



A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share this update on the recent activities of the Baldy Center.

With best wishes,

Errol Meidinger, Director

Recent News

Announcing the new Baldy Fellows in Interdisciplinary Studies

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.



Camilo Arturo Leslie will soon have a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan, where he previously earned a JD. His dissertation research combines legal sociology, economic sociology, and a theoretical focus on trust and trustworthiness to account for the ruinous “success” of

history’s second largest Ponzi scheme: the \$5.5 billion Stanford Financial Group fraud. Based on varied documentary data and more than 100 interviews with defrauded investors and former Stanford employees, this work traces the trajectory of the fraud in its two largest markets: the U.S. and Venezuela. The work makes two claims. First, that a given actor’s “trustworthiness” is in fact a collaboratively produced appearance, an aggregate of all the positive and negative evaluative statements in circulation about that actor. Second, that this traffic in evaluative claims, or “worth claims,” obeys a “jurisdictional” logic. Camilo will use 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*. In addition, he will develop several journal articles both directly and indirectly related to his dissertation. In previous research, Camilo studied the power of map imagery to



shape how subjects conceive of and experience their political communities. A paper from that project has been conditionally accepted at *Theory & Society*.



Justin L. Simard earned his JD and his PhD in History at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation examines how American lawyers in the nineteenth century built a capitalist state. Using day books, ledgers, and letters, the dissertation provides a

bottom-up history of an elite profession. These sources demonstrate that lawyers contributed to the growth and expansion of American capitalism not with grand gestures, but by solving day-to-day problems on behalf of their clients. By collecting debts, managing property sales, and drafting contracts, lawyers regulated the market, organized life on the American frontier, and facilitated the growth of complex commercial transactions. At the Baldy Center, Justin will continue his research on the work of nineteenth century American lawyers as he prepares his manuscript for publication. He will also explore the ramifications of this work for modern legal professionals, examining how they have been influenced by the commercial legal culture of their predecessors.



Rebecca Schmidt holds a PhD from the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) and has been a visiting fellow at the GlobalTrust Project at Tel Aviv University. Before starting her doctoral dissertation she studied law at the University of Heidelberg (Germany) and

obtained an LLM in International and Legal Studies from New York University. In her research Rebecca examines a key feature of globalization, the rise of regulation beyond the state. She particularly focuses on the emergence of transnational regulatory cooperation between public and private actors. At the Baldy Center she will be part of the Transnational Governance Interaction Network Project. Her main research focus will be on the

interplay between expertise driven private regulation and more traditional political authority in multi-level transnational regulatory networks. The argument to be tested is that within these networks existing public policy requirements and parameters defining legitimate forms of regulation are renegotiated. Rebecca's fellowship is co-sponsored with York University. She will spend Fall 2015 at the Baldy Center and Spring and Summer 2016 at York University.

An Update on the Baldy History Project



The Baldy Center has supported interdisciplinary legal scholarship at SUNY Buffalo since 1978. The Center has hosted hundreds of speakers, conferences, and workshops. The Center

now displays many of the books that it has supported along the way. [We are proud of our history](#) and our many successful alumni.

In March, the Baldy Center was visited by the [Honorable Barbara Howe](#), adjunct faculty member and past Baldy Center Fellow. She reflected on her arrival in Buffalo, her enrollment at the Law School, and how the Baldy Center support for socio-legal students helped her arrive where she is today.

Judge Howe came to SUNY Buffalo from Cornell University in the fall of 1974 to teach in the Department of Sociology while she continued work on her dissertation. She described the University's atmosphere in the 1970s as a "culturally interesting place" following the social and cultural upheavals of previous years. For Judge Howe, her interest in law was a logical outgrowth from her studies in sociology. Her dissertation research had focused on the legal construction of the philanthropic organization. Soon after arriving Judge Howe decided to fulfill her wish to attend law school. While still on the Sociology faculty, she enrolled in the Law School as the first non-tenured faculty member to enroll while teaching. After serving in dual roles as professor and law student, Judge Howe received her J.D. in 1980. The following year, Judge Howe was awarded a Baldy Center Fellowship, which helped contribute to her development as a scholar. "I am absolutely orthodox



Are you a Baldy alumnus with photos or a story to share? If so, please contact Assistant Director Laura Wirth at lawirth2@buffalo.edu or (716)645-2581. We look forward to hearing from you!

