Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy

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I. Center Overview

History

Created 40 years ago under a bequest from Buffalo attorney Christopher Baldy, the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy supports interdisciplinary research on law, legal institutions and social policy throughout the University at Buffalo. The Center not only engages faculty and students campus-wide, it also has national and international impact through the scholarly publications, conferences, workshops, and other activities described in this report. The center is housed at the SUNY Buffalo Law School.

Organization and Center Staff

Baldy Advisory Council for 2017-2018
Any Bernstein (Law)
Irus Braverman (Law)
Trina Hamilton (Geography)
Hal Langfur (History)
Jonathan Manes (Law)
Matteo Taussig-Rubbo (Law)
Mary Nell Trautner (Sociology)

Baldy Center Staff
Errol Meidinger, Director
Laura Wirth, Assistant Director
Amy Hothow, Technical Accountant
Matthew McLeskey, Research Assistant
Yaqi Yuan (Sam), Research Assistant

Baldy Center Technical Team
Michael Massett, Print Designer
Debra Kolodczak, Web Designer
II. Research Support and Fellowships

Faculty Research Grants

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, Anthropology:
Shamanic Justice and International Human Rights in Chile: Judge Karen Atala’s Transformtive Vision and her LGBT Rights Child Custody Case

Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, Geography:
Geography: The Role of Universities in Sustainable Innovation, Inclusion, and Development

Samantha Barbas, School of Law:
A History of Libel and the Press

Anya Bernstein, School of Law:
Statutory Interpretation in the German Administrative State

Christine P. Bartholomew, School of Law:
Ida Tarbell on Anti-Trust Class Actions

Michael Boucai, School of Law:
Who Wrote Teleny? and A Geneology 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

Rachael 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 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 Democratic 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 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 Advanced Care Planning Conversations Help?

Baldy Fellowships in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies

The Baldy Center continued its fellowship program for scholars pursuing important topics in law, legal institutions, and social policy during the 2017-2018 academic year. Fellows are expected to participate regularly in Baldy Center events, but otherwise have no obligations beyond vigorously pursuing their research. Fellows receive standard university research privileges (library, Internet, office space, computer, phone) and are encouraged to develop collaborative research projects with SUNY Buffalo faculty members where appropriate. Those who wish to teach a course to aid their research or gain teaching experience are accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
The 2017-2018 Senior Fellows were:

Nora V. Demleitner, 2017-2018 Senior Fellow, is Roy L. Steinheimer Jr. Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. At the Baldy Center, she conducted research for a book project aimed toward dismantling mass imprisonment. She also worked on an issue of the Federal Sentencing Reporter that delineates the changing role of U.S. Attorneys.

Antonio María Hernández, 2017-2018 Senior Fellow, joined the Baldy Center from the National University of Córdoba, where he is Professor of Constitutional Law, Public Provincial Law, and Municipal Law. At the Baldy Center, he conducted an intensive comparative analysis of the American and Argentinian federations. He presented a paper, “Federalism and Constitutional Design” with Professor Jim Gardner as part of the UB Law Faculty Workshop Series in 2017.

The 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Fellows were:

Amanda Hughett, 2017-2019 Fellow, completed a PhD in History at Duke University. At the Baldy Center, she has been revising her dissertation into a book manuscript tentatively titled Silencing the Cell Block: The Making of Modern Prison Policy in North Carolina and the Nation. Amanda was awarded the 2018 Law and Society Association’s Dissertation Prize.

David McNamee, 2017-2019 Fellow, came to the Baldy Center after receiving a J.D. from Yale Law School, and while completing a PhD in Politics at Princeton University. At the Baldy Center, David has continued his research on citizens’ responsibility to interpret the Constitution when they occupy the voting booth, the jury box, and other civic roles.
III. Speakers and Visitors

Distinguished Speaker Series

October 13, 2017
Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School.
“The Trump Administration and International Law”

December 8, 2017
Christine Desan, Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law, Harvard Law School.
“Human Rights in a Closing World”

February 9, 2018
Allison Hoffman, Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics.
“Health Care’s Market Bureaucracy”

March 30, 2018
Shauhin Talesh, Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law.
“How Legal Intermediaries Facilitate and Inhibit Social Change”

Co-Sponsored Events

October 20, 2017
Fabio Lanza, Associate Professor of History, University of Arizona. Event co-sponsored with the UB Asian Studies Program and the Department of History.
“Is There a Socialist Everyday? Collectivizing Beijing in the Mao Era”

October 23-24, 2017
Cosmopolitanism vs. Globalization. A symposium co-sponsored with the UB Department of Jewish Thought, UB Humanities Institute, and the Office of International Education.

February 8, 2018
Reproductive Justice: Theory and Practice. A symposium hosted by the UB Gender Institute.

March 1, 2018
Julily Kohler-Hausman, Assistant Professor of History, Cornell University. Co-sponsored with the UB Department of History and Humanities Institute Research Workshop: City and Society.
March 15, 2018
Robert Hayden, Professor of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. Co-sponsored with the UB Department of Anthropology.
“The Practice of International Humanitarian Law as a Confidence Game: The Case of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia”

March 21, 2018
Jobst Landgrebe, Cognotekt (Cologne, Germany). Co-sponsored with the UB Department of Philosophy.
“The Crisis of Western Democracy”

April 2, 2018
Michael Herzfeld, Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University. The Jean Monnet Distinguished Lecture hosted by the UB Department of Anthropology.
“Paradoxes and Paroxysms: Nationalism, Migration, and the Dream of Cultural Identity -- Reflections from the Southern Fringe”

April 3, 2018
David Crane, Professor of Practice (Emeritus) at Syracuse University Law School. Book launch co-sponsored with the Robert H. Jackson Center.
“The Founders: Four Pioneering Individuals who Launched the First Modern Era Criminal Tribunals”

April 16, 2018
#UBLawResponds: On the Ground and Moving Forward: Standing with Puerto Rico throughout Recovery Toward a Resilient Future. A special event hosted by the UB Clinical Legal Education Program and UB Professor of Law Kim Connolly.

