

# **CRN 55**

# **Law and Political Economy**

**Chicago**

**May 22 - 25, 2025**

**Law and  
Political  
Economy  
Collective**

Hyatt Regency Chicago  
151 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601

# THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK ON LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY (CRN 55)

CRN 55 was founded in 2017 and quickly became one of the largest and most active CRNs within the Law and Society Association. It seeks to support the development of research programs at the intersection of law and political economy that engage scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and from around the world.

The CRN has also facilitated conversations that have contributed to the establishment of LPE initiatives such as the Global Law and Political Economy Network, Law and Political Economy in Latin America, the SSRN eJournal on Law and Political Economy, and the *Journal of Law and Political Economy*.

To join CRN 55, please email program committee co-chair Jay Varellas at [jvarellas@berkeley.edu](mailto:jvarellas@berkeley.edu).

## THE GLOBAL LPE NETWORK

The Global LPE Network provides a forum for collaboration between legal scholars, social scientists, and others at the intersection of law and a variety of contemporary approaches to political economy from across the social sciences and humanities.

The Network encourages incorporating a broader range of approaches to political economy into legal and sociolegal scholarship, while also facilitating a deeper engagement with legal rules, institutions, and processes by scholars from other disciplines.

The Network supports key LPE initiatives, including:

- **CRN 55** at the Law and Society Association
- **LPE research streams and programming** at interdisciplinary conferences such as the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) and the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE)
- **The [SSRN eJournal on Law and Political Economy](https://bit.ly/LPEejrnl)** (<https://bit.ly/LPEejrnl>)
- Events such as “**The LPE of Social Reproduction**” **Workshop**, to be held at the University of Chicago on May 21, 2025

Please email [admin@lpecollective.org](mailto:admin@lpecollective.org) if you would like to get involved. You can follow the Global LPE Network on X at [@LPE\\_Network](https://twitter.com/LPE_Network).

# LPE EVENTS AT LSA

CRN 55 Business Meeting

Friday, May 23, 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Room: Grand E

Law and Political Economy Happy Hour

Friday, May 23, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

The Northman

233 East Riverwalk, Chicago, IL 60601

*Organized by the Global LPE Network and the LPE Collective*

# AT-A-GLANCE PROGRAM

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**8:00 AM - 9:45 AM**

Paper Session: Carceral Harms and Compounded Vulnerability: Trends in Prisoners' Families Research (co-sponsored with CRN 27), Room: Randolph 2

**10:00 AM - 11:45 AM**

Author Meets Reader (AMR): Administration and the (Post) Colonial Political Economy: Situating Legality in the Indian Subcontinent from the Long 19th century to the Age of Independence (co-sponsored with CRN 22 & CRN 51), Room: Roosevelt 1A

Paper Session: Capital's Legal Architecture: Corporate Form and Economic Power, Room: Grand MN

Paper Session: Class, Race, and Criminalizing the Ordinary (co-sponsored with CRN 27 & CRN 35), Room: Grand B

Paper Session: Housing Law and the Political Economy of Spatial Inequality in American Cities, Room: Grand J

Roundtable: Identity and LPE Roundtable (co-sponsored with CRN 26), Room: Grand I

Paper Session: Law, Politics, and Economics in China (co-sponsored with CRN 33 & CRN 52), Room: Grand Suite 2B

Paper Session: The Political Economy of Punishment: Incarceration, Diversion, and Criminal Law Reform, Room: Grand E

**12:45 PM - 2:30 PM**

Paper Session: Economic Governance: Law, Power, and Institutional Design, Room: Grand E

Paper Session: Economic Sanctions and Progressive Legal Strategies (co-sponsored with CRN 23), Room: Grand J

Paper Session: Legal Realism and Constitutional Justice: Power, Institutions, and Democratic Legitimacy, Room: Roosevelt 1A

Author Meets Reader (AMR): The Turn to Process: American Legal, Political, and Economic Thought, 1870 – 1970 (co-sponsored with CRN 17 & CRN 44), Room: Michigan 3

Roundtable: Prefiguration, Performativity and Alternative Legalities (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand I

**2:45 PM - 4:30 PM**

Paper Session: Colonial Legalities: Law, Political Economy, and Indigenous Rights, Room: Randolph 2

Paper Session: Contesting Labor's Boundaries: Power, Movements, and Regulation in Neoliberal Markets, Room: Grand F

Multi-Book AMR: Race, Law, and Empire: New Perspectives on Puerto Rico's Colonial Legal and Racial Histories (co-sponsored with CRN 23), Room: Grand E

Paper Session: Race, Law, and Political Economy: Institutional Mechanisms of Racial Inequality, Room: Randolph 1A

## Friday, May 23, 2025

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Paper Session: Autocratic Legalism I (co-sponsored with CRN 52), Room: Grand F

Paper Session: Debt and the Pursuit of Peace: Moral Economy and International Law, Room: Monroe 1 Boardroom

Paper Session: Feminist & Queer Alternatives (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand Suite 1

Paper Session: Fiscal Extractions: Tax, Bankruptcy, and Class Stratification, Room: Grand J

Roundtable: Hierarchies at Work: Race, World-Systems, and Legal Distribution (co-sponsored with CRN 8 & CRN 23), Room: Grand MN

10:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Paper Session: Philanthropy, NGOs, and the Political Economy of Social Change, Room: Roosevelt 1A

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Business Meeting: CRN 55 Law and Political Economy Business Meeting, Room: Grand E

12:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Paper Session: Prefiguring Sovereignty: Struggles over Land, Food, and Indigenous Legality (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand Suite 1

2:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Paper Session: Age, Gender, and Vulnerability in Law, Room: Roosevelt 1A

Paper Session: Autocratic Legalism II (co-sponsored with CRN 52), Room: Grand F

Roundtable: Ethics and Advocacy: The Conservative Legal Movement After Populism (co-sponsored with CRN 21 & CRN 28), Room: Randolph 1A

Paper Session: International Legal Orders: Tensions Between Public Authority and Private Power, Room: Roosevelt 1B

Roundtable: Law and Political Economy in Latin America, Room: Grand MN

4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Paper Session: The Prefigurative Practices of Sovereign Citizens (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand E

## Saturday, May 24, 2025

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Paper Session: Radical Politics and the Possibilities of Performativity (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Roosevelt 2 Board

10:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Paper Session: Law and Political Economy of Regulatory Governance: Contested Institutions and Democratic Accountability, Room: Grand Suite 1

Paper Session: Negotiating Production and Reproduction during the Twentieth Century: US and Mexico Compared (co-sponsored with CRN 44), Room: Grand J

Paper Session: Prefiguring International Law: Coalitions, Tribunals, and Peoples' Power (co-sponsored with CRN 23 & CRN 50), Room: Randolph 1B

Paper Session: Racial Equality Scholarship Paper Session (co-sponsored with CRN 12 & CRN 21), Room: Grand F

Roundtable: Speculative Law Reform and Thinking with Davina Cooper (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand E

Paper Session: The Corporate Capture of Legal Institutions, Room: Grand I

12:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Paper Session: Law, Systems of Governance and Attitudes Towards Difference (co-sponsored with CRN 3 & CRN 48), Room: Grand Suite 2A

Paper Session: Prefiguring Feminist Constitutions and International Human Rights (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand MN

Paper Session: Recreating and Reconfiguring the State (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand Suite 2B

Roundtable: Tenant Unions and Housing Justice (co-sponsored with CRN 21), Room: Grand E

2:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Roundtable: Gender and Political Economy (co-sponsored with CRN 6 & CRN 7), Room: Michigan 1A

Paper Session: Using the Master's Tools? (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand E

4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Roundtable: Assessing Economic Sanctions (co-sponsored with CRN 23), Room: Grand E

Paper Session: Lawfare in the Digital Age and Its Socio-Economic Impacts (co-sponsored with CRN 36 & CRN 47), Room: Grand D North

Paper Session: Novel, or More of the Same? Exploring the Political Economy of Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Firms (co-sponsored with CRN 37), Room: Michigan 3

Paper Session: Reimagining the Law through Cultural Expressions: Panel 1 (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand MN

Paper Session: Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times: International Law, Critique and Structural Change (co-sponsored with CRN 17 & CRN 23), Room: Grand F

Paper Session: The Prefigurative Practices of Private Law (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Roosevelt 1A

