through legal and discursive action; pressing questions concerning predictive algorithms and the right to privacy; pension programs’ increasing investment in tech stocks belonging to labor-hostile corporations; and the role of private capital investment in longevity technology.

SAFETY AND THE STATE: POWER, PROTECTION, AND INEQUALITY

Golden Gate 02 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 27, 47

Chair: Cameron Okeke (Vera Institute of Justice) **Participants:** Amanda Benjamin (NAACP Legal Defense Fund), Jakiyah Bradley (NAACP Legal Defense Fund), Tanajia Moye-Green (Stanford University), Maresi

Starzmann (NAACP Legal Defense Fund), Loy Azalia (Akullu Research & Learning, LLC), Pierre Lucien (NAACP Legal Defense Fund)

In a polarized landscape marked by renewed ‘tough-on-crime’ politics and the persistent failure of the state to guarantee safety for Black, immigrant, and marginalized communities, the meaning of ‘public safety’ demands reexamination. Public safety is often treated as a universal goal, yet what safety means and who receives it varies dramatically across communities. This roundtable examines how law, policy, technology, infrastructure, and media construct safety in ways that reproduce racial inequality and state control. By putting safety in conversation with the sanctuary — a place of refuge, care, and collective well-being — participants identify frameworks and strategies to link safety to equity, access, and accountability.

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

LAW AND SOCIETY AS ‘THIRD SPACE’: PLURAL IDENTITY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY AS SANCTUARY, LABORATORY, AND RENEWAL

Golden Gate 04 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 19, 21

Chair: Eduardo Capulong (University of Hawaii at Manoa) **Participants:** Monte Mills (University of Washington), Lisa Owens (UMass School of Law), Eduardo Capulong (University of Hawaii at Manoa), Kendall Kerew (Georgia State University), Robert Hsu (Northern Illinois University)

In this roundtable discussion, we will examine this year’s theme by borrowing from the concept of ‘third space’ to address the crisis of democracy. Commonly understood, ‘third space’ refers to an informal place outside home and work — a transitional space where roles blur and hybrid, plural identities emerge. We will explore the sanctuary of law and society as a third, liminal space where boundaries synthesize to form new, transformative meanings. How do we, in our diverse identities and roles, experience, analyze, and respond to the current moment? How do we do justice to these roles to ourselves and to our students?

ON METHOD, LPE, AND FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY: CONFRONTING THE FREE MARKET ILLUSION

Union Square 02 · Roundtable

Chair: Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School) **Participants:** Jamee Moudud (Sarah Lawrence College), Anna Chadwick (University of Glasgow), Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School), James Varellas (UC Berkeley)

The word ‘choice’ is the cornerstone of the laissez-faire paradigm with its basis in neoclassical economics. On the other hand, there is a transatlantic intellectual tradition that has argued that society is a political community whose legal institutional basis distributes unequal relations of power within it. The Original Institutional Economists and American Legal Realists came out of this tradition, emphasizing the ways that coercion undergirds consensual market relations. This panel will focus on the methodological overlap and/or tensions between Law & Political Economy (LPE) and feminist political economy. Given that both LPE and feminist scholars have discussed authoritarianism and its relationship to gender inequities, the panel will also deal with the implications of far right politics for inequities of power in capitalism.

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

BLURRED BOUNDARIES: CONCEPTUALIZING HEALTH JUSTICE AND SAFETY IN LIGHT OF CARCERAL CREEP

Continental 03 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 09, 27

Chair: Wendy Bach (University of Tennessee) **Participants:** Jamelia Morgan (UCLA School of Law), Shawn Fields (California Western School of Law), Benjamin Barsky (UCLA), Kendra Hutchens (University of Tennessee),

Knoxville), Liz Chiarello (Washington University in St. Louis), Madalyn Wasilczuk (University of South Carolina), Sunita Patel (UCLA School of Law), Prithika Balakrishnan (UCLA School of Law)

A robust and expanding literature explores how carceral actors, tactics, and logics are embedded in health and social welfare systems, compromising health and blurring boundaries between criminal and non-criminal systems. The legal and policy architecture protecting healthcare privacy and guarding against policing abuses has been slow to adapt to these growing quasi-carceral health and social welfare spaces. Yet scholars and activists call for alternative responses and for moving resources out of criminal systems. This roundtable poses a question at the intersection of these two streams: what does this carceral creep imply for conceptualizing alternative responses aimed at promoting health justice and lasting safety and social welfare?

