

Announcing new Baldy fellows, current Baldy fellows earn new positions, faculty scholarship, and upcoming conferences



Issue 11 | School of Law

Advancing Interdisciplinary Legal Scholarship since 1978



A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share this update on recent developments at the Baldy Center. We have had a great spring semester, with a series of excellent talks and conferences. Next fall, we welcome four new Baldy Fellows in Interdisciplinary Studies, host a cornucopia of interesting conferences, and support many interesting new research projects. The Law School will also welcome a new dean, Aviva Abramovsky, and a number of our current and past fellows will take up new positions at other universities.

I wish those of you in the northern hemisphere a rejuvenating summer and those in the southern hemisphere a fulfilling academic year. I hope to see many of you in Mexico City next month for the Joint International Meetings of the Law and Society Association, Research Committee on the Sociology of Law, Canadian Law and Society Association, Japanese Association of Sociology of Law, and Socio-Legal Studies Association.

Cordially,

Errol Meidinger, Director

Recent News

New Baldy Center Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Fellows

The Baldy Center is pleased to announce the next group of [Fellows in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies](#). Baldy Postdoctoral Fellows are highly promising scholars who have completed their Ph.D.s and/or J.D.s, but have not yet commenced tenure track positions. Mid-Career and Senior

Fellows are established scholars who carry out research and participate in the scholarly community at the Center, typically during a sabbatical or research leave.

Postdoctoral Fellows



Amanda Hughett, 2017-19, is currently a Law and Social Sciences Doctoral Fellow at the American Bar Foundation and a Ph.D. Candidate in History at Duke University. Her dissertation documents how **civil liberties lawyers' efforts to secure procedural protections for inmates during the 1970s unintentionally undermined imprisoned activists'**

ability to organize and to secure more substantive victories. It begins by tracing the emergence of a surprisingly successful interracial movement to unionize incarcerated workers in North Carolina and across the nation. The project then reveals how prison administrators who at first opposed procedural protections for inmates used them, once created, to defeat **prisoners' more sweeping demands by portraying their institutions as modern bureaucracies** that complied with the rule of law. In so doing, her work illuminates the limitations of individual rights claims in the postwar era while helping to explain why American prisons continue to punish more harshly than their counterparts in any Western country. At the Baldy Center, Amanda will revise her dissertation into a book manuscript tentatively titled *Silencing the Cell Block: The Making of Modern Prison Policy in North Carolina and the Nation*.



David McNamee, 2017-19 Postdoctoral Fellow, earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and is completing a Ph.D. in Politics at Princeton University. **David's project is called "The Citizens' Constitution."** He argues for citizens' responsibility to directly participate in constitutional interpretation in certain roles—as voters and jurors, litigants and

disobedients, partisans and deliberators. This theory sheds new light on the old idea of the **Constitution as fundamental law. The Constitution's basic principles are beyond the power of institutions to alter, are accessible to citizens' common reason, and ground our** disagreements while inviting ongoing interpretive debate. By participating in this ongoing interpretive argument, citizens bring their fundamental law closer into alignment with the ideal of law that is self-given. This line of inquiry suggests institutional reforms to better realize these values of interpretive participation, such as juries' power to find fundamental law as well as a responsibility to give reasons for their decisions. At the Baldy Center, David will aim to develop this project as both a book manuscript and in several articles spelling out its institutional and doctrinal implications.

Senior Fellows



Nora V. Demleitner, 2017-18 Senior Fellow, is Roy L. Steinheimer Jr. Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University in Virginia, where she previously served as dean of the law school. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute, the European Law Institute, and the International Academy of Comparative Law. She has authored over sixty articles, published in leading U.S. law journals, is the lead author of *Sentencing Law and Policy* (Wolters Kluwer), and an editor of the *Federal Sentencing Reporter*. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and holds an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown Law Center. Her Baldy Center research will outline the pressing need to dismantle mass imprisonment and provide proposals on how to achieve that goal. It is based on personal, theoretical, and practical accounts of the U.S. criminal justice system, which engulfs everyone and taints all with its inhumanity. The work **builds on Demleitner's comparative work in criminal justice, sentencing, and post-sentence collateral consequences.**



Antonio María Hernández, 2017-18 Senior Fellow, is Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of Public Provincial Law and Municipal Law at the National University of Córdoba and Director of the Institute of Federalism of the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Córdoba University. He is currently Honorary President of the National Association of Constitutional Law of Argentina and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies. He has authored and co-authored over fifty books on constitutional law, federalism, state constitutional law and municipal law. He holds a Ph.D. in Law and Social Sciences from the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. His Baldy Center research will be to study and write on a constitutional comparative vision on American and Argentinian federations. Using an interdisciplinary approach, he will analyze the similarities and differences between the two, taking into account that the model for the original Argentina Constitution of 1853 was the Philadelphia Constitution of 1787. This research will build on Hernández previous work comparing Mexican and Argentinian federalism.

David Engel to Receive Law and Society Association Prize



University at Buffalo and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor [David Engel](#) will be honored with the Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize, the [Law & Society Association](#)'s highest honor in recognition of his record of pioneering scholarship in interdisciplinary legal studies at the [annual meeting in Mexico City](#). Professor Engel joined the Buffalo faculty in 1981 and served as Director of the Baldy Center from 1992 to 2001. His scholarship has covered various sociolegal issues in the U.S., Asia, and beyond, including disputing practices and behavior, legal meaning making, rights as social practice, and the gap

between law in theory and law in practice. His most recent book, [The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why We Don't Sue](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2016), counters claims the U.S. suffers from excessive litigation through examination of why most American injury victims never lodge a claim against their injurers. [Read More](#)

University at Buffalo School of Law Names New Dean



The University at Buffalo [School of Law](#) recently announced [Aviva Abramovsky](#) will take over leadership of the law school in July. Abramovsky is currently Associate Dean for International Initiatives and Kaufman Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Syracuse University College of Law, where she teaches classes in insurance law, commercial transactions, and professional responsibility. At Syracuse, she led initiatives to create multiple new programs: Master of Laws, two-year Juris Doctor program for international lawyers, a visiting scholars and researchers program, an international student exchange program, and a legal English pre-matriculation program. She also co-directs the college's [Law in London program](#) allowing second and third-year law students to study comparative law. Abramovsky will succeed Interim Dean James A. Gardner, who will return to his post as professor.

Baldy Center Hosts Workshop on Emerging Issues in Oceanic Law



On February 23rd-24th, the Baldy Center hosted a two-day workshop that examined the limits of legal frameworks rooted in humanistic and terrestrial assumptions. The event, "[Ocean Legalities: The Law and the Life of the Sea](#)," brought together legal scholars, geographers, anthropologists, sociologists, environmental scholars, and historians to expose the biopolitical hierarchies naturalized through modes of classification and operation through exploration of a new subject of inquiry: ocean legalities. The collaborative work demonstrated how the unique material and symbolic dynamics of the sea—and the life within it—force us to question our systems of governance, our modes of regulation, and our administration of conservation regimes. Whether written from an animal rights, animal welfare, or environmental law perspective, existing legal scholarship on non-humans typically values organisms "big like us"—large, terrestrial, and vertebrate. Work presented interrogated these tendencies, exposing the biopolitical hierarchies naturalized through their modes of classification and operation by exploring a new subject of inquiry: ocean legalities. The workshop was organized by UB's William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law [Irus Braverman](#) and Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies [Elizabeth R. Johnson](#) and involved presentations by anthropologist [Stefan Helmreich](#) (MIT), geographer [Berit Kristoffersen](#) (University of Tromsø), and gender and cultural

studies scholar [Astrida Neimanis](#) (University of Sydney).

[Read More](#)

Law and Climate Change Conference Held at Baldy Center



On March 10th-11th, the Baldy Center held a conference that explored the legal challenges for climate change advocacy, alternative policy approaches, and the stumbling blocks for existing and proposed legal theories. "[The Changing Climate: Reflections on Current Law, Policy, Justice, and Regulation](#)," organized by UB's Professor of Law and Director of Legal Education [Kim Diana Connolly](#) and the [Buffalo Environmental Law Journal](#), brought together noted experts to think collectively about how law and policy can help society address the changing climate and the justice issues the changes raise. Covered extensively by the [UB News Center](#), the conference illustrated how climate change has become the most pressing environmental and human rights issue of our time. Yet, actual lawmaking in this arena has been slow to occur. Without comprehensive climate change legislation, efforts in the United States have largely focused on regulatory solutions under the Clean Air Act. The Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan is the most recent attempt at a wide-reaching regulatory framework to address climate change drivers in the U.S. However, the Clean Power Plan faces many challenges, especially in light of the recent presidential transition. Advocates are grasping for other legal theories, including drawing upon the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and developing new theories like Atmospheric Trust Litigation. At the same time, challengers oppose increasing federal regulation. The conference began with a panel of local experts moderated by [Sam Magavern](#), Adjunct Law Professor and Co-Director, [Partnership for the Public Good](#). The panel was followed by presentations by notable climate change and law scholars, including [Deepa Badrinarayana](#) (Chapman University School of Law), [Cinnamon Carlarne](#) (The Ohio State University College of Law), and [Poalo D. Farah](#) (WVU Public Administration). Articles from the conference will be published [Buffalo Environmental Law Journal](#) in later 2017.