## Sunday, May 25, 2025

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Roundtable: Taking Economics Seriously: Responding to Law and Economics Critiques of Law and Political Economy Analysis, Room: Grand I

Paper Session: The Law and Politics of Annexation and Separation in Israel/Palestine (co-sponsored with CRN 15 & CRN 23), Room: Grand J

Paper Session: Theory and Ethnography of Legal Form (co-sponsored with CRN 3 & CRN 17), Room: Michigan 1B

10:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Roundtable: Preparing for the Fourth Reconstruction: Understanding Past Failures, Current Barriers, and Bold Strategies for Building a Multiracial Democracy (co-sponsored with CRN 12 & CRN 44), Room: Michigan 1C

Roundtable: Race, Care, and Capitalism (co-sponsored with CRN 7 & CRN 21), Room: Michigan 1A

Paper Session: Reimagining the Law through Cultural Expressions: Panel 2 (co-sponsored with CRN 50), Room: Grand MN

Paper Session: Spatial Justice: Housing, Urban Development, and the Political Economy of Place, Room: Grand F



# DETAILED PROGRAM

## Thursday, May 22, 2025

### **Paper Session: Carceral Harms and Compounded Vulnerability: Trends in Prisoners' Families Research (co-sponsored with CRN 27)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Randolph 2**

The use of imprisonment as a form of social control has been widely documented by socio-legal scholars across a range of disciplines. However, the relationship between carceral violence, fines and fees, and the contemporary family has only recently been addressed – often narrowly. To address this gap, this panel examines the collateral impact of penal power on the loved ones of those enduring the pains of incarceration, remand, and detention. Applying an analytical framework that borrows from critical legal theory, political economy, narrative writing, and experiential knowledge from solidarity work, the papers in this panel highlight the entangled and 'symbiotic' (Condry and Manson 2021) relationships between state punishment, familial relationships, and the dignity of justice-involved people.

Chair: Naoka Carey (Boston College)

Discussant: Adam Kluge (University of Oxford)

Participants: Jacob Hood (New York University), Naoka Carey (Boston College), Kaitlyn Quinn (Syracuse University), Adam Kluge (University of Oxford), Rachel Condry (University of Oxford)

### **Author Meets Reader (AMR): Administration and the (Post) Colonial Political Economy: Situating Legality in the Indian Subcontinent from the Long 19th Century to the Age of Independence (co-sponsored with CRN 22 & CRN 51)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Roosevelt 1A**

This session pairs books on South Asia bridging divides between history, political/social theory, and jurisprudence. Focusing on the colonial period, Faisal Chaudhry's monograph traces the emergence of a new institutional fact of 'the law' in British India via the reordering of rights talk around the equivocal notions of property, contract, and status. Focusing on constitution-making and its long aftermath in independent India, Sandipto Dasgupta's study traces the transition from popular anticolonial politics to the ordered calculus of postcolonial governance and parliament, judiciary, rights, and property as its major institutions. Readers will explore throughlines and tensions between the books given their joint concerns with law, political economy, and Foucaultian themes in the re-making of the (post) colonial subcontinent.

Authors: Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts), Sandipto Dasgupta (Columbia University)

Chair: Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts)

Readers: Jonathan Connolly (University of Illinois at Chicago), Arvind Elangovan (Wright State University), James Jaffe (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

## **Paper Session: Capital's Legal Architecture: Corporate Form and Economic Power**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand MN**

This panel explores competing visions of corporate governance across global contexts. It examines how legal frameworks—from fiduciary duties in Korea to transformative constitutions in the Global South—shape corporate behavior beyond shareholder primacy. Papers investigate how seemingly technical rules entrench power imbalances, whether through heteronormative leadership structures, dispute resolution mechanisms, or industrial policy frameworks. The panel reveals tensions between formal reforms and practical outcomes, suggesting corporate governance must balance economic efficiency with broader social welfare while recognizing how institutional contexts shape implementation. Together, these analyses challenge us to reimagine corporations as entities embedded in social systems rather than autonomous profit-maximizers.

Chair/Discussant: Liam McHugh-Russell (Dalhousie University)

Participants: Daniel Campos (FGV São Paulo Law School), James Varellas (UC Berkeley), Darren Rosenblum (McGill University), Thomas Joo (UC Davis)

## **Paper Session: Class, Race, and Criminalizing the Ordinary (co-sponsored with CRN 27 & CRN 35)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand B**

This panel explores situations where the criminal legal system and its institutions (police, prisons, courts, and penal codes) are mobilized against everyday acts, from migration to labor organizing to public sociality. The criminal legal system is often justified as a mechanism for deterring, punishing, or preventing harmful acts – but what drives the state to selectively criminalize ostensibly ordinary acts, like selling shampoo on the sidewalk, crossing a border, or dressing in a particular style; behaviors that are not demonstrably harmful? How do state and nonstate actors use legislation, rhetoric, and space itself to justify such criminalization? And what does the use of the criminal legal system in these cases tell us about how race, class, and space work together to normalize punitive crackdowns on everyday life.

Chair/ Discussant: Jonathan Simon (UC Berkeley)

Participants: Elliott Masouredis (UC Berkeley), Mariel Bustamante (UC Berkeley), Molly Culhane (UC Berkeley), Reakash Walters (UC Berkeley), Daisy Trujillo (UC Berkeley)

## **Paper Session: Housing Law and the Political Economy of Spatial Inequality in American Cities**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand J**

This panel examines the intersection of housing law, policy, and political economy, exploring how legal structures and economic forces shape housing inequality across the United States. From the enduring “anti-renter regime” privileging homeownership to the challenges of inclusionary zoning and tenant rights, the panel addresses how law and economic interests contribute to the dispossession and displacement of marginalized communities. The panel addresses how municipal boundaries, eviction representation, limited liability property ownership, and urban redevelopment strategies interact with race, class, and capital interests to entrench housing inequality and spatial segregation.

Chair: Kaitlyn Quinn (Syracuse University)

Discussant: Allison Tait (University of Richmond)

Participants: Nnamdi Jogwe (New York University), Yi Wang (Washington University in St. Louis), Guanchi Zhang (Vermont Law and Graduate School), Allen Micheal Wright (UC Berkeley), Shai Karp (Northwestern University), Anna Reosti (American Bar Foundation)

## **Roundtable: Identity and LPE Roundtable (co-sponsored with CRN 26)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand I**

This roundtable, co-hosted by the Law and Political Economy and Race and Private Law CRNs, invites exploration of how scholarship and advocacy relating to identity, such as race, gender and sexuality, religion, ability and disease, immigration status and nationality, and more, can inform as well as leverage the Law and Political Economy framework and movement. The roundtable seeks to generate discussion amongst scholars across a range of disciplines, including, but not limited to, those interested in considering the impacts of colonialism, globalization, neoliberalism, racial capitalism, and corporate authoritarianism upon corporate power, labor and biopolitics, extraction, wealth transfer, and the development of transformative and just economies.

Chair: Marissa Jackson Sow (University of Richmond)

Participants: Atinuke Adediran (Fordham University), Corinne Blalock (Law and Political Economy Project), Nicole Iannarone (Drexel University), Amy Kapczynski (Yale University), Luke Norris (University of Richmond)

## **Paper Session: Law, Politics, and Economics in China (co-sponsored with CRN 33 & CRN 52)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand Suite 2B**

This panel explores the complex interplay between law, politics, and economic dynamics in China. The six papers provide a diverse yet interconnected analysis of how China's evolving legal institutions navigate critical issues such as shareholder protection, venture capitalism, climate change, financial reform, national security, and judicial collaboration with government agencies. Together, these studies reveal common patterns in the development of Chinese law across different topics and subfields.

Chair/ Discussant: Shitong Qiao (Duke University)

Participants: Isabelle Zhang, Francis Mianzhi Cao (Frankfurt Goethe University), Si Zeng (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Leo You Li (Stanford University), Ruona Qi (Duke University)

## **Paper Session: The Political Economy of Punishment: Incarceration, Diversion, and Criminal Law Reform**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand E**

This panel examines the economic dimensions of criminal justice systems. The papers analyze experiences with court diversion programs, the affective economy of fear in criminal courts, economic impacts of prison closures on rural communities, property dispossession during prison transfers as racialized predation, and associations between cannabis policy reforms and school

discipline. Together, they reveal how criminal justice institutions distribute resources and penalties in ways that reflect and reinforce broader political-economic hierarchies.

