

2019 Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History

**Langdon Room, Lowell Center
& Room 332, Pyle Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Program

Week One

Sunday, June 9, 2019

- After 3:00 Lowell Center check-in (if guests arrive before 3:00pm, they may leave their luggage at the front desk until check-in at 3:00pm)
- Check-in at the Hurst table and pick up your welcome bag
- 6:00 Meet in the Lowell Lobby
- 6:15 Leave for opening dinner hosted by Lead Scholar, Professor Mitra Sharafi at her home
- We have arranged for cabs to pick you up from the Lowell Center at 6:15pm and take you to Professor Sharafi's house
- Professor Howie Erlanger will give a short talk on the history of the Hurst Institute
- Return to the Lowell Center
- 9:00 We have arranged for cabs to pick you up at 9:00pm and take you back to the Lowell Center

Unless otherwise stated, all sessions will take place in Langdon Room at the Lowell Center.

A complimentary breakfast buffet is available for guests in the dining room of the Lowell Center from 6:30am – 8:30am on weekdays and 7:30am – 9:30am on weekends.

Day 1: Monday, June 10, 2019

Chair: Mitra Sharafi, Professor of Law and Legal Studies (with History affiliation), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Topic: **Legal History's Histories**

Readings:

- Stanley N. Katz, "James Willard Hurst," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 144:4 (2000), 459-63 (obituary)
- Hendrik Hartog, "Snakes in Ireland: A Conversation with Willard Hurst," *Law and History Review* 12 (1994), 370-90
- Barbara Y. Welke, "Willard Hurst and the Archipelago of American Legal Historiography," *Law and History Review* 18:1 (2000), 197-204
- Robert W. Gordon, "Critical Legal Histories," *Stanford Law Review* 36 (1984), 57-125

Agenda:

8:30-9:00	Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
9:00-10:30	Introductions
10:30-11:30	J. Willard Hurst and US Legal History: Katz, Hartog & Welke
12:00-1:30	Buffet Lunch with Law School faculty and staff and other invited guests from the university in the Quarles and Brady Reading Room (Law School Library, 5th Floor) Around 12:30 Professor Sharafi will invite the Hurst Fellows to briefly introduce themselves
1:30-1:45	Group photo in the Quarles & Brady Reading Room
2:00-3:30	Critical Legal Histories: Gordon (Lowell Center)

3:30

Adjourn

Day 2: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Readings: *Please do the reading assigned to your group (see handout)*

- Group A (Larissa, José, Julia): Daniel Lord Smail, *Legal Plunder: Households and Debt Collection in Late Medieval Europe* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016), 181-239 (Ch.4: The Plunder), plus notes
- Group B (Emily, Myisha, Aaron): Elizabeth Thornberry, *Colonizing Consent: Rape and Governance in South Africa's Eastern Cape* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 248-99 (Ch.5: Navigating the Politics of Consent)
- Group C (Jesse, Mariam, Sanne): Mitra Sharafi, "The Imperial Serologist and Punitive Self-Harm: Bloodstains and Legal Pluralism in British India" in Ian Burney and Christopher Hamlin, eds., *Global Forensic Cultures: Making Fact and Justice in the Modern Era* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019), 60-85
- Group D (George, Allison, Brianna): Philip Thai, *China's War on Smuggling: Law, Economic Life, and the Making of the Modern State, 1842-1965* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018), 241-71 (Ch.7. Old Menace in New China: Symbiotic Economies in the Early People's Republic), plus notes

Agenda:

8:30-9:00	Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
9:00-10:30	The Many Flavors of Legal History: Jigsaw discussion of Smail, Thornberry, Sharafi, and Thai (see handout)
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	Challenges and Dilemmas in Legal History: Discussion of Issues that We Encounter (see handout)
12:00-1:30	Lunch - Box lunches delivered to the meeting room
1:30-2:30	Break
2:30-3:30	Tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library (optional) 816 State St, Madison, WI 53706

One-hour tour designed for legal historians led by Librarian Nancy Mulhern. Check in at the reception desk on the first floor by 2:30pm