CRITICAL APPROACHES TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Golden Gate 06 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 43

Chair: Amy Cohen (Temple University) **Participants:** Andrew Mamo (University of Cincinnati), Nicolas Parra Herrera (University of Utah), Daniel Del Gobbo (University of Windsor), Toby Goldbach (University of British Columbia), Michal Alberstein (Bar Ilan University)

This panel brings together legal scholars working with interdisciplinary lenses from sociology, philosophy, history, and political economy to critically examine the foundations and future of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Once envisioned as a democratic alternative to litigation, ADR now faces deep political, moral, economic, and institutional challenges. The panel will interrogate how ADR has evolved within broader systems of governance and market rationality, exploring its entanglement with pragmatic managerialism, professional power, and neoliberal ideals of efficiency and market logic. Panelists ask whether ADR still fulfills its original promise of offering a genuine 'alternative,' or whether it has become an extension of the very structures it sought to reform.

DELEGATING AUTHORITY: TECHNOSCIENCE, LAW AND THE SOCIAL COMPACT

Golden Gate 05 · Panel · Co-sponsored with CRN 23, 57

Chair: Guy Priver (Harvard Law School) **Discussant:** Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard Kennedy School) **Participants:** Justin Y C Wong (Harvard University), Nicole Bassoff (University of Virginia), Biyuan Hu (Harvard Law School), Aishani Aatresh (Harvard Kennedy School), Mason Barnard (Princeton University), Henry Austin (Harvard Kennedy School)

Science, technology and law operate as powerful forces of representation in today's world. Through these institutions, societies express understandings of existing pathologies, desirable futures, felt rights of citizenship, and the public good. Yet both technoscience and law also require continued and persuasive demonstrations that they serve the interests of the demos — “we the people” — in order to stabilize and sustain their authority. In times of technological and political upheaval, societies often revisit these forms of delegation and refine their expectations of order. This panel explores the interplay, and mutual constitution, of legal and technoscientific authority, with a focus on commitments and challenges to ideas of legitimate delegation, deference, and accountability in diverse social and political settings.

TOWARD A GREY CRIMINOLOGY

Continental 07 · Roundtable · Co-sponsored with CRN 03

Chair: Henrik Vigh (University of Copenhagen) **Participants:** David Brehm Sausdal (Lund University), Henrik Vigh (University of Copenhagen), Erik Hannerz (Lund University), Mikkel Christensen (University of Copenhagen)

This roundtable explores the growing grey areas of crime and control. Contrary to common preconceptions that there is a clear-cut distinction between the illegal and the legal, much of the most profitable and harmful crime today does not operate at a distance from legal spheres but directly through and because of them. Conversely, the same may be observed in relation to contemporary practices of control, which have likewise expanded into various moral–legal grey zones. Connecting the phenomena of drug trafficking, gangs, environmental crime, policing, and surveillance the roundtable describes and theorises this development and clarifies the importance of “grey

criminology” — a criminology that is not only better empirically attuned to the changing ontological nature of crime and control but also more theoretically equipped to explain it.

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

CONTESTING AUTHORITY: LEGAL FRONTIERS OF LABOR AND DEMOCRATIC POWER

Golden Gate 05 · Panel

Chair: James Varellas (UC Berkeley) **Discussant:** Matthew Dimick (University at Buffalo) **Participants:** James Hendrickson (University of Southern California), Angelo Petrigh (Boston University), Cortelyou Kenney (University of Tulsa), Jedidiah Kroncke (The University of Hong Kong)

Law is not only a tool of domination; it is also a contested terrain where labor, social movements, and democratic experiments push back. This panel brings together research on labor precarity, economic democracy, institutional autonomy, and redistribution to explore how law mediates struggles over power, fairness, and collective agency. Contributors examine how legal rules and institutional frameworks can both constrain and enable action, from union organizing and cooperative norms to courtroom strategies and fiscal autonomy. The papers highlight the evolving role of the professional managerial class in labor movements, the legal mechanisms that enable or block economic democracy, and the ways prosecutorial and judicial independence shape state authority.