Chair: Jocelyn Simonson (Brooklyn Law School)

Discussant: Jamelia Morgan (Northwestern University)

Participants: Faith English (Johns Hopkins University), Angelo Petrigh (Boston University), James Dega (Dartmouth College), Eric Seligman (University of Minnesota Twin Cities), Iolanthe Brooks (Northwestern University)

## **Paper Session: Economic Governance: Law, Power, and Institutional Design**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

This panel brings together papers examining diverse aspects of economic governance and regulation. The papers explore several interconnected themes: how different legal forms distribute power among public and private actors; how states maintain sovereignty within global financial systems; how regulators implement reforms despite structural constraints; and how governance frameworks adapt to evolving production models. The panel addresses both formal regulatory structures and the power dynamics that shape them. Papers analyze the legalization of global economic governance, monetary sovereignty in India, financial regulation reform in Brazil, interest group influence in digital regulation, and the evolution of private law in response to changing production systems.

Chair/Discussant: Jamee Moudud (Sarah Lawrence College)

Participants: Jaakko Salminen (Lund University), Adam Feibelman (Tulane University), Karen Alter (Northwestern University), Fabio Silva (FGV São Paulo Law School)

## **Paper Session: Economic Sanctions and Progressive Legal Strategies (co-sponsored with CRN 23)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand J**

As unilateral economic sanctions have proliferated, so too have critiques of them. The UN General Assembly passes regular resolutions challenging the legality of unilateral measures involving economic coercion, while critics highlight their devastating humanitarian consequences and frame them as tools of imperial governance that are in tension with sovereign equality. At the same time, social movements demand the imposition of sanctions, most notably against Israel in the context of its genocide in Gaza and the unlawful occupation of Palestinian land. This panel will bring together traditional left critiques of sanctions with supporters of the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign to examine the tensions and synergies between these two positions and reflect on whether international law can respond to them both.

Chair: Vasuki Nesiah (New York University)

Discussant: Jeena Shah (CUNY School of Law)

Participants: Hugo Lundberg (Gothenburg University), Ata Hindi (Tulane University), Jessica Whyte (University of New South Wales), Shahd Saleh Hammouri (University of Kent)

## **Paper Session: Legal Realism and Constitutional Justice: Power, Institutions, and Democratic Legitimacy**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Roosevelt 1A**

This panel explores the theoretical foundations and institutional manifestations of legal realism in contemporary constitutional systems. The papers investigate tensions between judicial authority, legislative power, and administrative discretion in democratic governance. Topics include political use of Canada's notwithstanding clause, comparative judicial approaches to equality, competing conceptions of legal realism and their revival in sociolegal thought, pragmatist foundations of new legal realism, moral dimensions of administrative law, and concentration of enforcement power in the executive branch. Together, these analyses illuminate how constitutional structures mediate competing claims to democratic legitimacy and shape the prospects for substantive justice.

Chair: Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley; Journal of Law and Political Economy)

Discussant: Pegah Banihashemi (University of Chicago)

Participants: Niels Petersen (University of Muenster), Panos Develekos (Humboldt-University of Berlin), Stephen Cody (Suffolk University), Benjamin Perryman (University of New Brunswick), Jodi Short (UC Law SF), Nicholas Almendares (Indiana University - Bloomington)

## **Author Meets Reader (AMR): The Turn to Process: American Legal, Political, and Economic Thought, 1870 – 1970 (co-sponsored with CRN 17 & CRN 44)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Michigan 3**

This is an interdisciplinary author-meets-reader session on Kunal Parker's book, *The Turn to Process: American Legal, Political, and Economic Thought, 1870 - 1970* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). The book describes how, between 1870 and 1970, under the pressure of antifoundational historical critique, American legal, political, and economic thought went from being oriented around truths, ends and foundations to being oriented around methods, processes, and techniques. The book discusses the implications of this transformation for understandings of law, democracy, and markets. The panel will be interdisciplinary, bringing together its participants constitutional theory, legal history, legal anthropology and political science.

Chair: Ajay Mehrotra (Northwestern University & American Bar Foundation)

Author: Kunal Parker (University of Miami)

Participants: Marianne Constable (UC Berkeley), Jon Goldberg-Hiller (University of Hawai'i), Annelise Riles (Northwestern University)

## **Roundtable: Prefiguration, Performativity and Alternative Legalities (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand I**

What happens when everyday actors take the law into their own hands and seek to create, or recreate, the legal worlds they inhabit? There is a long tradition of non-legal actors seizing the means of legal imagination. These individuals and groups are not formally authorized to make law but they act as if they are, adopting a consciously fictive jurisdiction. Think, for example, of the work of peoples' tribunals in international law or the Feminist Judgments Projects (FJPs) or

related exercises in critical or imaginative judgement-writing. Or think, in a very different political register, of those litigants (be they sovereign citizens or other individuals) who today mobilise a certain understanding of the common law to assert a particular legal subjectivity. This roundtable introduces an opportunity to explore these phenomena.

Chair: Ben Golder (University of New South Wales)

Participants: Amy Cohen (Temple University), Davina Cooper (King's College London), Ilana Gershon (Rice University), Bonnie Honig (Brown University), Stephen Young (University of Otago, New Zealand)

## **Paper Session: Colonial Legacies: Law, Political Economy, and Indigenous Rights**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Randolph 2**

This panel explores the intersection of law, political economy, and colonial power across diverse contexts. The papers examine how legal and economic frameworks have facilitated imperial expansion: from America's labor-based colonization of Liberia and administrative governance as imperial technique, to gendered violence in settler colonial states, the performative politics of land acknowledgments, and pedagogical challenges in legal education. Together, these papers reveal how colonial legal structures have enabled resource extraction and territorial control while also exploring pathways for resistance and imagining justice beyond imperial political economies.

Chair: James Varellas (UC Berkeley)

Discussant: Faisal Chaudhry (University of Massachusetts)

Participants: Pilar Escontrias (Seattle University), Jedidiah Kroncke (The University of Hong Kong), Mateo Taussig-Rubbo (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Daimeon Shanks-Dumont (UC Berkeley), Heidi Matthews (York University)

## **Paper Session: Contesting Labor's Boundaries: Power, Movements, and Regulation in Neoliberal Markets**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Grand F**

This panel brings together papers examining how market logics have reshaped employment and welfare systems, and how workers and advocates respond. While these papers analyze diverse contexts - domestic work legislation, union framing strategies, private equity in social services, student labor rights, and religious liberty's impact on workers - they share concerns with how neoliberal frameworks have undermined worker power and welfare protections. They explore the gap between movement aspirations and legal outcomes, revealing tensions between dignity-centered organizing and narrower economic frameworks in policy. Together, they question whether existing legal structures can adequately address power imbalances in contemporary labor markets, while highlighting emerging strategies - from sectoral organizing to dignity-centered frameworks - that might offer alternative pathways forward.

Chair: Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School)

Discussant: Kerry Rittich (University of Toronto)

Participants: Leanna Katz (McGill University), Diana Reddy (UC Berkeley), Joanna Wuest (Stony Brook University), Cesar Rosado Marzan (University of Iowa), Yiran Zhang (Cornell University)



## **Multi-Book AMR: Race, Law, and Empire: New Perspectives on Puerto Rico's Colonial Legal and Racial Histories (co-sponsored with CRN 23)**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

This AMR session brings together two significant recent publications that delve into the complex legal dynamics shaping Puerto Rico under US colonial rule. Mónica Jiménez's *Making Never-Never Land: Race and Law in the Creation of Puerto Rico* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024) and Jose Atilés' *Crisis by Design: Emergency Powers and Colonial Legality in Puerto Rico* (Stanford University Press, 2024) offer critical insights into the legal foundations and ongoing crises facing the archipelago. The session aims to celebrate these two works and foster a thoughtful discussion on how they contribute to our understanding of the intersection of race, law, and colonialism. This session invites readers to reflect on how these books enhance our understanding of Puerto Rico's multilayered crisis and enduring legal struggles under US colonialism.