[Read More](#)

Seminar on Trump Presidency and the Law to Convene

Fall 2017



In fall 2017, the Baldy Center will host a public seminar inquiring into the causes and consequences of Donald Trump's presidency. In the wake of the 2016 Presidential election, the university community has a special role to play in interpreting and diagnosing the rise of the Donald Trump administration. Organized by [Professor of Law Mateo Taussig-Rubbo](#) and [Assistant Professor of Clinical Law and Director of the Civil Liberties & Transparency Clinic Jonathan Manes](#). The seminar will provide substantive academic conversation on how "Trumpism" relates to populism, authoritarianism, racism, trade policy, executive power, and the rule of law and serve a number of purposes. Speakers will represent a range of

approaches to legal scholarship and legal activism (including impact litigation, community-based activism, and direct provision of legal or social services). While the speaker list remains tentative, the organizers plan to invite nationally renowned scholars, UB faculty, legal professionals, and local community partners.

UB Sociologist Chris Mele's Manuscript Published



UB sociologist [Christopher Mele's](#) manuscript [Race and the Politics of Deception: The Making of an American City](#) was recently published by New York University Press. The project was supported by a [Baldy Center research grant](#) and a [Baldy Center manuscript workshop grant](#) that funded a workshop session at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Chicago in 2015. In [Race and the Politics of Deception](#), Mele studies America's history of dealing with racial problems through the inequitable use of public space. Using Chester, PA as a case study, the study shows how deindustrializing cities use inclusive language to garner support for economic development plans even though these plans often transform a city's landscape strategically along the lines of class and race. [Read More](#)

UB Urban Planner Robert Silverman's Baldy Grant Leads to Article in *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*



UB Urban and Regional Planning faculty member [Robert M. Silverman's](#) Baldy Center research grant partly supported research for an article, "Community Benefits Agreements: (CBAs): A Typology for Shrinking Cities," that recently appeared in the [International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy](#). Authored with [Kelly K. Patterson](#), [Li Yin](#), and [Molly Ranahan](#), the article explores CBA negotiations in shrinking cities with sputtering economic prospects. This is one example of the many articles that are published each semester aided by Baldy funding.

[Read More](#)

Former Baldy Fellow Laura Ford Awarded Assistant Professor Position at Bard College



[Laura R. Ford](#), 2014-16 Baldy Postdoctoral Fellow, will begin as Assistant Professor of Sociology at [Bard College](#) in fall 2017. She is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Bard. Her article "Intellectual Property & Industrialization: Legalizing Hope in Economic Growth" is forthcoming in *Theory & Society*. Ford's other scholarly achievements during her time at the Baldy Center include a law review article, ["Patenting the Social: Alice, Abstraction, and Functionalism in Software Patent Claims"](#) (*Cardozo Public Law, Policy and Ethics Journal*, 2016). Ford completed a Ph.D. in Sociology at Cornell University, and previously earned an LL.M. in

Intellectual Property Law and Policy from University of Washington Law School, and a J.D. from Tulane Law School.

Former Baldy Fellow Or Bassok Begins Assistant Professor Position at University of Nottingham



[Or Bassok](#), 2013-14 Baldy Postdoctoral Fellow, began as Assistant Professor, [University of Nottingham, UK School of Law](#) in fall 2016. His most recent article, "[The Supreme Court at the Bar of Public Opinion Polls](#)," appeared in *Constellations: International Journal of Political and Democratic Theory*. A Max Weber fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy after his time as a Baldy Center fellow, Bassok has previously been a Tikvah Scholar at New York University and a Robina Foundation Visiting Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School. Bassok holds LL.B and LL.M degrees from the Hebrew University and J.S.D. and LL.M degrees from Yale Law School.

