



AALS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
LAW SCHOOLS

SECTION ON LAW AND THE HUMANITIES*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Frank Rudy Cooper, Suffolk University Law School

Greetings, Members of the AALS Section on Law and the Humanities:

It started with a question mark and ended with an exclamation point. During last year's AALS annual conference, a darkhorse candidate won the Iowa caucus for the Democratic nomination to be President. What ensued took some of us on an emotional roller-coaster ride. I found myself co-organizing an interdisciplinary symposium on Obama at Denver University Law School (forthcoming in the Denver University Law Review) and attending two other Obama conferences. I ended up questioning Derrick Bell's racial realism thesis. So, when I ask myself whether we can have our best Law & Humanities meeting yet, I say . . . Yes We Can!

For the first time in awhile, our speaker panel will feature a speaker from a Humanities department. It will also feature two law professors from other nations and two interdisciplinary law professors from the United States. Thanks to our Program Chair, David Ritchie of Mercer University Law School for moderating the panel. The papers presented will be published in the SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW. Details on the program follow directly below. Special thanks to Jessica Silbey for putting together this newsletter.

Legal Outsiders in American Film
Friday, January 9, 2009, 8:30 am - 10:15am
San Diego Salon C, North Tower/Lobby Level
San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina

Speakers:

Taunya Banks, University of Maryland Law School
Bennett Capers, Hofstra University Law School
Rebecca Johnson, Victoria University (Canada), Faculty of Law
Orit Kamir, University of Michigan Law School and Hebrew University
Cheyney Ryan, University of Oregon Department of Philosophy

Moderator: **David Ritchie**, Mercer University Law School

The theme of one who stands outside the legal system, yet struggles for acknowledgement, justice, power, recognition, or truth is a perpetual one for filmmakers. In virtually every genre of film, legal outsiders crop up over and over. Characters on the fringes of society and the margins of the legal system populate the narratives of both independent films and Hollywood blockbusters.

These characters help define lawlessness and transgression. They also say a lot about American conceptions of law, social acceptance, and transformation. This panel will bring together scholars from both the legal academy and the humanities to explore this theme, and to discuss the reasons why outsiders are ever present in our cinematic representations of law and culture.

Section Business Meeting (after program): If you are interested in getting more involved with the Section in 2009, please stay for the Section business meeting, which, as usual, will **immediately follow the conclusion of the program**. The current executive committee strongly encourages you to attend, as we're very interested in your input and boosting member involvement.

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*This newsletter is a forum for the exchange of ideas. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Section and do not necessarily represent the position of the Association of American Law Schools.

CALL FOR PAPERS

December 2009

Law, Literature and Film

The Stetson Law Review will publish a symposium issue on law, literature, and film. Articles may focus on literature, film, or both; short fiction and poetry will also be considered. Regarding proposed submissions, please contact Robert Batey, the faculty coordinator of the symposium issue, at batey@law.stetson.edu or (after December 1st) at 727-562-7852. Final submissions must be received by June 2009.

June 7-9, 2009

Georgetown University Law Center, Columbia Law School, University of Southern California Center for Law, History & Culture, and UCLA School of Law invite submissions for the seventh meeting of the Law & Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop to be held at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. Submissions (in either Word or Wordperfect, no pdf files) will be accepted until **January 9, 2009**. For more information see http://www.law.columbia.edu/center_program/law_culture/lh_workshop

January 15, 2009

Food, Culture, and the Law

The field of food studies has grown enormously over the last decade, as evidenced in part by the steadily increasing number of academics and professionals in the humanities, social and nutrition sciences, culinary arts, and hospitality studies who have become engaged in cross-disciplinary conversations about food. Operating in tandem with the explosion of popular fascination with food, these conversations have been joined of late by academics, attorneys, and activists who are particularly concerned with the question of how our relationship to food is, has been, and should be, mediated through law. In response to this emerging area of inquiry, we are soliciting both conference papers and publishable essays that integrate multidisciplinary scholarship in food studies with legal scholarship related to food in existing fields such as agricultural, constitutional, criminal, administrative, tort, intellectual property, and international trade law. Among the questions we hope to answer are: How might one account for the law's varying treatment of food over time and/or cross-culturally? What role does law play in shaping cultural ideas about food production, trade, and consumption? And, inversely, what role does food play in shaping ideas about the law?

Initially we seek papers written from a variety of perspectives appropriate for presentation at the Association for the Study of Food and Society (details for the 2009 conference TBA on the ASFS website). Please submit a paragraph author's bio and an abstract of no more than 500 words to Doris Witt (doris-witt@uiowa.edu), Chris Buccafusco (cjb@law.uiuc.edu), AND Amy Dillard (adillard@ubalt.edu). Abstracts for ASFS or for the essay collection alone are due by Jan. 15, 2009. Please indicate whether the abstract is for ASFS, the essay collection, or some combination thereof. Finished essays should be approximately 10,000 words in length and will be due on or before January 1, 2010.

In advance of submitting an abstract, please feel free to contact Doris Witt, Christopher Buccafusco, or Amy Dillard with any questions about the conference panels or the essay collection.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Association of Law, Culture and the Humanities

Twelfth Annual Conference

April 3rd-4th, 2009, Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts

Info at <http://www.law.syr.edu/academics/centers/lch/conference.html>

In flagrante depicto: Film in/on Trial

May 7-8, 2009

Cardozo School of Law, Program in Law and Humanities

Law and film is a new and rapidly developing sub-discipline with obvious and important applications throughout the doctrine, practice and theory of law. The conference proposes a highly specific and targeted review of the discipline from perspectives ranging from visual advocacy practice to the impact of film upon the drafting and promulgation of judgment and law. Historians, philosophers, media specialists, filmmakers, actors and lawyers will both review, and address how digital culture impacts juristic thought and judicial performance.