Chair: Luis Eslava (La Trobe University)

Authors: Jose Atilés (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign) and Mónica Jiménez (University of Texas at Austin)

Participants: Alvin Padilla-Babilonia (Villanova University), Jothie Rajah (American Bar Foundation), Luis Eslava (La Trobe University)

## **Paper Session: Race, Law, and Political Economy: Institutional Mechanisms of Racial Inequality**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Randolph 1A**

This panel explores the intersection of race, law, and political economy, examining how legal and economic structures perpetuate racial inequities. Topics include algorithmic discrimination through racial proxies, the politics of race-conscious data, the role of courts in producing racism, racialized enforcement of foreign agent laws, and exploitation through international student policies. Drawing from critical race theory and law and political economy frameworks the panel interrogates how institutional frameworks shape racial hierarchies and considers pathways for legal and policy interventions toward racial justice.

Chair: Zohra Ahmed (Boston University)

Discussant: Atinuke Adediran (Fordham University)

Participants: Shirley Lin (Brooklyn Law School), Leo Yu (Southern Methodist University), Paulo Alves da Silva (Universidade de São Paulo)

# Friday, May 23, 2025

## **Paper Session: Autocratic Legalism I (co-sponsored with CRN 52)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand F**

In 2019, a group of Global South scholars responded to the call made by the then-LSA president Kim Scheppelle to investigate how rising autocrats use law to consolidate power and sideline their political opponents. This led to the establishment of the Project on Autocratic Legalism PAL. PAL initially worked as an LSAIRC and a pilot topical laboratory in the Association's Global Collaboration Program. PAL has produced comparative studies that began with Brazil, India, South Africa, Hungary, and the US and were expanded to cover several other countries and themes. This session showcases some of the studies currently being conducted by PAL contributors. The session focuses on studies of state transformation through law and legal culture in contexts of democratic backsliding.

Chair: Raquel Pimenta (FGV São Paulo Law School)

Discussant: Richard Abel (UCLA)

Participants: Mohsin Bhat (Queen Mary University of London), Defne Over (Texas A&M University), Marcio Cunha Filho (Brasília Institute for Public Law - IDP)

## **Paper Session: Debt and the Pursuit of Peace: Moral Economy and International Law**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Monroe 1 Boardroom**

When is debt illegitimate? How have empires used the sanctity of contracts to justify war over default? Is there such a thing as moral bankruptcy? Bringing together historians, international lawyers, and international relations scholars working on Latin America, South East Asia, and Europe, this panel, inspired by the publication of *Odious Debt: Bankruptcy, International Law, and the Making of Latin America* (OUP), will shed light on the complex global historical relationship between the resolution of international debt disputes and the law of nations. The global and comparative focus of this panel will stimulate transversal debates about the tensions between the end of empire, the pursuit of a moral economy, unilateral interventions and the principles of peace and justice embedded in international law.

Chair: Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School)

Discussant: Luis Eslava (La Trobe University)

Participants: Juan Pablo Scarfi (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Inge Van Hulle (KU Leuven), Edward Jones Corredera (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law)

## **Paper Session: Feminist & Queer Alternatives (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand Suite 1**

Queer and feminist methods have continuously sought to subvert conventional discourse and reveal an alternative that already exists. This panel extends those methods to reveal how it is possible to disrupt or destabilize conventional legalities to engage, perform and enact more



inclusive and prefigurative possibilities. However, as some argue here, we must also learn to listen or view how those changes are already occurring.

Chair/Discussant: Margherita Pieraccini (University of Bristol)

Participants: Fleur Ramsay (University of New South Wales), Sarah Ailwood (University of Wollongong), Cassandra Sharp (University of Wollongong), Martha Ertman, Nan Seuffert (University of Wollongong), Kathryn Temple (Georgetown University)

## **Paper Session: Fiscal Extractions: Tax, Bankruptcy, and Class Stratification**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand J**

This panel examines how tax and bankruptcy laws function as mechanisms of economic stratification and wealth extraction. The papers analyze various dimensions of fiscal inequality, including the seizure of anti-poverty tax credits in bankruptcy proceedings, the racialized dynamics of municipal debt collection, the class-based structure of tax codes and neoliberal conceptions of the fiscal social contract. The panel also explores how legal professionals navigate the growing political divisions within the profession and the tension between economic roles and political identities in contemporary legal practice. Together, these papers challenge conventional understandings of fiscal systems as neutral, exposing how courts, lawmakers, and administrative processes create legal architectures that differentially impact citizens based on class position.

Chair: Nicole Iannarone (Drexel University)

Discussant: Jaakko Salminen (Lund University)

Participants: Fernando Javier Loayza Jordán (Yale University), Mason Barnard (Princeton University), Kasey Henricks (University of Illinois at Chicago), Michael Sousa (University of Denver), Susannah Tahk (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

## **Roundtable: Hierarchies at Work: Race, World-Systems, and Legal Distribution (co-sponsored with CRN 8 & CRN 23)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand MN**

This roundtable reframes inequality, the future of work, and their intersection by thinking legal distribution together with racial capitalism and world-systems to unmask elisions and enable more complete analyses of the legal, historical, extractive, and distributive processes that entrench the world's great disparities in power, wealth, and work. Presenters will discuss their chapters in a new anthology titled *Hierarchies at Work: Race, World-Systems, and Legal Distribution* (Columbia UP 2025). Their contributions include chapters on the intellectual traditions/methods as well as on a range of sites of work and livelihood across geographies and temporalities.

Chair: Karen Engle (University of Texas at Austin)

Participants: Helena Alviar (Sciences Po), Vanja Hamzic (University of London), Neville Hoad (University of Texas at Austin), David Kennedy (Harvard University), Vasuki Nesiah (New York University), Kerry Rittich (University of Toronto)

## **Paper Session: Philanthropy, NGOs, and the Political Economy of Social Change**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Roosevelt 1A**

This panel examines the complex role of philanthropic organizations and social movements in pursuing justice through legal means. The papers analyze North-South power dynamics in human rights funding, philanthropic interventions in Brazilian food security, activists' strategic litigation to gain state power, compliance with international indigenous rights rulings, and neoliberal ideologies in nonprofit discourse. Together, they reveal how philanthropic and movement-based interventions are shaped by and reproduce political-economic hierarchies.

Chair: Yael Rimer-Cohen (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Discussant: Nnamdi Jogwe (New York University)

Participants: Laurel Fletcher (UC Berkeley), Isaac Dalke (UC Berkeley), Mariana Fontes (Universidade de São Paulo), Raquel Pimenta (FGV São Paulo Law School), Carolina Braglia Aloise Bertazolli (Central European University)

## **Business Meeting: CRN 55 Law and Political Economy Business Meeting**

**11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | Room: Grand E**

## **Paper Session: Prefiguring Sovereignty: Struggles over Land, Food, and Indigenous Legality (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand Suite 1**

People struggling for control over land, food, and indigenous sovereignty are not just fighting against dispossession, they are re-asserting identities, symbols, laws in ways that challenge while re-asserting their status. In this panel, participants examine how Indigenous peoples and people engaged in social movements from below engage with current legal arrangements while re-asserting alternative legalities in ways that transgress state borders and interject multiple conflicting jurisdictions.

Chair: Irina Ceric (University of Windsor)

Discussant: Dayna Scott (York University)

Participants: Nadia Lambek (Western University), Saptarshi Mandal (University of Kent), Rosemary Coombe (York University), Shaun Stevenson (Northern Lakes College), Jill Stauffer (Haverford College)

## **Paper Session: Age, Gender, and Vulnerability in Law**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Roosevelt 1A**

This panel examines how legal structures mediate age and gender-based vulnerabilities within political economic systems. The papers address the marginalization of children, elders, disabled individuals, queer people, and women through legal frameworks that reinforce power hierarchies and economic inequality. By integrating queer and critical feminist approaches, children's rights perspectives, and analyses of aging and disability, the panel explores how law simultaneously constructs, obscures, and potentially addresses systemic exploitation of marginalized or vulnerable populations across the lifecourse.

