

Invitation & Call for Problems
Buffaronto Sociolegal Conversations
University at Buffalo | Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy
Saturday, September 23, 2017
Contact: Anya Bernstein anyabern@buffalo.edu

The Buffalo-Toronto region is home to a large and diverse population of scholars working in fields related to law and society. *Buffaronto Sociolegal Conversations* will bring area scholars together for a day of informal discussion about their work. We invite you to participate in this meeting, which we hope will be the first of an ongoing series.

To encourage productive, wide-ranging conversation, the conference will be organized around a few themes that will orient general discussion. Rather than ask presenters to present finished research products, we ask them to introduce an issue that seems important and worthy of discussion. To this end, we invite participants to propose *problems* or *issues* for discussion. A problem may be a methodological dilemma, a practical difficulty, a research agenda consideration, or some other conundrum that seems worthy of broader discussion. It should, in some way, illuminate aspects of sociolegal research that the presenter considers particularly important to address. We will select a few problems for presentation, and structure the conference around them.

We will ask presenters to spend a few minutes introducing their issue—whether that means using their problem to exemplify a broader difficulty, considering how other aspects of sociolegal work might address it, seeking collaboration with others, or something else. We will arrange for another participant to offer an initial response before opening to the conversation up to the group. The point will be to focus the group’s attention on an issue that may affect multiple members, and let participants discuss it freely from there. We hope to provide an array of issues for participants to discuss without having to rush through the discussion.

So please consider this invitation a Call for Problems. Send your proposal for a discussion issue to Anya Bernstein at anyabern@buffalo.edu.

Whether you present a problem or not, we hope to see you in Buffalo on Saturday, September 23, 2017. We will provide lunch and dinner. The conference is free and open to all. But please do let us know whether you will attend, so we can plan accordingly—please email anyabern@buffalo.edu, along with any logistical questions.

We’re looking forward to the conversation!

Anya Bernstein (SUNY Buffalo Law)
David Engel (SUNY Buffalo Law)
Annie Bunting (York University, Social Science)
Sida Liu (University of Toronto, Sociology)
Mariana Valverde (University of Toronto, Criminology)