Baldy Fellow Camilo A. Leslie Will Begin Assistant Professor Position at Tulane University



[Camilo A. Leslie](#), 2015-2017 Baldy Postdoctoral Fellow, will begin as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tulane University in fall 2017. His article "[Territoriality, Map-Mindedness, and the Politics of Place](#)" recently appeared in *Theory & Society*. Leslie used his time at the Baldy Center to revise his dissertation into a book manuscript tentatively titled *Untangling the Knotted Roots of Trust: Trustworthiness and Jurisdiction in the Stanford Financial Group Fraud*. Leslie completed his Ph.D. in Sociology and J.D. from the University of Michigan.

Baldy Fellow Justin Simard Wins Legal Studies Fellowship at Northwestern University



[Justin Simard](#), 2015-2017 Baldy Postdoctoral Fellow, will begin the [Jack Miller Teaching and Research Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Legal Studies](#) at Northwestern University in fall 2017. His two-year fellowship at the Center for Legal Studies will entail teaching three courses per academic year on topics pertaining to early American and Atlantic Enlightenment history, political and economic thought, and/or social science. In addition to maintaining an active research and publishing agenda, Simard will assist with organizing other activities associated with the Fellowship and the Legal Studies Program. His article, "[The Birth of a Legal Economy: Lawyers and the Development of American Commerce](#)," recently appeared in *The Buffalo Law Review*. Simard earned his J.D. and Ph.D. in History at the University of Pennsylvania.

Spring 2017 Distinguished Speakers



[Ana Mariella Bacigalupo](#), Professor, Department of Anthropology, University at Buffalo, SUNY | *The Spirit of the Law in Chile: Judge Karen Atala's Transformative Shamanic Vision and Her LGBT Rights Child Custody Case* | February 10th, 2017



[Mitra Sharafi](#), Associate Professor of Law, University of Wisconsin Law School | *Corruption and Forensic Experts in British India* | March 3rd, 2017



[Erin F. Delaney](#), Associate Professor of Law, Northwestern University Law School | *A Federal Case for Judicial Review: From Structure to Rights* | March 10th, 2017



[Douglas Nejaime](#), Professor Law, Faculty Director, Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law | *Assimilating Difference* | March 17th, 2017



[Margaret Boittin](#), Assistant Professor of Law, York University Osgoode Hall Law School | *Enforcement and Accommodation: Tier-Based Patterns in the Policing of Prostitution in China* | March 31st, 2017



[Hiroshi Motomura](#), Susan Westerberg Prager Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law | *Migrants, Refugees, and Citizens: What's Next for Immigration Law and Policy?* | April 14th, 2017

Upcoming Events, Opportunities, and Other News

Baldy Center Research Grant Recipients for 2017-2018

The Baldy Center is pleased to announce that it is able to help support the following research projects for 2017-2018:

[Ana Mariella Bacigalupo](#), Anthropology: *Shamanic Justice and International Human Rights in Chile: Judge Karen Atala's Transformative Vision and her LGBT Rights Custody Case*

[Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen](#), Geography: *The Role of Universities in Sustainable Innovation, Inclusion, and Development*

[Samantha Barbas](#), School of Law: *A History of Libel and the Press*

[Christine P. Bartholomew](#), School of Law: *Ida Tarbell on Anti-Trust Class Actions*

[Anya Bernstein](#), School of Law: *Statutory Interpretation in the German Administrative State*

[Michael Boucai](#), School of Law: *Who Wrote Teleny? and A Genealogy of the Closet*

[Irus Braverman](#), School of Law: *The Nature of Occupation: Nature Reserves, Law, and Militarism in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*

[Rebecca French](#), School of Law: *The Law Codes of the Dalai Lamas, Annotated with Cases by a Tibetan Official, Kungo-la Thupten Sangye, with explanation and introduction by Rebecca French*

[Rachel K. Hinkle](#), Political Science: *The Role of Race and Gender in Publication and Authorship in U.S. Courts of Appeals*

Athena Mutua, School of Law: *Black Power on Trial: The Kansas Nine*

Charles M. Lamb, Political Science: *Presidents, Bureaucracy, and Fair Housing in America*

[Patricia Logan-Greene](#) and [Mickey Sperlich](#), School of Social Work: *Addressing the Role of Front Line Social Workers in Preventing Gun Violence*

[Joanne Song McLaughlin](#), Economics: *In Sickness and in Health: The Influence of the State and Federal Health Insurance Coverage Mandates on Marriage in the U.S.A.*