Chair: Leanna Katz (McGill University)

Discussant: Yael Rimer-Cohen (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Participants: Alexander Boni-Saenz (University of Minnesota), Andrew Milne (Suffolk University), Maj Grasten (Copenhagen Business School), Alexander Chen (Harvard University), Yukiko Kobayashi Lui (University of Toronto)

## **Paper Session: Autocratic Legalism II (co-sponsored with CRN 52)**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Grand F**

In 2019, a group of Global South scholars responded to the call made by the then-LSA president Kim Scheppelle to investigate how rising autocrats use law to consolidate power and sideline their political opponents. This led to the establishment of the Project on Autocratic Legalism PAL. PAL initially worked as an LSARC and a pilot topical laboratory in the Association's Global Collaboration Program. PAL has produced comparative studies that began with Brazil, India, South Africa, Hungary, and the US and were expanded to cover several other countries and themes. This session showcases some of the studies currently being conducted by PAL contributors. The session focuses on studies of state and societal transformation through law and legal culture in contexts of democratic backsliding.

Chair: Mohsin Bhat (Queen Mary University of London)

Discussant: Deniz Erkmen (Ozyegin University)

Participants: Eve Darian-Smith (UC Irvine), Deniz Erkmen (Ozyegin University), Danielle Lucksted (Stony Brook University), Sofia Rolim (FGV São Paulo Law School), Jeena Shah (CUNY)

## **Roundtable: Ethics and Advocacy: The Conservative Legal Movement After Populism (co-sponsored with CRN 21 & CRN 28)**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Randolph 1A**

With political and economic realignments observable in many quarters, the classic contours of the Conservative Legal Movement have undergone considerable pressure and change over the past decade. The rise of right-wing populism on the Right and embrace of neoliberal policies on the Left have re-inflected the very meanings of 'conservative', 'legal', and 'movement' for the next generation of lawyers and socio-legal scholars. Pulling together a diverse group of experts who study conservative legalisms broadly construed, this roundtable reflects on the contemporary ethics, strategies, and impacts of today's Conservative Legal Movement.

Chair: Connor Strobel (University of Chicago)

Participants: Paul Baumgardner (Princeton University), Robert Gelles (University of Chicago), Ann Southworth (UC Irvine), Riaz Tejani (University of Redlands)

## **Paper Session: International Legal Orders: Tensions Between Public Authority and Private Power**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Roosevelt 1B**

This panel examines how international legal frameworks mediate tensions between state sovereignty, transnational economic forces, and other forms of power. The papers analyze different domains where these dynamics play out: waste governance in international economic

law, investment arbitration as a form of bureaucratic justice, state counterstrategies against investor-state dispute settlement, the historical evolution of international economic legal orders, credit risk regulation's impact on developing economies, and informal dispute resolution in resource extraction contexts. Together, these analyses reveal how international legal frameworks reflect power relationships between states, corporations, international institutions, and marginalized local communities. They highlight tensions between public governance objectives and private economic interests that shape the development and implementation of law across different institutional contexts.

Chair/Discussant: Serena Natile (University of Warwick)

Participants: Roshni Chattopadhyay (Emory University), Joseph Conti (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Daniel Loebell (Northwestern University), Mikolaj Szafranski (Harvard University)

## **Roundtable: Law and Political Economy in Latin America**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Grand MN**

This roundtable seeks to expand the methodological and theoretical scope of Law and Political Economy scholarship drawing on the work that has been conducted by scholars in Latin America. This is particularly relevant as critical issues faced by Latin American countries—such as inflation, inequality, authoritarianism, and developmental challenges now resonate prominently on the agendas of other nations, including in the Global North. Our discussion seeks to move away from explanations that too often portray Latin America's policies and regulatory choices as mere implementation failures of standards formulated elsewhere, using the LPE framework to uncover the institutional dimensions and the power relations that animate these choices and policies, asking who wins and who loses in these arrangements, and who has decision-making power.

Chair: Mario Schapiro (FGV São Paulo Law School)

Participants: Diogo Coutinho (University of São Paulo), Beatriz Kira (University of Sussex), Jedidiah Kroncke (The University of Hong Kong), Raquel Pimenta (FGV São Paulo Law School)

## **Paper Session: The Prefigurative Practices of Sovereign Citizens (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

Much contemporary research on prefigurative legality turns to left-leaning activists for ethnographic insights into practices that call forward an alternative legal world. In this panel, we turn instead to a right-leaning movement commonly known as the Pseudolaw movement or sovereign citizen movement, filled with loosely affiliated groups that share a common ideological approach to law. Panelists discuss the underlying logics motivating right-wing world-making practices and whether they are usefully described as a form of a prefigurative legality.

Chair/Discussant: Meghan Morris (Temple University)

Participants: Stephen Young (University of Otago, New Zealand), Karen Petroski (St. Louis University), Amy Cohen (Temple University), Paul Passavant (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

# Saturday, May 24, 2025

## **Paper Session: Radical Politics and the Possibilities of Performativity (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Roosevelt 2 Board**

This panel on radical politics (dealing with practical instances as diverse as protests, boycotts, encampments, letter writing campaigns as well as theories of the performative) invites us to consider anew the possibilities of the performative and to reclaim its powers of inauguration.

Chair/Discussant: Ayten Gundogdu (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Participants: Rachel Lopez (Temple University), Michiel Bot (Tilburg University), Bonnie Honig (Brown University), Tor Krever (University of Cambridge), Irina Ceric (University of Windsor)

## **Paper Session: Law and Political Economy of Regulatory Governance: Contested Institutions and Democratic Accountability**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand Suite 1**

This panel examines the contested spaces of regulatory governance across diverse political and economic contexts. The papers investigate how regulatory institutions navigate competing pressures from political actors, market forces, and democratic imperatives. Topics include political circumvention of regulatory agencies in Brazil, dismantling of food security regulation during democratic backsliding, governmental ownership as a tool to reinforce the administrative state, technology companies' construction of safety practices, and interest group lobbying in relation to political equality. Together, these analyses reveal the complex power dynamics that shape regulatory outcomes and offer insights into strengthening democratic accountability in regulatory systems.

Chair: Beatriz Kira (University of Sussex)

Discussant: Luke Norris (University of Richmond)

Participants: Alon Jasper (New York University), Mario Schapiro (FGV São Paulo Law School), Chris Havasy (Penn State)

## **Paper Session: Negotiating Production and Reproduction During the Twentieth Century: US and Mexico Compared (co-sponsored with CRN 44)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand J**

Social, cultural, and economic histories have increasingly illuminated labor's transformation in the rapidly evolving societies of the 20th century. However, most have primarily focused on a single nation. Whereas this allows for a deep analysis, it often misses how the case study represents more significant trends. This panel aims to overcome this shortcoming by presenting two case studies and putting them into conversation: Mexico and the US. By thinking about these in conjunction, we strive to illuminate discrepancies and overlaps to further our understanding of the modernization process differentially experienced by North Americans in the 20th century. Moreover, given their geographical, economic, and demographic embeddedness, comparing them can elucidate how internal factors connect with their neighbor's processes.

Chair/Discussant: Juan Wilson (University of Chicago)

Participants: Juan Wilson (University of Chicago), Natalia Niedmann Alvarez (University of Chicago), Daniel Quintanilla Castro (University of Chicago), Maniza Ahmed (University of Chicago), James Bradley (University of Chicago)

### **Paper Session: Prefiguring International Law: Coalitions, Tribunals, and Peoples' Power (co-sponsored with CRN 23 & CRN 50)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Randolph 1B**

In this panel, participants examine the ways people have attempted or are currently attempting to reconfigure international law and justice. Participants consider the role of tribunals, international courts, buildings or platforms, as a means of complementing institutionalised processes and supplementing deficiencies in justice. These alternative forums have been platforms and bridges for reimagining justice for humans as well as the 'more than human' world. Some of these historical attempts have even influenced the way we currently conceive of prefiguration.

Chair/Discussant: Monica Iyer (Georgia State University)

Participants: Alexis Alvarez-Nakagawa (Queen Mary University of London), Serena Natile (University of Warwick), Hannah Franzki (Free University Berlin)

### **Paper Session: Racial Equality Scholarship Panel (co-sponsored with CRN 12 & CRN 21)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand F**

This panel will showcase racial justice scholarship presented by early career scholars, followed by commentary from two distinguished discussants. The discussion will explore a range of critical topics, including: (1) reforming criminal law to better protect people with disabilities; (2) adopting a more critical perspective on witness testimony; (3) enhancing participation for marginalized communities in algorithmic governance; (4) examining Derrick Bell's interest convergence theory to assess racial justice strategies; and (5) fostering more inclusive approaches to intergenerational legal reasoning.