Sunday 31 May

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

GOVERNING RISK: WELFARE, DEBT, AND STATE CAPACITY

Union Square 04 · Panel

Chair: Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School) **Discussant:** Allison Tait (University of Richmond)
Participants: Henrique Almeida Castro (University of Konstanz), Yael Rimer-Cohen (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Michael Sousa (University of Denver), Youhei Jodai (Meiji Gakuin University), Jennifer Kuan (California State University Monterey Bay)

Law allocates risk, vulnerability, and opportunity, determining who bears costs and who captures gains. This panel examines how financialized welfare, debt governance, participatory administration, tribal sovereignty strategies, and fiscal law reorganize the conditions of everyday life and labor. The papers trace legal mechanisms that transfer costs from investors to the public, discipline marginalized communities, entrench or contest bureaucratic authority, and reconfigure sovereign and corporate forms. Together, they reveal how neoliberal legal regimes produce inequality and precarity — and how law both forecloses and opens possibilities for collective agency.

LPE Early Career Paper Award

The LPE Early Career Paper Award recognizes outstanding scholarly work by an early career scholar in the field of Law and Political Economy. The award highlights original contributions to the development of the field, supporting rigorous, creative, and critical scholarship that advances the intellectual aims of CRN 55 within the broader Law and Society community.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the paper must have been presented at the most recent LSA Annual Meeting on a panel sponsored or co-sponsored by CRN 55. The author must qualify as an early career scholar – that is, enrolled in a graduate or PhD program, holding a postdoctoral position, or otherwise not yet having begun a first tenure-track position (or its equivalent) at the time of the LSA Annual Meeting. Only single-authored papers by current LSA members are considered, and the work must not have been published or accepted for publication at the time of the meeting.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by panel chairs, discussants, co-panelists, CRN 55 members, or the author themselves — self-nominations are welcome. Once nominated, the author is responsible for submitting the full paper, a brief cover letter with contact details and a short CV, and confirmation of the session at which the paper was presented. Submit all materials by email to the Chair of the CRN 55 Award Committee, Maj Grasten (mg.bhl@cbs.dk), by June 30, 2026.

Review and Award

Papers are reviewed by a three-member committee appointed by the CRN 55 Chairs, and assessed on originality, theoretical rigor, engagement with sociolegal and political-economic debates, and quality of writing. The award includes a certificate of recognition, a \$300 prize, and recognition on the LPE Collective website and at the LSA Annual Meeting. The winner will be announced by August 15, 2026.

The Global Law and Political Economy Workshop

The Global Law and Political Economy Workshop is an annual one-day event bringing together LPE scholars from around the world to explore central themes at the intersection of law, political economy, and social change. Held the day before the LSA Annual Meeting, the workshop creates a dedicated space for sustained discussion and exchange.

Each year, the workshop is organized around a thematic focus that reflects pressing questions in the field. Past editions have examined the law and political economy of social reproduction (Chicago, 2025) and this year's workshop is focused on the topic of the reconstruction of state capacity (Berkeley, 2026). The 2027 workshop will be held in connection with the LSA Annual Meeting in Hong Kong — look out for the call for papers later this year.

The workshop combines plenary sessions with smaller breakout groups, allowing for both wide-ranging debate and close engagement with individual papers. It has become a key gathering point for the global LPE community — a place to develop new ideas, forge connections across disciplines and regions, and advance the collective intellectual project of the network.

2026 Global Law & Political Economy Workshop **Reconstructing State Capacity**

May 27, 2026
UC Berkeley, California

The 2026 Global Law & Political Economy Workshop is supported by the LPE Collective and the UC Berkeley School of Law. Special thanks to Professor Jonathan Simon for his support for the workshop and its planning.