Director Laura Wirth (lawirth2@buffalo.edu) know.

about not being a sociologist-activist-judge. However, I live the spirit of the Baldy Center in the way I think, teach, and write.” Has your work been aided by the Baldy Center? If you would be willing to share your experiences and contribute to the Baldy Center history project, please let Director Errol Meidinger (eemeid@buffalo.edu) or Assistant

Baldy Center Supports Global Scholarship



Every year the Baldy Center is pleased to support a wide-variety of socio-legal research. Baldy scholars frequently engage in transboundary

research, which is essential to understanding a rapidly globalizing world. Four of eleven [2014-15 Baldy Research Grant recipients](#) used Baldy funding and support to conduct international research.

In January, 2015, [Interim Dean James Gardner](#) traveled to Switzerland and Austria to perform field research for his ongoing project, *Intergovernmental Contestation in Federal Systems*. During February, 2015, Dean Gardner did additional field research in Italy, and gave a public lecture through his appointment as Federalism Scholar in Residence at the European Academy, Institute for Studies in Federalism and Regionalism, in Bolzano, Italy.

[Professor Irus Braverman](#) received support for her study, *Corals and Bombs: Military-to-Wildlife in Vieques and Culebra, Puerto Rico*. “Puerto Rico’s ambiguous status as an unincorporated United States territory makes it an interesting site for documenting the relations between militarism, colonialism, and conservation,” Professor Braverman writes. She continues: “My research

focuses on coral reefs and their conservation as a site for studying the continuing tensions between military and conservation.”

Professor Braverman conducted interviews with US Fish and Wildlife officials who currently manage the military zones in Vieques and Culebra and with marine biologists who work in coral reef conservation. She also observed the cleanup process of closed military zones and visited a coral reef nursery site where corals are transplanted into the ocean for their restoration.

[Associate Professor Matthew Dimick](#) received support for his project, Law, Labor, and the Politics of Inequality, involving research in Sweden. [Assistant Professor Jaume Franquesa](#) received support for his project, *Energy policy, sustainability and austerity: Renewable energy and energy transition in Spain*, involving research in Barcelona and South Catalonia, Spain.

[Baldy research grants](#) are available to active, non-adjunct University at Buffalo faculty members to support research in the broad, interdisciplinary arena of law, legal institutions, and social policy. More information on [past grant recipients](#) can be found on the Baldy website. Interested in receiving information on future grant application deadlines? [Join our listserv.](#)

Emerging Scholars: Advanced Socio-Legal Research Seminar



One of the Baldy Center’s biggest assets is its link with SUNY Buffalo scholars working on socio-legal studies. This spring, ten advanced graduate

and law students joined a [Baldy seminar](#) to learn about and develop cutting-edge research on law, legal institutions, and social policy.

The students were drawn from the Law School, and graduate programs in [Sociology](#), [Anthropology](#), [Social Work](#), and [Transnational Studies](#). The course built upon the ongoing distinguished speaker and faculty workshop series sponsored by the Baldy Center, Law School, and affiliated SUNY Buffalo departments.



The students also read, discussed, and critiqued foundational scholarship in socio-legal studies, often with participation of the authors via the internet.

