SCHOOL OF LAW

Post-Graduate Reading and Work in Progress Seminars Autumn 2011-12

Our Post-Graduate Reading and Work in Progress Seminars will focus on the theme of critical legal scholarship. Seminars take place on Friday from 6-8. Room 253 Birkbeck Main building.

Next seminar:

Reminder: HALLOWEEN ‘Fancy Dress’ PARTY!!!

Who: YOU, dressed up as, who you were/imagine yourself to be in another life
When: Friday October 28th; come after the reading group seminar or show up anytime after 7pm
Where: Access from Bethnal Green Tube station; busses travelling EAST from central London #55, 26, 388, 48
Bring: Food or Drinks to share
RSVP to anastaziya.t@gmail.com to receive more detailed instructions of the location.

READING GROUP

A One-off Reading Group:
Working within the critical legal tradition

Time: Friday, 28 October, 6-8pm
Venue: Room 253, Birkbeck Main Building
Convenor: Soo Tian Lee, sootian.lee@googlemail.com

What exactly does it mean to be a student or young academic working within the critical legal ‘tradition’? How does the supervisor-supervisee relationship that we experience affect our subsequent paths in academia? How can we catch a glimpse of the various forms that this relationship takes? Peter Goodrich, one of the co-founders of Birkbeck Law School, explores these questions in a piece that uses as its springboard a retrospective look at the first book written by his supervisor, Zenon Bankowski. A controversial work when it was first published in 1976, Images of Law attacked both legal practitioners and legal scholars who were at the time deemed progressive by virtue of their ostensible social concerns and socio-legal orientations. However, reading it today is difficult at points, as the obviously dated style and substance of critique tends to jar against our 2010s sensibilities. It is hoped that by reading the article by Goodrich as well as some excerpts from Images of Law, we will be able to reflect upon and discuss the critical legal journeys that each of us are on, with our different starting points, experienced guides, crumpled maps, and fellow travellers.

Texts:
Please email Soo Tian and/or Basak b.ertur@yahoo.com for pdfs.
THE EURO CRISIS: CAUSES AND REMEDIES
With Dimitris Sotiropoulos, José R. Sánchez-Fung, Engelbert Stockhammer and Nick Butler (chair)

Until two years ago the Euro was considered a big success: inflation was low and the poorer countries were catching up rapidly. But since then the situation has changed dramatically. Greece, Ireland and Portugal are in deep recession and had to request support from the other EU countries, because markets have stopped lending to them. A European rescue fund has been set up, but the crisis is spreading to other countries. What are the causes of the crises? What reforms does the Euro system need?

Date: 25 October 2011, 18:00 to 20:00
Location: JG0001, John Galsworthy Building, Penrhyn Road
Econ Club Panel

SELF-EMANCIPATION, ACTIVITY THEORY, AND POLITICAL DESKILLING/RESKILLING: SOME THOUGHTS ON ORGANISING INTO A BIG FISH
28 October, 17:30 in the Court Room in the Institute of Historical Research
Alex Levant (Wilfred Laurier University)

Abstract: Marx’s key political intervention was to reframe socialism as a project of self-emancipation. This discussion interrogates how “Leninism” responds to these questions, and offers the concept of political deskilling/reskilling, which seeks to refocus the issue from consciousness to the organisation of activity.

Bio: Alex Levant is an academic mercenary who sells his lecturing skills to various departments in the social sciences and humanities, including Political Science at York University and Communication Studies and Global Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada.

The ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LAW, CULTURE AND THE HUMANITIES (ASLCH) welcomes applications for its first ever Graduate Student Workshop, to be held March 15, 2012. The half day Workshop immediately precedes the ASLCH Annual Meetings, to be hosted by Texas Wesleyan University School of Law March 16-17, 2012. Applicants can be graduate students from any discipline or law students with scholarly interests in Law, Culture, and the Humanities.