Chair/Discussant: Fred Smith (Emory University)

Participants: Alexis Hoag-Fordjour (Brooklyn Law School), Jamelia Morgan (Northwestern University), Daniel Harawa (New York University), Yuvraj Joshi (Brooklyn Law School), Ngozi Okidegbe (Boston University)

### **Roundtable: Speculative Law Reform and Thinking with Davina Cooper (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand E**

Reimagining policy change through law has taken off through feminist, wild law and other judgment projects, now accompanied by legislative projects, designing and prototyping future-facing legal principles. This roundtable focuses on the uses and pitfalls of speculative law reform projects, drawing on Davina Cooper's example of a recent four-year research project to 'decertify' (abolish) legal sex and gender status. Taking up law's form, even with revisions, comes



with challenges. Should legal simulations remain in the terrain of what is pragmatically possible or reach towards more ambitious transformations? If transformation requires actions in fields other than law, what contribution can speculative law reform make? Are speculative law reforms real or fictions? Who do they belong to? And what can they accomplish?

Chair: Amy Cohen (Temple University)

Participants: Amna Akbar (Ohio State University), Swethaa Ballakrishnen (UC Irvine), Ben Golder (University of New South Wales), Bronwen Morgan (University of New South Wales)

## **Paper Session: The Corporate Capture of Legal Institutions**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand I**

This panel explores how legal institutions serve and are shaped by corporate and capital interests. The papers examine federal courts' structural favoritism toward corporate litigants, the historical evolution of corporate charter regulation, the rulemaking incentives of privatized stock exchanges, the discursive rise of regulatory arbitrage as a legitimizing concept, and how political parties' ideologies affect judicial independence. Together, they reveal the mutually constitutive relationship between legal institutions and capital, highlighting how law often reinforces rather than constrains corporate power.

Chair/Discussant: James Tierney (Chicago-Kent College of Law)

Participants: Jonathan Chausovsky (SUNY Fredonia), Alice Timken (Syracuse University), James Tierney (Chicago-Kent College of Law), Ian Murray (Tulane University)

## **Paper Session: Law, Systems of Governance and Attitudes Towards Difference (co-sponsored with CRN 3 & CRN 48)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand Suite 2A**

Systems of governance- whether formal or informal, state or non-state -directly and indirectly impact how institutions, communities, and individuals manage, accommodate, or (dis)empower difference. We approach pluralism-legal, religious or cultural-not as a fixed liberal norm, but as a lived practice that reflects diverse attitudes and politics processing differences coexisting in a shared polity. Using empirical cases of pluralism in action, we seek to undo the rigidity embedded in this concept as a liberal ideal, which often renders it ineffective for empirical analysis due to the reduction its normative homogeneity creates. Using ethnographic methods, this panel explores how governance systems shape, maintain, and disrupt the way people imagine and navigate spaces of differences. It further explores dismantling existing categories.

Chair: Myungji Lee (University of Chicago)

Discussant: Lucia Kula (University of London)

Participants: Pierre Spielwoy (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle), Myungji Lee (University of Chicago), Aleem Bharwani (University of Calgary), Maggie Woodruff (UC Irvine), Fatima Dhanani (University of London), Cecilee Glaus Jones (University of London)

## **Paper Session: Prefiguring Feminist Constitutions and International Human Rights (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand MN**

Because feminist legal studies aim to improve law for women through, inter alia, practical intervention in existing constitutional and rights-based orders, much feminist scholarship is knowingly constrained by liberalism's inherent gendered exclusions. Feminists participating in these processes grapple with masculinist expectations. This panel celebrates such feminist work conducted within liberal constraints, whilst focusing on the potential of imaginative and experimental new legal methods. Centring prefiguration and acting 'as if' as a method of drafting, design and advocacy, this project explores how a prefigurative feminist approach might apply to real and ongoing constitutional and human rights debates.

Chair/Discussant: Ben Golder (University of New South Wales)

Participants: Aoife M O'Donoghue (Queen's University, Belfast), Catherine O'Rourke (Durham University), Kay Lalor (Manchester Metropolitan University), Mairead Enright (University of Birmingham)

## **Paper Session: Recreating and Reconfiguring the State (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand Suite 2B**

The state has not always existed. Even today, when the state is all but universalized, attempts to elide, recreate and reconfigure it abound. This panel considers some of those attempts and their different manifestations. Whether it is a revolution and democratic confederalism, 'delusions of sovereignty', peoples' conventions, staking a claim to constitutionalism, or invoking law from below, participants explore the multiple, ongoing projects for thinking about the state and its others.

Chair/Discussant: Karen Zivi (Grand Valley State University)

Participants: Randi Irwin (University of Newcastle), Daniel Epstein (University of Chicago), Daniel Fernandez (University of Chicago), Alexis Ian Dela Cruz (Tilburg University)

## **Roundtable: Tenant Unions and Housing Justice (co-sponsored with CRN 21)**

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

As housing precarity becomes increasingly widespread, tenant unions have emerged as a critical form of collective resistance. This roundtable convenes scholars and practitioners to explore the evolving relationship between the law and tenant unions, focusing on how legal frameworks can both support and challenge efforts for tenant unions to achieve housing justice. These organizations mobilize tenants to fight for their rights, negotiate fairer terms, and advocate for systemic change. Yet, their effectiveness often hinges on navigating a legal landscape that can be both a source of support and an arena of contention. The discussion will delve into how to fortify tenant union tactics through legal reform, the courts as a terrain of struggle, and the connection between tenant organizing and expanded access to affordable housing.

Chair: Greg Baltz (Rutgers University)



Participants: Julie Gilgoff (Indiana University), Shai Karp (Northwestern University), Jamila Michener (Cornell University), Fran Quigley (Indiana University)

### **Roundtable: Gender and Political Economy (co-sponsored with CRN 6 & CRN 7)**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Michigan 1A**

This roundtable brings together a group of legal scholars whose projects concern Gender and Political Economy. Drawing from critical legal thought (including American legal realist and post-realist traditions), sociological and historical analyses of social reproduction, critical race theory and racial capitalism, postcolonial history and theory, and feminism and queer theory, they discuss methods for assessing legal rules and architectures as distributional mechanisms that affect social groups defined by gender, race, class, and sexuality. While liberal ideology imagines law as an external regulatory force, the approach here understands law to constitute economies, families, corporations, and other institutions of governance.

Chair: Chantal Thomas (Cornell University)

Participants: Helena Alviar (Sciences Po), Kerry Rittich (University of Toronto), Nicole Stybna (Harvard University), Yiran Zhang (Cornell University)

### **Paper Session: Using the Master's Tools? (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**2:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

This panel asks how people construct alternative, solidaristic, and counter-legality as means of chipping away at large-scale systems of public and private power. Panellists consider how a range of social movement actors decide not to reject law or disobey it but instead reinterpret it from below for counter-hegemonic ends. Cases consider laws criminalizing migration, collective action, and abortion, as well as how people use imaginative legal strategies to change the rules governing wage labour and policing.

Chair/Discussant: Matthew Canfield (Leiden University)

Participants: Leonard Feldman (Hunter College - CUNY), Ayten Gundogdu (Barnard College, Columbia University), Cigdem Cidam (Union College), Rachel Rebouche (Temple University), Jocelyn Simonson (Brooklyn Law School), Zohra Ahmed (Boston University), T.J. Mertikas (UC Berkeley), Sameer Ashar (UC Irvine)

### **Roundtable: Assessing Economic Sanctions (co-sponsored with CRN 23)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

Unilateral sanctions are an increasingly prevalent form of coercion in international politics yet their legality is deeply contested. Left politics has an ambivalent relationship to sanctions. While the use of sanctions in the course of the campaign against apartheid in South Africa continues to inspire contemporary political movements — notably that against Israel's apartheid, occupation and genocide — critics have increasingly framed unilateral sanctions as contemporary forms of imperialist siege warfare and as incompatible with sovereign equality. This roundtable brings together critics and advocates of sanctions to consider the legal, ethical, and political principles

that can guide us in assessing sanctions regimes and navigating the tensions involved in both critiquing and advocating sanctions.

Participants: J. Benton Heath (Temple University), Ata Hindi (Tulane University), Maryam Jamshidi (University of Florida), Jeena Shah (CUNY School of Law), Jessica Whyte (University of New South Wales)

### **Paper Session: Lawfare in the Digital Age and Its Socio-Economic Impacts (co-sponsored with CRN 36 & CRN 47)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand D North**

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Neurotechnology in Law has triggered phenomena such as Lawfare to take on new forms, going beyond the use of the Judiciary to persecute political enemies, as happened with Lula da Silva, when he was prevented from running in the presidential elections in Brazil in 2018. Currently, new manifestations of Lawfare, such as the use of AI to file predatory lawsuits or the use of neurotechnology to identify and persecute certain individuals, have become increasingly frequent, generating not only situations of manifest unconstitutionality, but also considerable socioeconomic impacts. In this context, our session aims to discuss the construction of ethical and legal parameters to address this situation.

Chair/Discussant: Ana Maria Lopes (Universidade de Fortaleza)

Participants: Roberto Guilherme Leitão (General Attorney of the Union), Ana Maria Lopes (Universidade de Fortaleza), Martonio Barreto Lima (Universidade de Fortaleza), Janna Da Nobrega (University of Murcia), Antonio Jorge Pereira Junior (Universidade de Fortaleza)

### **Paper Session: Novel, or More of the Same? Exploring the Political Economy of Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Firms (co-sponsored with CRN 37)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Michigan 3**

How are AI and Information Technology firms integrating with extant legal, political, and economic norms and structures of American political economy? Are these firms unique, such that existing regulatory frameworks are inapplicable or otherwise ill-fitting? Or are the concerns about their novelty, and the regulatory challenges it poses overblown? Our panel will historicize and analyze recent developments in AI/IT in four arenas of American political economy: the industrial economy of energy required for AI's massive data and computational demands; the (anti)competitive consequences of the AI industry's dependence on trade secret protections; the deployment of AI tools in restructuring the organization, and thus the control, of the workplace; and the impact of the industry on the individual under the evolving attention economy.

Chair/Discussant: Anna Zaret

Participants: Dorna Mohaghegh (UC Berkeley), Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley; Journal of Law and Political Economy), William Darwall (UC Berkeley), Isabella Mariani (UC Berkeley)

### **Paper Session: Reimagining the Law through Cultural Expressions: Panel 1 (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand MN**

The ability to imagine legal alternatives can take many forms, from theatre to novels, poetry to 'true crime podcasts'. These two panels consider how some of those forms depict law in society, alternative legal narratives, and other forms of social justice. Attending to these cultural manifestations of law generates the ability to imagine the future differently. It also reveals features of contemporary law, policy, and the theatres of social reproduction.

Chair/Discussant: Ralph Grunewald (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Participants: Oladayo Koleola (University of Ibadan), James Ball (Texas A&M University), Dale Mitchell (University of the Sunshine Coast), Sora Han (UC Irvine)

### **Paper Session: Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times: International Law, Critique and Structural Change (co-sponsored with CRN 17 & CRN 23)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand F**

How should legal scholars articulate critique in catastrophic times? Should critical voices tone it down, when faced with deteriorating social conditions, growing inequality, protracted violence, planetary collapse, authoritarianism, and xenophobia? Or, are they more urgently needed than ever? Critical scholarship has long warned of the limits of international law, and its complicity with structures and relations of domination. Yet, contemporary catastrophes have led to its revitalisation as a language of both expert counsel and political demand, drowning out calls for structural change for the sake of realism and stability. Focusing on questions of nature, economy, and borders, this panel explores the potential of international law to be used in pursuit of emancipatory politics and much-needed structural change.

Chair: Tor Krever (University of Cambridge)

Discussant: Vasuki Nesiah (New York University)

Participants: Lys Kulamadayil (Geneva Graduate Institute), Arpitha Kodiveri (Vassar College), Allison Lindner (University College London), Hannah Birkenkoetter (ITAM), Praggya Surana (Geneva Graduate Institute)

### **Paper Session: The Prefigurative Practices of Private Law (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | Room: Grand E**

In the face of system-wide, historical, structurally entrenched inequalities, how do individuals fight back? Participants on this panel investigate how people play with contract to produce horizontal forms of self-governance and DIY reparations, and how they play with property to reimagine commons, land use, and both emancipatory and paranoid forms of community. Overall, this panel investigates the ambiguities and potentials for prefigurative legality across borders and in new spheres of influence that transgress private and public domains.

Chair/Discussant: Amy Cohen (Temple University)

Participants: Margherita Pieraccini (University of Bristol), Martijn Hesselink (European University Institute), Madalyn Hay (University of Toronto), Meghan Morris (Temple University)

# Sunday, May 25, 2025

## **Roundtable: Taking Economics Seriously: Responding to Law and Economics Critiques of Law and Political Economy Analysis**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand I**

The recently growing interest in 'Law and Political Economy' (LPE) challenges the stronghold of 'Law and Economics' as a preeminent, depoliticized method for rational analysis of law and its societal effects. In response, George Mason's Law and Economics Center has funded a series of papers aimed at debating LPE and defending the potential of free markets, classical liberalism, and capitalism to guide law and society toward human well-being. To engage this debate, this roundtable brings together LPE scholars with expertise in closely examining diverging ideas about both economy and law. We aim to take seriously the critiques of LPE to strengthen LPE's intellectual rigor and practical power as well as to clarify tensions within the approach.

Participants: Zachary Hale (John Jay - CUNY), Martha McCluskey (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Jamee Moudud (Sarah Lawrence College), Lucas Osborne (UC Berkeley; Journal of Law and Political Economy), Eric Scorsone (University of Virginia)

## **Paper Session: The Law and Politics of Annexation and Separation in Israel/Palestine (co-sponsored with CRN 15 & CRN 23)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Grand J**

In its Advisory Opinion on the legal consequence of Israel's practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the International Court of Justice has recently accounted for the illegality of Israel's annexation, defined as 'the forcible acquisition by the occupying power of the territory that it occupies and its integration into the territory of the occupying power' (Par. 158). The four papers of the Panel zoom in on processes of annexation and expansion of colonial control in Israel/Palestine and on their underling historical trajectories from colonial wars to occupation, apartheid, and genocide.

Chair: Lys Kulamadayil (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Discussant: Smadar Ben-Natan (University of Oregon)

Participants: Karin Loevy (New York University), Aeyal Gross (Tel-Aviv University), Hilla Dayan (Amsterdam University College), Smadar Ben-Natan (University of Oregon)

## **Paper Session: Theory and Ethnography of Legal Form (co-sponsored with CRN 3 & CRN 17)**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Room: Michigan 1B**

Legal anthropologists have provided numerous ethnographic insights into the everyday workings of law. Yet these accounts rarely theoretically address the law's formal distinctiveness, relying instead on an undertheorized separation between 'law' and 'society.' This panel proposes to address this issue by drawing on the work of Soviet jurist Evgeny Pashukanis, whose writings on legal form as a historically specific expression of social relations have recently garnered renewed interest among legal theorists. By fostering dialogue between anthropologists and legal theorists,

we seek to advance empirical and theoretical understanding of law as a distinct socio-cultural phenomenon. Participants will offer interdisciplinary perspectives on how legal form is reproduced and contested across different contexts.

Chair: Matthew Canfield (Leiden University)

Discussant: Deepa Das Acevedo (Emory University)

Participants: Grigory Gorbun (University of Chicago), Matthew Dimick (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Darryl Li (University of Chicago)

### **Roundtable: Preparing for the Fourth Reconstruction: Understanding Past Failures, Current Barriers, and Bold Strategies for Building a Multiracial Democracy (co-sponsored with CRN 12 & CRN 44)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Michigan 1C**

The United States is undergoing a political crisis: trust in democratic institutions has dropped precipitously, the integrity of political processes is under attack, and the possibility of administrative capture looms in the distance. The Third Reconstruction is winding down due to regressive backlashes, most evident in the recent 'anti-CRT,' and 'anti-DEI' measures passed in states across the country, as well as a surge in the dissemination of projects and ideas designed to undermine our political and educational institutions. I hope this roundtable discussion creates a space to identify the concrete, necessary, structural reforms and cultural narratives needed to achieve the Fourth Reconstruction. Thus, this discussion invites conversation about bold legal innovations and public education.

Chair: Jahdziah St. Julien (NAACP Legal Defense Fund - Thurgood Marshall Institute)

Participants: Janel George (Georgetown University), Kesha Moore (NAACP Legal Defense Fund - Thurgood Marshall Institute), Jahdziah St. Julien (NAACP Legal Defense Fund - Thurgood Marshall Institute)

### **Roundtable: Race, Care, and Capitalism (co-sponsored with CRN 7 & CRN 21)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Michigan 1A**

This roundtable will address critical questions of race, care, and political economy. Common conceptions of political economy define 'economy' in traditional terms, as a space organized by market transactions or 'productive' activity. This tends to render socially reproductive activity invisible as part of our economic order. And definitions of the economy that see it as part of a formal domain of contractual relations also obscure the relationship between the economy and coercive power, including of the carceral state. This group of scholars will discuss how we build a more sophisticated and contemporary conception of political economy, informed by feminist and critical race theory, as well as how we should approach the question of movements and emancipation in relation to law.

Chair: Zohra Ahmed (Boston University)

Participants: Corinne Blalock (Law and Political Economy Project), Veena Dubal (UC Irvine), Sean Hill (Ohio State University), Noah Zatz (UCLA)

## **Paper Session: Reimagining the Law through Cultural Expressions: Panel 2 (co-sponsored with CRN 50)**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand MN**

The ability to imagine legal alternatives can take many forms, from theatre to novels, poetry to 'true crime podcasts'. These two panels consider how some forms depict law in society, alternative legal narratives, and other forms of social justice. Attending to these cultural manifestations of law generates the ability to imagine the future differently. It also reveals features of contemporary law, policy, and the theatres of social reproduction.

Chair/Discussant: James Ball (Texas A&M University)

Participants: Julie Stone Peters (Columbia University), Ralph Grunewald (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Margaret deGuzman (Temple University)

## **Paper Session: Spatial Justice: Housing, Urban Development, and the Political Economy of Place**

**10:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Room: Grand F**

This panel examines how legal structures shape urban spaces and housing markets while reinforcing social hierarchies. It critically addresses how law mediates access to space and resources in ways that reproduce economic stratification. The papers investigate various dimensions of spatial inequality, including foreclosure courts' role in mortgage markets, the relationship between gentrification and incarceration, community legal mobilization against urban development projects, legal constraints on resource activation, legal alienation in post-industrial cities, and the political economy of police violence through monetary sanctions and municipal debt. Together, these papers explore how legal and financial mechanisms contribute to spatial injustice and socioeconomic inequality in urban environments.

Chair: Shai Karp (Northwestern University)

Discussants: Julie Gilgoff (Indiana University), Guanchi Zhang (Vermont Law and Graduate School)

Participants: Sarah Riley (Cornell University), Jessica Zhang (Vera Institute of Justice), Walker Kahn (Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy), Nate Ela (Temple University), Tara Mulqueen (University of Warwick), Stephen Wulff (The University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Tucker Reyes (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Jonas Adams (University at Buffalo, SUNY)



# LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY CRN PROGRAM COMMITTEE



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# THE LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY COLLECTIVE

CRN 55 is supported by the Global LPE Network, which is part of the **LPE Collective**.

The LPE Collective reflects nearly two decades of member-driven institution building, uniting three key hubs of interdisciplinary research: ClassCrits, APPEAL, and the Global Law and Political Economy Network, along with the peer-reviewed *Journal of Law and Political Economy*.

## **APPEAL**

Since 2013, the Association for Promotion of Political Economy & Law (APPEAL) has organized interdisciplinary workshops and activities exploring the ideology and structure of law, economy, money, and power. APPEAL's events especially seek to engage heterodox economists and policy professionals with questions of law.

## **ClassCrits**

Founded in 2007, ClassCrits holds an annual conference with the goals of advancing critical legal analysis and addressing economic class and multiple intersecting forms of subordination.

## **Global LPE Network**

In the spirit of interdisciplinarity, inclusiveness, and international intellectual development, the Global LPE Network supports LPE events and the development of LPE initiatives and organizations around the world, including: the Collaborative Research Network on Law and Political Economy (CRN 55), LPE-themed panels at the annual conferences of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), and collaboration with the LPE Research Stream at the annual conference of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE).

## **Journal of Law and Political Economy**

The *Journal of Law and Political Economy* (JLPE) is the flagship peer-reviewed journal for the burgeoning field of Law and Political Economy. Its central goals are to explore power in all of its manifestations, and the relationship of law to power.

<https://escholarship.org/uc/lawandpoliticaleconomy>

## **SSRN eJournal on Law and Political Economy**

The Law and Political Economy (LPE) eJournal distributes working and accepted papers that examine law, politics, and economics as interrelated systems of contested power. The eJournal provides a forum for interdisciplinary scholarship engaged with LPE as a distinct and evolving field of study. <https://bit.ly/LPEejrnl>



### LPE Collective Opportunities:

- **Call for Submissions**: Emerging Scholar Writing Workshop, July 8, 2025 at McGill Law School, directly preceding the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) annual conference. <https://bit.ly/ESWW7825>
- **Call for Submissions**: *Journal of Law and Political Economy*. Articles, essays, and book reviews are considered on a rolling basis. Submissions are welcome via Scholastica or eScholarship.
- **"What is Capitalism?" Reading & Discussion Group**: Join APPEAL's monthly online discussion sessions. Suggest readings, present your works-in-progress, or join the mailing list to learn about upcoming meetings: [appeal@politicaleconomylaw.org](mailto:appeal@politicaleconomylaw.org).
- **ClassCrits XV**: Save the date for the 15th Annual ClassCrits conference, to be held at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 20-21, 2026.
- **Heterodox Economics Meets Law and Political Economy Workshop Series**: Features discussions of student research and insights into current issues from leading scholars.
- **LPE Summer Academy**: Intensive mentoring and networking workshops produced in collaboration with other international academic organizations. Recent locations have included Roccella, Italy (2025); University of Rome (2023); and University of Manchester (2019).
- **LPE Streams and Conference Panels**: Attend programming organized by the Law and Political Economy Research Stream at the [European Association of Evolutionary Political Economy \(EAEPE\) Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2025, Athens, Greece](#). Attend LPE-related panels at the [Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics \(SASE\) meeting to be held in Montreal from July 9-12, 2025](#).
- **Call for Submissions**: [SSRN eJournal on Law and Political Economy](#). Upload abstracts for consideration via SSRN.

Learn more about all of the above at [lpecollective.org](http://lpecollective.org) and write to [admin@lpecollective.org](mailto:admin@lpecollective.org) if you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives.

# OTHER LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES

## **Law & Political Economy in Latin America**

LPE in Latin America aims to strengthen and foster theoretical and methodological debates about Law and Political Economy within the Latin American context while also expanding the global reach of LPE research originating in the region, drawing on crucial debates that have long engaged Latin American scholars to contribute to the advancement of LPE scholarship. To learn more about other LPE events and opportunities in Latin America contact [lpelatam@gmail.com](mailto:lpelatam@gmail.com).

## **Law & Political Economy in Europe**

LPE in Europe is a movement that brings together academics and civil society participants to create a community that is actively involved in legal mobilization and harnesses the potential of law for social transformation. Core areas of focus are the energy transition, housing, the food system, monetary governance, and monopoly. Visit <https://lpeineurope.org/about> to learn more about LPE in Europe.

## **The Law and Political Economy Project**

The LPE Project brings together scholars, practitioners, and students working to develop innovative intellectual, pedagogical, and political interventions to advance the study of political economy and law. Visit [www.lpeproject.org](http://www.lpeproject.org) to access a variety of materials, including video recordings of the panels and presentations, the new online Anti-Monopoly and Regulated Industries Academy, and the LPE Blog at [www.lpeproject.org/blog](http://www.lpeproject.org/blog).

## **The Program on Law and Political Economy at Harvard Law School**

The Program on Law and Political Economy at Harvard Law School is designed to foster a vibrant intellectual community of students and faculty, and to train students and entry-level academics to think about political economy as an integral part of law. Visit [www.lpe.law.harvard.edu](http://www.lpe.law.harvard.edu) to learn more about the project.

# Become a Member of the LPE Collective.

Membership benefits include:

- Networking and professional development opportunities
- A digital subscription to the *Journal of Law and Political Economy*
- Access to members-only office hours and mentoring sessions
- Discounted registration fee to the ClassCrits annual conference
- Opportunities to serve on LPE-C Advisory Committees

Join as a member at <https://lpecollective.org/join>