Using the medium to its full extent, the conference will be both accessible and of popular public interest. Films will be presented, footage worked, and papers delivered phonically and visually. It will be the first event of this stature of its kind, addressing the general theoretical convergence and practical intermingling of image and norm, icon and law, film, media and legality. Proceedings will be published in the *Cardozo Law Review*. A DVD of the proceedings will also be produced by the organizers.

CRT 20: Honoring Our Past, Charting Our Future

April 2-4, 2009, at University of Iowa College of Law

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Critical Race Theory. For the past two decades, CRT scholars have offered indispensable guidance to anyone who sought to use her scholarly voice to address issues of race and racism. This conference will not only celebrate the achievements of the founding CRT scholars, but also seek to broaden and deepen the discussion between senior Critical Race Theorists and junior scholars. We invite you to join us in this endeavor.

Conceptualizing Substantive Justice

April 17-18, 2009 at Univ. of Denver College of Law

Post-modern critiques have thoroughly discredited many of the Anglo-American legal norms in which modernism finds expression – formal equality, procedural justice, negative liberty, etc. But much room (and need) remains for discussion of new prescriptive paradigms of law and policy – for moving beyond critique to alternatives. For example, is it possible to articulate an alternative vision of justice that relies on positive notions of liberty, substantive notions of equality, and distributive notions of justice – and yet avoids the pitfall of claiming universal applicability or objective legitimacy? Does critical race theory’s endorsement of “looking to the bottom” suggest a methodology for identifying a set of concrete commitments that could ground a substantive notion of justice? How would that methodology be operationalized? How would conflicts among different outsider groups be resolved in the formulation of that vision?

Those interested in these or related questions are invited to attend a workshop-styled conference on “Conceptualizing Substantive Justice,” to be held at the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law on Friday and Saturday, April 17& 18, 2009. Please submit paper proposals to: Nancy Ehrenreich, Professor of Law, Sturm College of Law, 2255 E. Evans Ave., Denver CO 80208, nehrenre@law.du.edu, 303-871-6256.

AALS Section on Law and Humanities Executive Committee:

Chair: Frank Rudy Cooper (Suffolk)

Chair-Elect: Angela Onwuachi-Willig (Iowa)

Program Chair: David Ritchie (Mercer University Law School)

Secretary: Jessica Silbey (Suffolk)

Treasurer: Michael Stein (College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law)

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Frank Rudy Cooper, *Surveillance and Identity Performance: Some Thoughts Inspired by Martin Luther King*, N.Y.U. REV. L. & SOC. CHANGE (forthcoming 2008)

Christine Corcos, *George Carlin: Constitutional Law Scholar*, 37 STETSON L. REV. 899-940 (2008).

Christine Corcos, *A Man for All Reasons: The Uses of Alexis de Tocqueville's Writings in U.S. Judicial Opinions*, in LIBER AMICORUM 481 (ed. Olivier Moréteau, 2008).

Christine A. Corcos, *Damages: The Truth Is Out There*, in LAWYERS IN YOUR LIVING ROOM: LAW ON THE SMALL SCREEN (Michael Asimow, ed. ABA Press, 2009).

Mary Dudziak, EXPORTING AMERICAN DREAMS: THURGOOD MARSHALL'S AFRICAN JOURNEY (Oxford University Press 2009). Details are here: <http://mdudziak.com/exporting.aspx>

Ariela Gross, BLOOD WON'T TELL: A HISTORY OF RACE ON TRIAL IN AMERICA (Harvard University Press, 2008)

John Kang, *Manliness and the Constitution*, 32 HARVARD J. OF L. & PUBLIC POL'Y ___ (forthcoming 2009)

John Kang, *Taking Safety Seriously: Using Liberalism to Fight Pornography*, 15 MICHIGAN J. OF GENDER & LAW ___ (forthcoming 2008)

John Kang, *Deliberating the Divine: On Extending the Justification from Truth to Religious Expression*, 73 BROOKLYN L. REV. 1 (2007).

Carolyn B. Ramsey, *In the Sweat Box: A Historical Perspective on the Detention of Material Witnesses*, 6 OHIO STATE J. OF CRIM L. ___ (forthcoming 2009).

Judith Resnik, *From "Rites" To "Rights" of Audience: The Utilities and Contingencies of the Public's Role in Court-Based Processes*, (with Dennis E. Curtis) in REPRESENTATION OF JUSTICE 195-236 (eds. Antoine Masson and Kevin O'Connor, P.I.E. - Peter Lang, 2007)

Judith Resnik, *Representing Justice: From Renaissance Iconography to Twenty-First Century Court-houses*, 151 Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 139 (with Dennis E. Curtis) (2007).

Dan Solove, UNDERSTANDING PRIVACY (Harvard University Press, May 2008) at <http://understanding-privacy.com>.

Joseph Slaughter, *Human Rights, Inc.: The World Novel, Narrative Form, and International Law* (Fordham UP, 2007). <http://www.fordhampress.com/detail.html?id=9780823228188>

Jessica Silbey, *Cross-Examining Film*, ___ U. MD. L.J. Race, Religion, Gender & Class (forthcoming 2009)

Jessica Silbey, *The Mythical Beginnings of Intellectual Property*, 15 GEO. MASON L. REV. 319 (2008) (selected for re-publication by the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology)