



A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

We've had a very active semester at the Baldy Center and I am delighted to share information about recent events and developments. I wish you a happy and rejuvenating holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

Errol Meidinger, Director

Recent News

Lasting Intellectual Impact of UB's David Engel Celebrated in October Conference



On October 23rd, 2015, the Baldy Center hosted a celebratory conference to reflect on the lasting intellectual impact of one of its own faculty members, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor David Engel. Just over thirty years

ago, Engel published "The Oven Bird's Song: Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Injuries in an American Community" in *Law and Society Review*. [Read more at the conference website.](#)

Former Baldy Fellow Anna Su's Manuscript Published



Former Baldy Postdoctoral Fellow Anna Su, now Assistant Professor of Law at University of Toronto, had her manuscript *Exporting Freedom: Religious Liberty and American Power* published by Harvard University Press. The project grew out of her dissertation and was revised during her Baldy fellowship.

"The Baldy Center gave me the necessary time and space to polish my dissertation into a manuscript. The law library also provided more than adequate resources for this purpose," commented Su. [Read more on Anna's University of Toronto staff page.](#)



Advanced Socio-Legal Research Seminar Continues into Its Second Semester

The Baldy Center has instituted a new seminar as part of its continuing effort to support and link UB researchers engaged in socio-legal research. This fall, nine advanced graduate and law students joined four postdoctoral fellows in the second Baldy seminar to learn about and develop the most recent research on law, legal institutions, and social policy. Students were drawn from the Law School, as well as graduate programs in Anthropology, Film Studies, Geography, Political Science, Social Welfare, and Sociology. The course built upon the ongoing distinguished speaker and faculty workshop series sponsored by the Baldy Center, Law School, and affiliated SUNY Buffalo departments, as well as the first Baldy seminar offered for graduate students last spring. Comments Dr. Errol Meidinger, Director of the Baldy Center, “The seminar has been a good opportunity for students from different disciplines both to get to know each other and to get a close look at the ‘sausage making’ of socio-legal research. An important inspiration for the seminar was my own experience in a graduate economic history seminar run by J.R.T. Hughes and Joel Mokyr at Northwestern University exposed a broad group of graduate students to the debates and developments in economic history by bringing us into discussions with scholars like Lance Davis, Douglas North, and others who were shaping the field at that time. I didn’t become an economic historian, but the seminar made a huge contribution to my graduate education.”

Students also read, discussed, and critiqued foundational scholarship in socio-legal studies, sometimes with participation of the authors via the internet. Substantive topics of articles currently under production varied with speakers and student interests. This fall saw talks and discussions on youth violence, the conceptual foundations of the American legal system, transnational public-private cooperation, constitutional challenges to sexuality, legal boundary making, the functional values of diversity, rights federalism, and uses of cost-benefit analysis in public decision-making. Seminar students benefit from the unique opportunity to attend and participate in faculty presentations, and meet with the guest speakers in in their small class setting following the public presentations. The Center plans

to continue offering the seminar each semester. Professor Anya Bernstein, trained as both an anthropologist and lawyer, will be joining Professor Meidinger in teaching the seminar.

The seminar will meet each Friday from 12:15 to 3:15, with lunch available at 12:00 when there is a distinguished speaker or faculty workshop. Students enrolling in the seminar will have the option of writing one substantial research paper or three short critical analyses of papers presented by speakers. Enrollment is with permission of the instructor. This seminar is cross listed with several departments. For further information, contact Assistant Director Laura Wirth at lawirth2@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-2581.

Baldy Center Interdisciplinary Fellows Program Continues Into Fourth Year

The Baldy Center’s new cohort of Fellows in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies have begun their stays at UB. Baldy Postdoctoral Fellows are highly promising scholars who have completed their Ph.D.s and/or J.D.s, but have not yet begun tenure track positions. Fellows vigorously pursue their research agenda, partake in Baldy Center, law school, and other university events, as well as participate in faculty workshops, distinguished visitor events, and the Advanced Socio-Legal Studies Seminar along with UB graduate students. Fellows also present their work at faculty workshops and academic conferences. This year’s Fellows come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds which bring an intellectual vibrancy to all Baldy Center events. Initiated in the 2012-13 academic year after discussions among the Baldy Advisory Council and Baldy distinguished speakers on how to maximize the center’s impact and scope, the connections to Fellows’ work has increased the global footprint of the Baldy Center.