The Workshop aims to encourage intellectual community in the field of Law, Culture, and the Humanities by bringing together graduate or law students and more established scholars in Law, Culture, and the Humanities. Participants will discuss scholarly work, including student projects, in seminars, panel discussions, informal conversation, and shared meals. Issues of professional development will also be addressed. ASLCH will subsidize the participation of up to 15 successful graduate student applications. The deadline for applications is Friday December 2, 2011. Applications should be sent electronically to Professor Paul A. Passavant, Department of Political Science, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Passavant@hws.edu). The subject heading should read: Graduate Student Workshop Application. Applications should include:

• A Curriculum Vitae (CV)
• The title and abstract of the student’s proposed paper for the 2012 ASLCH Conference
• A letter not longer than two pages describing the student’s status in graduate or law school, the student’s dissertation or significant interest in Law, Culture, and the Humanities, what the student hopes to gain from attending the Workshop, and information about other funds the applicant is likely to receive to assist in conference attendance, if any.
**International Symposium: Humanities after Fukushima: Dialogues between Cultural Studies and Philosophy in the Post-Nuclear Age of Critical Juncture**

**Date:** 28-30 Oct 28, 2011 10:00 AM  
**Venue:** School of Arts, Birkbeck College, 43 Gordon Square  
**Booking details** Free entry; booking required  

Inspired by Nishiyama Yuji’s documentary film “The Right to Philosophy”, comprised of his interviews with those associated with “International College of Philosophy” founded in Paris by Jaques Derrida and Francois Chatelet in 1983, this small-scale international symposium, will try to address issues surrounding the past, present and future of Humanities education and research in the age of crisis. This 'crisis' particularly resonates with the natural disasters on March 11, 2011 in Japan, and the following calamitous events centered on the nuclear power-plant’s meltdown at Fukushima.

What could be the roles and responsibilities of Humanities scholars facing this crisis? Can University education stand up to the multiple challenges posed by the now increasingly technologically sophisticated neoliberal/capitalist politics? What could be the viable relationship between Cultural Studies and Philosophy education? And is it too vulgar to talk about Art and Literature after 'Fukushima'?

This gathering will tackle these questions from various and broad perspectives in a kind of intellectual exchange particularly among those who are concerned with the relevant issues in the present geopolitical contexts in Japan and Britain. Although the Symposium is based on the traditional format consisting of several panels with keynote speeches and commentaries, its atmosphere will be definitely friendly, non-hierarchical and improvisational, and we hope that the participants will enjoy the intellectual exchanges at their very best forms during the three days.

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**Ending Impunity: the Struggle for Global Justice** by Geoffrey Robertson QC

**Date:** 22 November 2011  
**Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Venue:** Russell Square: College Buildings Room: Khalili Lecture Theatre

The School of Oriental and African Studies School of Law and the London Transitional Justice Network, with the support of the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Studies are pleased to announce this public lecture by Geoffrey Robertson QC.

Geoffrey Robertson QC is founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers, the UK’s largest human rights practice. He is a ‘distinguished jurist’ member of the UN’s Justice Council, and was the first president of its war crimes court in Sierra Leone where he delivered ground-breaking judgments on the illegality of recruiting child soldiers and the invalidity of amnesties for crimes against humanity. He was active in the prosecution of General Pinochet and Hastings Banda, and the defence of Salman Rushdie and Julian Assange. His books include “Crimes Against Humanity” (Penguin), “The Justice Game” (Vintage) and “The Case of The Pope – Vatican Accountability for Human rights Abuses”. (A Penguin Special).

**Contact email:** kn5@soas.ac.uk
Professorial Inaugural Lecture: **The Limits of International Refugee Law?**

Date: Wednesday 2 November 2011, 6pm  
Venue: Old Cinema, 309 Regent Street, London  
Speaker: Professor Helene Lambert, University of Westminster

International law provides powerful yet limited protection for refugees. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is a key instrument but following years of restrictive interpretation, it has come to be directly relevant only for refugees who are individually and deliberately targeted, thereby excluding from its ambit most civilians fleeing generalized violence or war. Humanitarian considerations have led states to fill the gaps through national practice, regional instruments and soft-law, whilst NGOs and advocacy groups have resorted to human rights law.  