Day 3: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

- Guest Scholar:** Professor Michelle McKinley, University of Oregon School of Law
- Location:** **Langdon Room, Lowell Center**
- Readings:** Michelle McKinley: "Juana de Godinez: Navigating Freedom Inside the Cloistered Households of Religious Women in Colonial Lima," 1-19
- Agenda:**
- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
- 9:00-10:30 AM Session 1: Professor Michelle McKinley
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:00 AM Session 2. Surviving and Thriving in the Academy
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch at the Pyle Center
702 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53706
- 1:30 Adjourn until dinner
- 5:45 Walk to the restaurant
- 6:00 Group Dinner at Steenbock's on Orchard
330 N Orchard St, Madison, WI 53705

Day 4: Thursday, June 13, 2019

- Guest Scholar:** Professor Will Hanley, Florida State University
- Readings:** Will Hanley: Identifying the Body of International Law (chapter from a book-in-progress), 1-21
- Agenda:**
- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
- 9:00-10:30 AM Session 1: Professor Will Hanley

10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	AM Session 2. Neither Book nor Essay: Research Materials as Scholarly Products Please share a few data management tools and data repositories you use and offer any comments you might have: http://bit.ly/hurst-tools
12:00-1:30	Buffet lunch at the Fluno Center 601 University Avenue, Madison 53715
1:30	Adjourn until dinner
6:00	Group Dinner at University Club 803 State St, Madison, WI 53703

Day 5: Friday, June 14, 2019

Guest Scholar: Professor Karen Tani, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Readings:

- Karen Tani: Book Project Summary (Draft): *The Rise of Disability Governance and the Transformation of Citizenship, 1970-1990*, 1-8
- Karen Tani: Chapter 5: "Training the Citizen-Enforcers of Disability Rights, 1978-1982," 1-30
- Karen Tani: Chapter 6: "What Have We Done," 1-7

Agenda:

8:30-9:00	Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
9:00-10:30	AM Session 1: Professor Karen Tani
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	AM Session 2. Developing Your Scholarly Profile Online: The Promise and Peril of Social Media
12:00-1:30	Lunch in the Audubon Room at the University Club 803 State Street, Madison, WI 53703

1:30 Adjourn until dinner

6:00 Group dinner at Smitty's Study Pub, Fluno Center
601 University Avenue, Madison 53715

Saturday, June 15, 2019

No program

Week Two

Sunday, June 16, 2019

6:00 Group Dinner hosted by Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Director of the Institute for Legal Studies, Susannah Tahk at her home

We have arranged for cabs to pick you up from the Lowell Center at 5:30pm and take you to Dean Tahk's house

9:00 Return to the Lowell Center
We have arranged for cabs to pick you up at 9:00pm and take you back to the Lowell Center

Day 6: Monday, June 17, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Agenda:

8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room

9:00-10:30 Emily Prifogle: "An Introduction to Cows, Cars, and Criminals," 1-30

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 Jesse Watson: "I Myself Speak: Petitions and the Generation of (Proto-)Paperwork in Early Imperial China," 1-30

12:30-2:00 Lunch - Box lunches delivered to the meeting room

2:00-3:30 Myisha Eatmon: "Re-imagining Tort Law: Restoring Black Civil Litigation to the Evolution of Tort Law," 1-25

3:30 Adjourn

Day 7: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Agenda:

- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Lower Lounge Meeting Room
- 9:00-10:30 Mariam Sheibani: "A Tale of Two Ṭarīqas: The Iraqi and Khorasani Shāfi'ī Communities (9th to 11th centuries)," 1-30
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:30 Brianna Nofil: "The Business of the "Chinese Jail": Legality and Detention in the U.S.-Canada Borderlands, 1900-1910," 1-30
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch at the Pyle Center
702 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53706
- 2:00 Adjourn

**** Please note the location change. The rest of the program will be held in Room 332, Pyle Center. Breakfast will continue to be available at the Lowell Center.**

Day 8: Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Agenda:

- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in Room 332
- 9:00-10:30 Sanne Ravensbergen: "Courtrooms of Conflict: Criminal Law and Strategies of Uncertainty in Colonial Java," 1-28
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:30 Aaron Hall: "Claiming the Founding: Slavery and Constitutional History in Antebellum America," 1-27
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch - Box lunches delivered to the meeting room
- 2:00-3:30 Julia Leikin: "Russia's Mediterranean Moment," 1-30
- 3:30 Adjourn

Day 9: Thursday, June 20, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Agenda:

- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in Room 332
- 9:00-10:30 George Aumoithe: "Disparate Impacts: Hospitals and the Diminution of Civil Rights Law in the Long 1970s," 1-30
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:30 Larissa Kopytoff: "The Legal Construction of 'Originaires' in French Colonial Senegal," 1-19
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch in the Audubon Room at the University Club
803 State Street, Madison, WI 53703
- 2:00 Adjourn

Day 10: Friday, June 21, 2019

Chair: Professor Mitra Sharafi

Agenda:

- 8:30-9:00 Informal Coffee and Conversation in the Room 332
- 9:00-10:30 Allison Schwartz: "Indebted Women and the Emergence of American Neoliberalism," 1-30
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:30 José Argueta Funes: "Law's Civilization: Lawyers and Reform in the Kingdom of Hawai'i," 1-30
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch - Box lunches delivered to the meeting room
- 2:00-3:00 Conclusions and Reflections on the 2019 Hurst Institute
- 3:00 Adjourn until dinner
- 6:15 Meet in Lowell Lobby to walk to the restaurant

6:30-9:00

Closing Reception and Banquet at Harvest Restaurant
21 North Pinckney Street, Madison, WI 53703

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Departure

Fellows are invited to follow up on our daily discussions by adding any references to our Google Doc, "Hurst Institute 2019: Resources & Recommendations": bit.ly/Hurst2019

End of program

Biographies of Lead Scholar and Guest Scholars

Will Hanley

Will Hanley is a legal and social historian of the Middle East. He is associate professor of history at Florida State University. He studied at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Toronto, and Oxford before earning his doctorate in history at Princeton. His first book, *Identifying with Nationality: Europeans, Ottomans, and Egyptians in Alexandria*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2017. He is currently working on a Cairo-centered history of international law between 1870 and 1930. He is also engaged in a variety of digital projects, including an NEH-funded names database (prosop.org), an undergraduate historical newspaper encoding project (dig-eg-gaz.github.io), and a digital gazetteer of the Ottoman empire (ottgaz.org). He has been a Rhodes Scholar, a Fellow of the Forum Transregionale Studien (Berlin), and a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton).

Michelle McKinley

Michelle McKinley is the Bernard B. Kliks Professor of Law at the University of Oregon Law School and director for the Center for the Study of Women in Society. Professor McKinley has taught on the faculties of the University of Hawai'i, Universidad de los Andes, University of Kansas, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, and Princeton University. She has published extensively in the areas of public international law, Latin American legal history, and the law of slavery. Her monograph, *Fractional Freedoms: Slavery, Intimacy and Legal Mobilization in Colonial Lima, 1600-1700* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. The monograph which examines enslaved women in colonial Lima who used ecclesiastical and civil courts to litigate their claims to liberty, received the 2017 Judy Ewell prize for best work in women's history from RMCLAS, and an honorary mention for the best work in sociolegal history from the Law and Society Association.

She has received fellowships for her research from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Philosophical Society, and the Newberry Library. She was awarded the Surrency Prize in 2011 for her article, "Fractional Freedoms: Legal Activism & Ecclesiastical Courts in Colonial Lima, 1593-1700." In 2014, she was a fellow in residence at Princeton University's Program in Law and Public Affairs.

Mitra Sharafi

Mitra Sharafi is a legal historian of South Asia and is Professor of Law and Legal Studies (with History affiliation) at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds law degrees from Cambridge and Oxford (the UK equivalent of a JD and LLM) and a doctorate in history from Princeton. Professor Sharafi's book, *Law and Identity in Colonial South Asia: Parsi Legal Culture, 1772-1947* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) won the Law and Society Association's J. Willard Hurst Prize for socio-legal history in 2015. The book explores the legal culture of the Parsis or Zoroastrians of British India, an ethno-religious minority that was unusually invested in colonial law: <http://hosted.law.wisc.edu/wordpress/sharafi/>

Currently, Professor Sharafi is working on her second book project. "Fear of the False: Forensic Science in Colonial India" which examines colonial anxieties about dissimulation that were reflected in the work of medico-legal experts like the Chemical Examiners and Imperial Serologist. She is also writing an article on abortion during the Raj, and another on South Asian and West African law students who were expelled from London's Inns of Court around the turn of the twentieth century. Her research has been recognized and supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, Institute for Advanced Study, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, and Social Science Research Council. She is an [ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellow '18](#) (National Humanities Center, 2020-1), a [Davis Center Fellow](#) (Princeton History Dept., fall 2018), and an [H. I. Romnes Faculty Fellow](#) (UW-Madison, 2018-23).