[Tara Melish](#), School of Law: *Building Human Rights Cities*

[Jessica Owley](#), School of Law: *Land Conservation in Spain: Custodia del Territorio*

[Peter A. Rogerson](#), Geography: *The Demographic Aging of Suburbs: With Implications for Policy*

[Robert M. Silverman](#), Urban & Regional Planning: *Turning the American Dream into Commercial Rental Property: The Effects of Single-Family Rental (SFR) Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS) on Nashville's Suburbs*

[Mary Nell Trautner](#), Sociology: *Unwanted Sexual Attention, Masculinity, and the Law: A Comparison of the U.S. and Singapore*

[Camilo Trumper](#), Transnational Studies: *Dictatorship's Children: Education, Repression and Protest among Youth in Chile*

[Deborah Waldrop](#), School of Social Work: *Helping Families: Do Facilitated Advance Care Planning Conversations Help?*

Baldy Center Conference Grant Recipients for 2017-2018

The Baldy Center is pleased to award funding to help support the following conferences for next academic year:

[Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen](#), Geography - *Universities, Innovation, and Development*

[Christine Bartholomew](#), School of Law - *Evidence Junior Works in Progress Conference*

[Anya Bernstein](#), School of Law - *Buffaronto Sociolegal Conversations*

[Rebecca French](#), School of Law and Anthropology - *IABS Baldy Workshop for the Buddhism, Law and Society Group*

[Stephanie L. Phillips](#), School of Law School - *Countering the Effects of Stress on Police Officers'*

Health and Functioning: Mindfulness-Based Resilience Training

[Mateo Taussig-Rubbo](#) and [Jonathan Manes](#), School of Law - *Trumpism and the Law*

[Kari Winter](#), Transnational Studies, Gender Institute, Humanities Institute - *Reclaiming Our Ancestors: Community Conversations about Racial Justice & Public History*

[Cynthia Wu](#), Transnational Studies - *The Disabled Academic: Access, Accommodations, Law, and Culture*

Annual Law and Society Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, [Walls, Borders, and Bridges: Law and Society in an Inter-Connected World](#), will be held in Mexico City, Mexico June 20-27, 2017. The meeting is jointly sponsored with the [Research Committee on the Sociology of Law](#), [Canadian Law and Society Association](#), [Japanese Association of Sociology of Law](#), and [Socio-Legal Studies Association](#).

The Society for Empirical Legal Studies Annual Conference

[The Twelfth Conference on Empirical Legal Studies](#) will be held October 13-14, 2017 at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. Submissions will close on June 23, 2017 at midnight (Eastern Time).

Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association

The [112th ASA Annual Meeting](#) convenes in Montreal, Canada August 12-15, 2017. The meeting sections include Law; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Political Sociology; and Organizations, Occupations, and Work.

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

The [2017 SSSP Annual Meeting](#) convenes in Montreal, Canada August 11-13, 2017 in conjunction with the ASA meeting. The associations divisions include Law & Society and Conflict, Social Action, and Change.

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

The [116th AAA Annual Meeting](#) meets in Washington, D.C. November 29-December 3, 2017. [The Association for Political and Legal Anthropology](#) organizes many activities and sponsors panels at the American Anthropological Association meetings.

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

Join the APSA in San Francisco, California August 31-September 3, 2017 for the [113th APSA Annual Meeting](#) to address the latest scholarship in political science. Section meetings include Law and Courts, Human Rights, and Public Policy, among others.

Annual Modern Language Association Meeting

The largest scholarly meeting in the humanities, [the 2018 convention meets in New York City](#) January 4-7, 2018. One of its forums (sections/divisions) includes Law and the Humanities.

Annual Asian Law and Society Annual Meeting

The School of Law at National Chiao Tung University is proud to host the [annual meeting of the Asian Law & Society Association](#) (ALSA) on December 15-16, 2017.

Annual Socio-Legal Studies Association Conference

In spring 2017, the SLSA gathered at Newcastle University, UK from April 5-7, 2017. The [conference website](#) has information about presenters and the conference program. SLSA will meet at [Bristol University, UK in 2018](#).

SUNY Buffalo Law School Legal Studies Research Paper Series

SUNY Buffalo Law School faculty members consistently produce important socio-legal scholarship. The SSRN database allows for timely and broad dissemination of working papers, articles and chapters.

[Access the SUNY Buffalo SSRN.](#)

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