Camilo Arturo Leslie holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan, where he also earned a J.D. His 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. Write Camillo, “The Baldy



Postdoctoral Fellowship has not only afforded me valuable time to research and write but also a warm and intellectually vibrant community in which to develop and test my ideas. The faculty’s breadth of disciplinary and topical perspectives has been an incredible resource.” An article from this project has been conditionally accepted at the prestigious sociological theory journal *Theory & Society*.



Rebecca Schmidt holds a Ph.D. from the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) and an L.L.M. in International and Legal Studies from New York University. In her research, Rebecca examines a key feature of globalization: regulation

beyond the state. She focuses on the emergence of transnational regulatory cooperation between public and private actors. “I used to fellowship to expand the research of my dissertation. Being at a U.S. law faculty with a strong socio-legal approach was thereby a very inspiring environment. The Baldy Center has also been tremendously helpful in providing me with a great infrastructure to support my work. I was able to present my research both within and outside of the U.S.”

She will be part of the Transnational Governance

Interaction Network Project, a collaborative research network with numerous universities; nearby York University will sponsor part of her fellowship and she will spend spring semester at York.



Lastly, **Justin L. Simard** studied for his J.D. and Ph.D. 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. According to Justin, “Being a fellow at the Baldy Center has been a terrific experience. I have appreciated the chance to deepen the research and analysis in my dissertation and have benefited greatly from the generous and thoughtful feedback of law school faculty members and other UB professors. My article, which I am submitting in February, will be much better thanks to my time here.”

At the Baldy Center, Justin is preparing his manuscript for publication, exploring the ramifications of this work for modern legal professionals, and examining how they have been influenced by the commercial legal culture of their predecessors.

Events, Opportunities, and Other News

Fall 2016 Distinguished Speakers

Adriaan Lanni, Professor of Law, Harvard Law School | Feb. 26, 2016 | *Law and Order in Classical Athens*

Marianne Constable, Professor of Rhetoric, University of California Berkeley | April 15, 2016 | TBD

Doug Kysar, Joseph M. Field ’55 Professor of Law, Yale Law School | April 29, 2016 | *Tort Law and Attribution Theory: A Positive Account*

View the full events schedule in the [events section](#) of our website.

Baldy Research Grant Recipients for 2015-2016

Samantha Barbas (Law) - *Time v. Hill and America’s Search for Privacy*

Elizabeth Bowen (Social Work) - *Informing Housing and Social Policy through Community-Based Research on Homelessness among Emerging Adults in Erie County*

Irus Braverman (Law) - *The Law of the Land: Nature Reserves in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*

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*

See grant opportunities in the [applications section of our website](#) for more information.

2016-17 Baldy Research Grants Available

Baldy research grants are available to non-adjunct University at Buffalo faculty members. The deadline for 2016-2017 grant applications is March 21st, 2016.

Visit the our website's [applications section for more information](#).

The Society for Empirical Legal Studies Annual Conference

The Society for Empirical Legal Studies and the Amsterdam Center for Law and Economics will co-sponsor the first conference on empirical legal studies in Europe at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands June 21-22, 2016.

Visit the [Amsterdam Center for Law & Economics website](#) for more information.

Annual Law and Society Association Meeting

Convene At the Delta: Belonging, Place and Visions of Law and Social Change with the Law and Society Association June 2-5, 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Visit the [Law and Society Association website](#) for more information.

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](#)

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.



Matthew H. McLeskey is a Baldy Center Research Assistant. He is a doctoral student in the SUNY Buffalo Department of Sociology and interested in sociology of law, urban sociology, and social theory. He recently completed an M.A. in sociology at SUNY Buffalo, and before that an M.A. in English literature at James Madison University and a B.A. at Davis & Elkins College.



Yaqi Yuan (Sam) is a Baldy Center Research Assistant. She is a second-year PhD student from SUNY Buffalo Sociology Department and interested in law and society, sociology of families, and medical sociology. She recently completed an M.A. in political science with the Hunan University Graduate School in China.

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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