Workshop Program

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome & Introduction to the Workshop**

09:30 – 11:00 **The Fragmented State: Retrenchment, Redeployment, and the Limits of Public Authority**

Chair: Steven Vogel, UC Berkeley

John W. Cioffi, University of California, Riverside

The Crisis of Countervailing Power: State Capture and the Paradox of State Capacity

Matthew Dimick, University at Buffalo School of Law

After Administration

Yael Cohen-Rimer, Hebrew University Law Faculty

Constitutional Abandonment: Reimagining State Capacity and Social Rights in the Wake of Emergency

Daniela Campos Ugaz, Emory University

Constrained Autonomy: State Capacity, Skills Sourcing, and the Knowledge Economy in Costa Rica

11:00 – 11:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:15 – 12:45 **Breakout Groups**

A1. State Capacity and the Distribution of Violence

Discussant: Yael Cohen-Rimer, Hebrew University

Isaac Dalke, Northeastern University & Harvard University

Making the Delegated Penal State: Alternatives to Policing in California, 1990–2005

Marissa Jackson Sow, University of Richmond School of Law

Getting Away with Social Murder

Ran Yan, UC Berkeley

The Price of Crime: Livestock Theft and Legal Pluralism in Eighteenth-Century Qing Khalkha Mongolia

Trevor Gardner, WashU Law School

Fugitive Slave Rendition and the Preemption and Appropriation of State and Local Criminal Administration

B1. State Capacity and Transnational Governance

Discussant: Susan Silbey, MIT

Giovanna Teixeira, FGV São Paulo Law School

The Paradox of Regulatory Success in the Global South: State Capacity at Brazil's ANVISA

Chung-Ying Lee, Minnan Normal University

Governing the Ungovernable: How Law Mediates Regulatory Breakdown in Cross-Strait Food Safety Cooperation

Karim Medjad, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers Paris

The Commodification of Sovereignty: Special Zones and Territorial Authority

Annelisa Kingsbury Lee, Stanford Law School

Salt and Oysters: Legislative Sovereignty, Property, and the Public Trust in Nineteenth-Century Texas and New Jersey

C1. State Capacity, Expertise, and Organizing Logics of Governance

Discussant: John W. Cioffi, University of California, Riverside

Stephen Cody, Suffolk Law School

State Capacity and Epistemic Sufficiency in the Deep Sea

J. Benton Heath, Temple University School of Law

The Chokepoint State

Michaeljit Sandhu, Harvard Law School

Unmasking Presidential Administration

Nazune Menka, Seattle University

LPE & Plenary Power

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00 – 15:30 Building Capacity, Containing Contradiction: Legal Architectures of Governance

Chair: Jedidiah Kroncke, The University of Hong Kong

Jason Jackson, MIT

Taxis vs Uber: Planning vs Markets, or Markets as Planning?

Shruti Rana, University of Missouri

Weaponizing State Inaction: Theorizing the Care Crisis in International Law from the Pandemic to the Present

Jodi Short, UC Law San Francisco

Organizational Dimensions of the Civil Service Purge

Francis Cao, Goethe University Frankfurt & Friedrich Alexander University at Nuremberg-Erlangen

Selective Coupling as State Capacity: How Law Constructs Governing Capacity Through the Management of Contradiction

15:30 – 15:45 COFFEE BREAK

15:45 – 17:15 Breakout Groups

A2. State Capacity, Labour, and the Politics of Engagement

Discussant: Diana Reddy, UC Berkeley

César F. Rosado Marzán, University of Iowa College of Law

Expertise, Embeddedness, and Power: Rebuilding the Administrative State After Trump

Yiran Zhang, Cornell University Industrial and Labor Relations School

Profit Convergence and the Marketization of Public Care

Henrique Almeida de Castro, University of Konstanz

From Antagonizing to Participating in the State: Union Choice and Factional Conflict in Brazil, South Africa, and South Korea

B2. State Capacity, Technology, and Technocratic Power

Discussant: Jason Jackson, MIT

Hung-Wei Liao, NYCU School of Law Taiwan

The Convergence of AI and Bureaucracy in Public Governance: On the Emergence of “Double Formalism”

Julian Hsiang Luo, National Taiwan University College of Law

The “Silicon Shield” as State Capacity: Reconstructing Sovereignty and Regulatory Capture in Taiwan’s Semiconductor Governance