April 19, 2018
Education in Action: Critical Thinking, Praxis, and Possibilities. The 25th Annual Graduate School of Education Research Symposium. Co-sponsored with the UB Graduate Students’ Association and the UB Humanities Institute.

April 26, 2018
Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Symposium: “China in Africa: Global Perspectives.” Co-sponsored with the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee and UB sponsors.

IV. Conferences and Workshops

Book Manuscript Workshops

October 20, 2017
Megan Holland, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy. Two Paths Diverged: Race, Class and Inequality in the College-Going High School. With e-commentary.
May 4, 2018
Erin Hatton, Assistant Professor of Sociology. Between Work and Slavery: Coerced Labor in Contemporary America. Commentators: Allison Pugh (University of Virginia), Adia Wingfield (Washington University in St. Louis), Noah Zatz (UCLA Law).

Conferences

August 19, 2017

September 23, 2017
“Buffaronto Sociolegal Conversations” Organized by UB Associate Professor of Law Anya Bernstein.

October 19-21, 2017
Reclaiming Our Ancestors: Community Conversations about Racial Justice and Public History. Conference co-sponsored with the UB Gender Institute, the Humanities Institute, and the Departments of English, History, and Transnational Studies.

October 12, November 2, November 16, 2017
“Trump and the Law Speaker Series” Organized by UB Professor of Law Matteo Taussig-Rubbo, and UB Clinical Assistant Professor of Law Jonathan Manes.

April 7-8, 2018
“Universities, Innovation, and Development” Organized by Professor of Geography Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, and Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Lois Weis.

September 21-22, 2018
“Disability and Higher Education” Organized by UB Associate Professor of Transnational Studies Cynthia Wu, and Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Disability Studies Michael Rembis.

V. Publications

SSRN Buffalo Legal Studies Research Paper Series

The Baldy Center and the SUNY Buffalo Law School co-sponsor an online series of working papers, called the Buffalo Legal Studies Research Paper Series. It is hosted and distributed by SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and provides an international, interdisciplinary audience for the law-related work of UB faculty and visiting scholars. This series is edited by Errol Meidinger, UB School of Law.
“Nature as Spectacle”
Irus Braverman

“Saving Species, One Individual at a Time: Zoo Veterinarians Between Welfare and Conservation”
*Humanimalia 9(2): 1-27, Spring 2018, University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-017*
Irus Braverman

“Renouncing Citizenship as Protest: Reflections by a Jewish Israeli Ethnographer”
Irus Braverman

“Military-To-Wildlife Geographies: Bureaucracies of Cleanup and Conservation in Vieques”
Forthcoming, Anssi Paasi, John Harrison, and Martin Jones (eds.). *Handbook on the Geographies of Regions and Territories* (Edward Elgar Publishing), University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-007
Irus Braverman

“Editing the Environment: Emerging Issues in Genetics and the Law”
*Gene Editing, Law, and the Environment: Life Beyond the Human, Irus Braverman, ed. (Routledge July 2017).*, University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-005
Irus Braverman

“Gene Drives, Nature, Governance: An Ethnographic Perspective”
Irus Braverman

“The Law and Economics of Redistribution”
*University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-013*
Matthew Dimick

Matthew Dimick

“The Puzzling Success of ‘Federal Democracy’”
*CITC Conference Volume, November 2017, University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-011*
James A. Gardner

“The Theory and Practice of Contestatory Federalism”
*60 William & Mary Law Review 507 (2018), University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-010*
James A. Gardner
“Election Law in the American Political System (2d Ed.) [Table of Contents and Preface]”
James A. Gardner and Guy-Uriel E. Charles

“Canadian Federalism in Design and Practice: The Mechanics of a Permanently Provisional Constitution”
University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-002
James A. Gardner

“Framing Middle-Class Insecurity: Tax and the Ideology of Unequal Economic Growth”
Fordham Law Review, Vol. 84, No. 6, 2016, University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-003
Martha T. McCluskey

“Defining the Economic Pie, Not Dividing or Maximizing It”
Martha T. McCluskey

“Constitutional Economic Justice: Structural Power for ‘We the People’”
Martha T. McCluskey

“Science and Policy in Natural Resources: Conceptual Propositions Drawn from Case Studies and the Literature”
Errol Meidinger, Roger Clark and Margaret A Shannon

“Law and Constitutionalism in the Mirror of Non-Governmental Standards: Comments on Harm Schepel”
Errol Meidinger

“Environmental Principles in U.S. and Canadian Law”
Errol Meidinger, Daniel Spitzer and Charles Malcomb

“The New Environmental Law: Forest Certification”
Working Paper Series
Errol Meidinger
Errol Meidinger

“The Changing Legal Environment of Northern Forest Policy Making”
Errol Meidinger

“Reconstituting Haudenosaunee Law, Sovereignty and Governance”
*Reconstituting Haudenosaunee Law, Sovereignty and Governance*, 46 Buff. L. Rev. 799 (1998), University at Buffalo School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper
Errol Meidinger

“To Dress for Dinner: Teaching Law in a Bureaucratic Age”
John Henry Schlegel

“The Security Court”
Matthew J. Steilen

“How to Think Constitutionally About Prerogative: A Study of Early American Usage”
Matthew J. Steilen