This lecture will examine the development of, and complementary relationship between, international human rights law and refugee law with respect to people fleeing armed conflicts and seeking protection in Europe. It will consider the potential for international refugee law to evolve so as to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.


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**CLR JAMES LEGACY CELEBRATION**

Date: 30 October, 2pm to 4pm  
Venue: **Open the Gate** 33 - 35 Stoke Newington Road, N16 8BJ London [http://clrjameslegacy.eventbrite.com/](http://clrjameslegacy.eventbrite.com/)

It has been over 20 years since C.L.R. James’ (1901-1989) passing yet he remains one of the twentieth century’s most remarkable thinkers. We will be celebrating his legacy and unveiling our teaching pack. A writer, historian and social activist, his work has had an impact on every continent in the world. He was also a sports writer and cultural critic; in fact the sheer diversity of his accomplishments and richness of his writing mean that there will always be much to inspire about the extraordinary life and work of this outstanding Caribbean intellectual.

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**LERN Research Workshops 2011/12**

We are delighted to announce the LERN Research Workshop Series for 2011/12. We have planned three exciting workshops which are all to be held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London. Each workshop engages with important themes in legal education research and is designed to encourage participation and interaction. We encourage you to attend the full day but we will do our best to arrange the activities so as to accommodate those who can only attend for half a day.

**Workshop 1:** 26th October 2011  
**Exploring new themes for legal education research**

**Workshop 2:** 23rd November 2011  
**Planning and developing qualitative research projects**

**Workshop 3:** 7th or 14th March (TBC)  
**Managing qualitative projects**

Details of the workshops can be found below and a booking form can be downloaded [here](http://clrjameslegacy.eventbrite.com/).
After the Holocaust: Challenging the Myth of Silence

Round-table discussion: Professor David Cesarani, Royal Holloway, University of London; Professor Mary Fulbrook, University College London; Dr Eva Hoffman, Kingston University
Date: 7 November 2011
Time 07:00 PM – 08:30PM
Venue: Birkbeck Room 421, Torrington Square main entrance
Booking details
Free entry; booking required
http://aftertheholocaust.eventbrite.com/

Over the last decade scholars have begun to question the commonplace idea that the Holocaust was not talked about extensively or represented in mainstream culture until well into the 1970s. David Cesarani’s bold new book, co-edited with Eric Sundquist, After the Holocaust: Challenging the Myth of Silence mounts a full scale assault on this reading of the past and, controversially, the claims for a post-war ‘silence’ on which the idea of a ‘Holocaust industry’ rests.

The first published collection of original research into this period, international in scope and varied in terms of approach, the book opens the way for a sweeping reassessment of Jewish life in the post-war era. The authors reveal that far from lapsing into silence, individual survivors, survivor-scholars, researchers, historical commissions, theatre directors and film makers did respond to the destruction of the European Jews. Other Jews, however, did flee from Jewish identity and some, especially in the USA, simply failed to comprehend the scale of the catastrophe.

Taking David Cesarani’s book as the starting point, Mary Fulbrook, one of Britain’s foremost historians of Germany and the Nazi era, and internationally renowned writer and academic Eva Hoffman, whose writings have explored memory, history and the legacy of the Holocaust, will discuss the evidence for ‘silence’ and probe the counter-evidence.

Annual Lecture: CREOLIZATION AND DIASPORA: THE DELICATE DANCE by Professor Robin Cohen (Emeritus Professor and Principal Investigator of the Leverhulme-funded Oxford Diasporas Programme, University of Oxford)
Date: 2 November 2011
Venue: SOAS, Room (TBC)
Admission
The lecture is free and open to all. No booking is required.


A diasporic consciousness generally reflects a degree of unease in the current place of residence. In evoking diaspora, a homeland or a looser notion of ‘home’ is reconstructed and revalorized through fabulation, recovered historical memory and social organization. The past provides a continuing pole of attraction and identification. Creolization is a ‘here and now’ sensibility that erodes old roots and stresses fresh and creative beginnings in a novel place of identification.

Diaspora and creolization are apparently heading in different directions. But all is not what it seems. In this lecture, Robin Cohen will explore the complex relationship, the delicate dance, between diaspora and creolization.