Matthew McLeskey, a graduate student in sociology, was pleased with his seminar experience, “the seminar has exposed me to ways of thinking of about the law beyond how sociologists traditionally think about it. I can bring that back to my home discipline.” Substantive topics varied with speakers and student interests, and ranged across administrative regulation, economic inequality, election law, freedom of information, human rights, immigration, indigenous rights, internet regulation,

mass torts, privacy, and socio-legal theory. Students were given the unique opportunity to attend and participate in faculty presentations, and meet with the guest speakers in a small group setting following the public presentations. Writes Matthew, “The seminar specifically and the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy more broadly has also given me a second departmental home. Meeting law students, Baldy post-doctoral fellows, and students from other departments has allowed me to join a network of other like-minded scholars from whom I gain invaluable feedback and new ideas.” The seminar will be offered in both the fall and spring semesters next year.

Events, Opportunities, and Other News

Spring 2015 Distinguished Speakers

The Baldy Center hosted four distinguished speakers during the Spring 2015 semester. | [Learn More](#)

- **Bernard Harcourt** | February 13, 2015
“*The Expository Society: Spectacle, Surveillance, and Exhibition in the Digital Age*”
- **Leti Volpp** | April 17, 2015
“*The Indigenous as Alien*”
- **Carol Greenhouse** | May 11, 2015
“*Citizens United, Citizens Divided*”

Announcing the 2015-16 Baldy Conference Grant Recipients

- **Matthew Dimick** (Law), *Redistribution: Politics, Law, and Policy*
- **David Herzberg** (History), *Gender and the Drug War*
- **Mary Nell Trautner** (Sociology) and **Fred Konefsky** (Law), *Celebrating 30+ years of David Engel’s “The Oven Bird’s Song: Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Injuries in an American Community”*
- **Jessica Owley** (Law), *Environmental Law Collaborative 2016* | [Learn More](#)

Announcing the 2015-16 Baldy Research Grant Recipients

- **Samantha Barbas** (Law), *Time v. Hill and America’s Search for Privacy*
- **Irus Braverman** (Law), *The Law of the Land: Nature Reserves in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- **Elizabeth Bowen** (Social Work), *Informing Housing and Social Policy through Community-Based Research on Homelessness among Emerging Adults in Erie County*
- **Rachael K. Hinkle** (Political Science), *The Role and Impact of Briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court*
- **Charles M. Lamb** (Political Science), *Presidents, Bureaucracy, and Fair Housing in America*
- **Anthony O’Rourke** (Law), *Civil Discovery and Criminal Investigation*
- **Jessica Owley** (Law), *Forest Land Conservation Mechanisms in a Changing World: Climate Resiliency under Varying Property Protection Arrangements in the Northeast Forests*



- **Katja Praznik** (Arts Management), *Remuneration of Artistic Labor: A Transcontinental Comparative Analysis*
- **Deborah Reed-Danahay** (Anthropology), *Being French in London: Social Space and the Body Politic*
- **Deborah Waldrop** (Social Work), *Policy Practice at Life's End: How Advance Directives and Provider Communication Influence Healthcare Decision-making near Death* | [Learn More](#)

Baldy Advisory Council Welcomes New Members

- **Anya Bernstein** (Law), **Irus Braverman** (Law), **Trina Hamilton** (Geography), and **Hal Langfur** (History) joined the Baldy Advisory Council in December 2014. They join continuing members **Guyora Binder** (Law), **Mary Nell Trautner** (Sociology), and **David A. Westbrook** (Law). | [Learn More](#)

Annual Law and Society Association Meeting

Explore *Law's Promise and Law's Pathos in the Global North and Global South* with the Law and Society Association May 28-31, 2015 in Seattle, Washington. | [Learn More](#)

The Society for Empirical Legal Studies Annual Conference

The Society for Empirical Legal Studies will hold its annual conference October 30-31, 2015, in St. Louis, Missouri at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. | [Learn More](#)

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](#)

The Baldy Advisory Council



The Baldy Advisory Council sets policy and reviews the progress of the Baldy Center on a regular basis. Current members are:

Sharmistha BagchCi-Sen

(Professor and Chair of Geography) Research on international business, high technology innovation, labor markets and the aging workforce.