Emma Goh, UC Berkeley

A Region Reconstituted: Techno-Regionalism in the SIJORI Triangle

C2. Courts and the Legal Infrastructure of State Capacity

Discussant: Bronwen Morgan, UNSW Sydney

Yong-Cheng Lai, University of Minnesota

State Capacity and Constitutional Review of Taxation: A Taiwan Case Study

Inbal Maimon Blau, Ono Academic College

Managing Historical Accountability: Tort Litigation and the Limits of State Capacity in Israel

Mao-hong Lin, National Taipei University Graduate School of Criminology

The Engagement of Criminal Law in Taiwan’s Currency Transformation

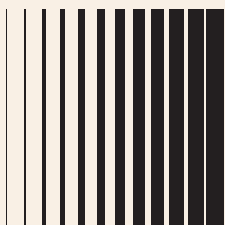
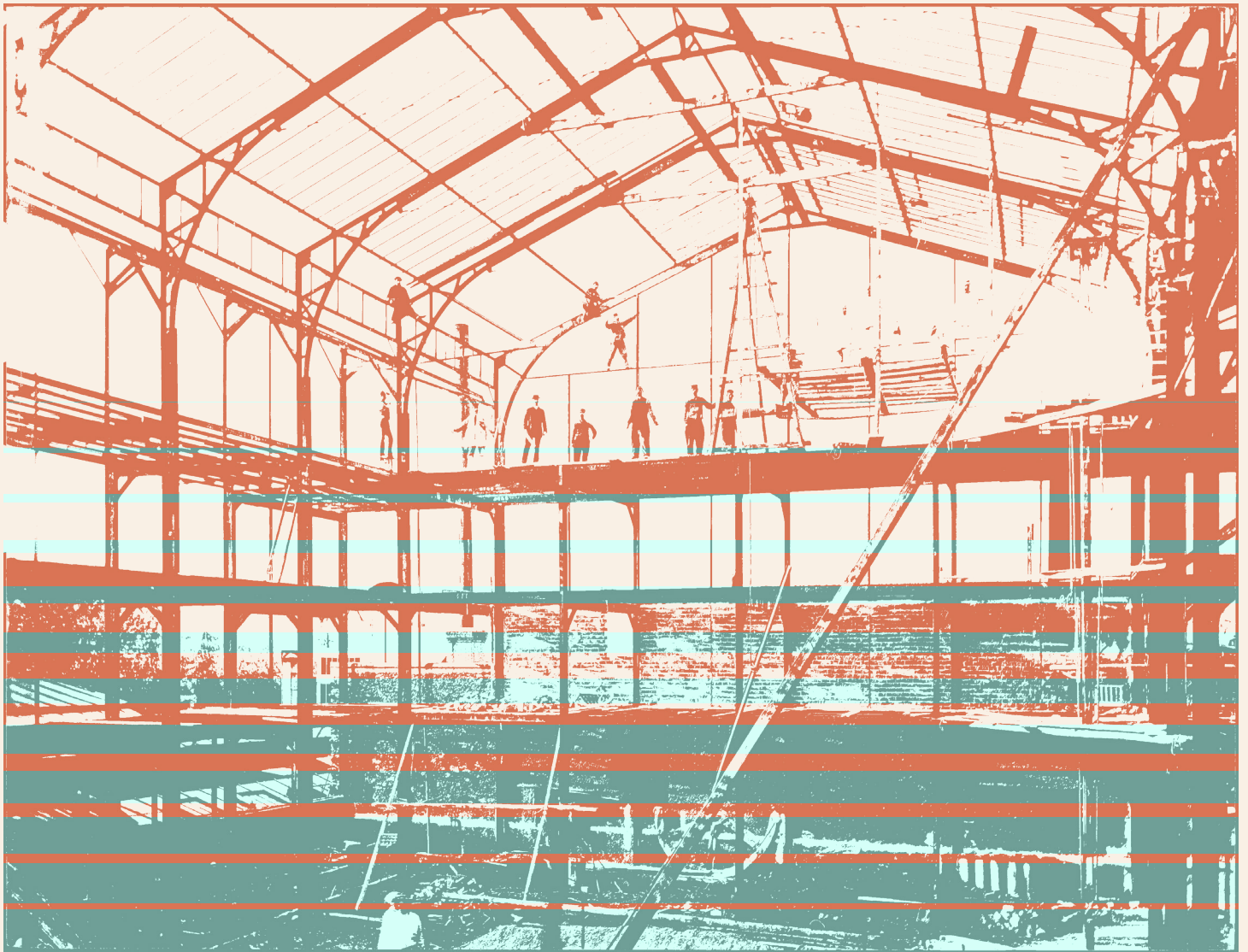
Juan Carlos Ibarra, University of San Francisco School of Law

State Capacity, Citizenship, and Legal Vulnerability in Family Trust Law

17:15 – 17:30 Concluding Remarks

Reconstructing State Capacity

GLOBAL LAW & POLITICAL ECONOMY WORKSHOP



**Law and
Political
Economy
Collective**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026
UC BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW

2026 Program Committee



Daniela Campos Ugaz
Emory University



M. Francis Cao
Goethe University Frankfurt



Henrique Castro
University of Konstanz



Maj Grasten
Copenhagen Business School



Leanna Katz
McGill University



Jay Varellas
UC Berkeley

Law and Political Economy Initiatives

A selection of networks, projects, and programs in the LPE field

The Law and Political Economy Collective

The LPE Collective is an international, interdisciplinary community of scholars examining how law structures power, markets, and economic institutions. It hosts the annual Global Law and Political Economy Workshop, organizes panels and workshops at major events including SASE and EAEPE, and supports regional networks and workshops, PhD schools, and emerging scholars through its Early Career Scholars Network and the LPE Early Career Paper Award. Visit lpecollective.org.

The Association of Law and Political Economy

The Association of Law and Political Economy is a membership organization dedicated to scholarship that centers political economy in the study of law. Defining scholarship broadly to include writing, teaching, and advocacy, it attends to inequality, power, subordination, and intersectionality, and hosts an annual conference alongside other gatherings and programming. Visit lawandpoliticaleconomy.org.

Law and Political Economy in Europe

LPE in Europe is a movement of scholarship and legal praxis showing how law contributes to social, economic, and ecological crises — and how it could help address them. It brings together academics and civil society to re-imagine legal structures, advance strategic litigation on systemic enablers of economic power, and develop an open collaborative syllabus. It convenes an annual Summer Academy, with the fourth in Glasgow in 2026. Visit lpeineurope.org.

Law and Political Economy in Latin America

LPE in Latin America strengthens theoretical and methodological debates about Law and Political Economy within the Latin American context and expands the global reach of LPE research originating in the region. To learn more about events and opportunities, contact lpelatam@gmail.com.

Global Law and Social Reproduction Network (GLARE)

GLARE brings together scholars working at the intersection of law and social reproduction through monthly virtual seminars, reading discussions, and book talks. The series culminates in an in-person workshop in Copenhagen in October 2026, supported by an LSA Advance Grant. To join, email Maj Grasten (mg.bhl@cbs.dk) with your name, email, discipline, position/institutional affiliation (if any), and country of residence.

Journal of Law and Political Economy (JLPE)

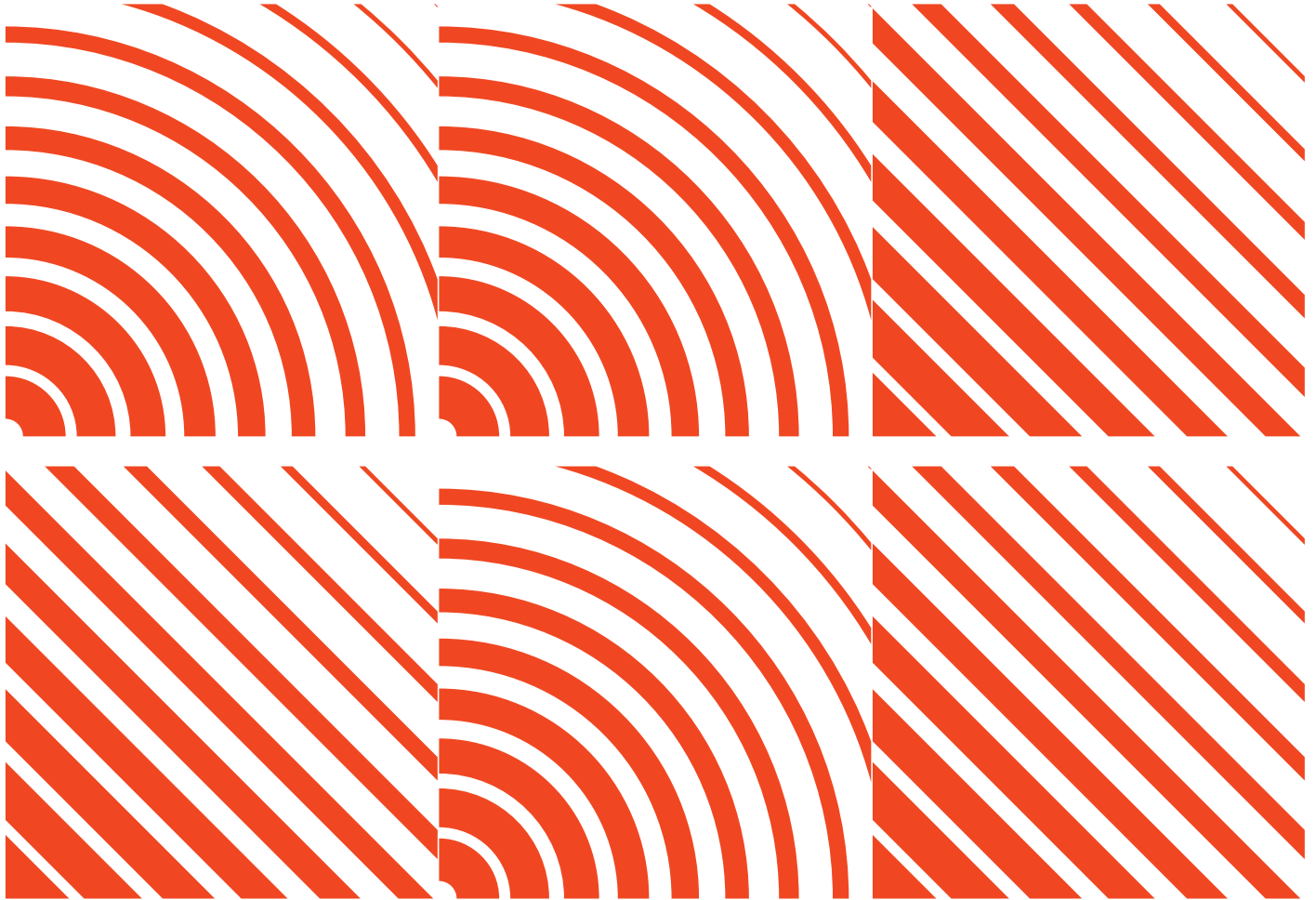
A peer-reviewed, open-access journal promoting multi- and interdisciplinary analyses of the interactions among law, society, institutions, and politics, with a central focus on power in its many forms and its relationship to law. Visit escholarship.org/uc/lawandpoliticaleconomy.

Law and Political Economy eJournal (SSRN)

Published by the LPE Collective, this eJournal features interdisciplinary scholarship on law, politics, and economics as interrelated systems of contested power. Subscribe or access content free through the SSRN website.

CRN 55

Law and Political Economy



The Law and Political Economy CRN is a forum for legal scholars, social scientists, and others working at the intersection of law and political economy. It promotes interdisciplinary scholarship that brings political economy perspectives into legal and sociolegal research, and invites scholars from across sociology, political science, anthropology, geography, history, literature, gender studies, business studies, and heterodox economics to engage more deeply with legal rules, institutions, and processes. By centering political economy, the CRN explores how power and sociolegal structures shape behavior, governance, and institutional development. It supports work that foregrounds justice, fairness, identity, and sustainability, and welcomes scholarship that is comparative, historical, and transnational, as well as attentive to local legal systems and processes.