Guyora Binder

(SUNY Distinguished Professor of Law) Research in the areas of jurisprudence, criminal law, constitutional law, and international law.

Stephanie Phillips

(Professor of Law) Founding member of the Workshop on Critical Race Theory. Research interests in law and religion, and interactions between race, gender, and sexuality.

Kenneth Shockley

(Associate Professor of Philosophy) Research on indirect consequentialism, problems of partiality and the normative requirements of group membership, environmental values and public policy.



Mateo Taussing-Rubbo

(Professor of Law) Research on the reshaping of legal categories such as citizenship, sovereignty, and property through the deployment of powerful social and political categories such as sacrifice and gift.

Mary Nell Trautner

(Associate Professor of Sociology) Research in the areas of sociology of law; gender, sexuality, and the body; also labor and organizations.

David A. Westbrook

(Professor of Law) Research about the social and intellectual consequences of contemporary political economy. Teaches on business and international topics, including basic courses in corporations, contracts and international law.

The Baldy Center Staff



Errol Meidinger is the Director of the Baldy Center. He is the Margaret W. Wong Professor of Law, an Adjunct Professor of Sociology at SUNY Buffalo, and also an Honorary Professor at the University of Freiburg. His recent research has focused on efforts to use “supra-governmental” regulatory programs, such as environmental certification and fair labor standards programs, to improve the social and environmental performance of business. He is currently working on two related research projects, one focusing on interactions among state and non-state transnational governance organizations and another on the growing use by governments of limitations on access to their markets to promote environmentally and socially desirable behavior in other states. He earned his JD and Ph.D. (Sociology) at Northwestern University.



Laura Wirth is the Assistant Director of the Baldy Center. She holds a masters degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is responsible for organizing and coordinating the Baldy Center’s activities, managing daily operations and Center staff, maintaining the budget, administering grant application and award processes for affiliated faculty and fellows, and overseeing event planning and public communications.



Caroline Funk is the Baldy Center Research Associate. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and specializes in the archaeology of human/environment relationships. She has worked in multidisciplinary and multinational teams in Russia, Portugal, and Alaska to answer questions about the intersection of cultural and environmental histories. Caroline currently leads a multidisciplinary research program in the Rat Islands, western Aleutians, Alaska, investigating the long-term history of human use of the region, and the impact of small-scale societies on the environment. Caroline’s primary role is to work with Baldy Center staff and affiliated faculty to develop funding proposals.



Veronica Bartikofsky is the Baldy Center Events Assistant. She has extensive experience in the financial sector as a Branch Manager in retail banking and as a Branch Administrator in the investment industry. She assists with implementing and organizing events that the Center hosts each year, including conferences, guest speakers, and workshops.



Proudly Part of a Global Research Network

We are just one node in a growing international network of organizations advancing interdisciplinary research on law, legal institutions and social policy. Below are some other members of the global network:

American Bar Foundation | Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies University of Toronto | Centre for Innovation Law and Policy, University of Toronto School of Law | Center on the Global Legal Profession, Indiana University, Bloomington | Center for Law & Globalization, University of Illinois | Center for Law, Society, and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington | Center for Law & Society, University of Edinburgh | Center in Law, Society, and Culture, University of California Irvine | Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University | Center for the Study of Law & Society, University of California at Berkeley | Collaborative Research Center 597 “Transformations of the State,” Bremen | Critical Research Laboratory in Law & Society, University of Toronto | Global Legal Studies Center, University of Wisconsin Law School | Institute for Law & Society, New York University School of Law | Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School | Institute on Law and Social Policy, University of California Berkeley | Law Societies & Justice, University of Washington | The Law and Society Association | Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies | Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law | National Science Foundation | Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University | Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet), Australian National University | Society for Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell University | Sociolegal Studies Association | Socio-Legal Research Centre, Griffith University | USC Center for Law, History and Culture | World Consortium of Law and Society | York Centre for Public Policy and Law

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