Her research interests include South Asian legal history; the history of the legal profession; the history of colonialism; the history of contract law; law and society; law and religion; law and minorities; legal consciousness; legal pluralism; and the history of science and medicine. Professor Sharafi is a regular contributor to the [Legal History Blog](#). Since 2010, her [South Asian Legal History Resources](#) website has shared research guides and other tools for the historical study of law in South Asia. Follow her on Twitter [@mjsharafi](#).

Karen M. Tani

Karen M. Tani is professor of law at University of California, Berkeley. She is a scholar of U.S. legal history, with broad interests in poverty law and policy, administrative agencies, rights language, federalism, and the modern American state. She teaches torts, legal and constitutional history, and social welfare law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She is the author of *States of Dependency: Welfare, Rights, and American Governance, 1935-1972* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), which won the 2017 Cromwell Book Prize from the American Society for Legal History. The book sheds new light on the nature of modern American governance by examining legal contests over welfare benefits and administration in the years between the New Deal and the modern welfare rights movement.

Professor Tani is the first graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's J.D./Ph.D. program in American Legal History. Following her law school graduation, she clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Prior to joining Berkeley Law, she was a Samuel I. Golieb Fellow in Legal History at New York University School of Law and the George Sharswood Fellow in Law and History at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Professor Tani is an active member of the American Society for Legal History and contributes regularly to the [Legal History Blog](#). At Berkeley, she is an affiliate of the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program and the Center for the Study of Law and Society.

Biographies of 2019 Hurst Fellows

George Aumoithe

George Aumoithe is postdoctoral research associate in the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies and Department of History at Princeton University. He earned his Ph.D. in U.S. history from Columbia University in 2018. His dissertation “Strange Bedfellows: Public Health and Welfare Politics in the United States, 1965—2000” examines the political economy of Medicaid and hospital provision in New York City. Exploring the consequences of a decade-plus fiscal shift that began in the late 1960s, the project shows how federal, state, and local policymakers deemphasized epidemic preparedness and acute care in favor of downsized hospitals, increased outpatient services, and more “personal responsibility.” The project demonstrates a series of purposeful decisions by presidential administrations, Congress, state legislatures, and city officials to underinvest in public and voluntary hospitals that served poor people and people of color. Dr. Aumoithe’s research has been supported by the American Philosophical Society, the Center for Engaged Scholarship, the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and the Social Science Research Council. He is a 2019 Career Enhancement Adjunct Faculty Fellow with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. He has published in the newsletter of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, contributed to the *Civil Rights (1954-2015) (Defining Documents in American History)* series, and written for *Social Difference Online*. His present research includes conducting a study of the deployment of underutilization ratios to justify the closure of “safety-net” hospitals and an analysis of the effect of disparate impact jurisprudence on hospital closure cases. An essay on sexuality, AIDS, and the American welfare state is forthcoming in *The Intimate State: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History* (eds. Margot Canaday, Nancy Cott, and Robert Self). Aumoithe is lead editor of a forthcoming volume entitled *Law, Social Difference, and Healthcare*, which examines structural racism in medico-legal history.

Myisha S. Eatmon

Myisha S. Eatmon is a Chapel Hill, North Carolina native who earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and History from the University of Notre Dame. She earned her Master’s Degree in United States History in 2013, and is now a Doctoral Candidate in the Department. Her dissertation explores black legal culture in the face of racial violence under Jim Crow. Her interest in history, social justice, and the law dates back to her elementary years, when she was deeply moved by the lived experiences of victims of chattel slavery, the Holocaust, and Jim Crow. She has earned the American Historical Association’s Littleton-Griswold Research in Legal History Research Grant among other research grants to advance her research on black legal culture, civil law, and Jim Crow.

José Argueta Funes

José Argueta Funes is a doctoral candidate in history at Princeton University. He studies nineteenth-century North America and the Pacific, with a particular emphasis on legal history, political economy, and natural resources. His dissertation surveys property reforms in the Kingdom (and Territory) of Hawai'i in the mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and the worlds of Anglo-American lawyers involved in these reforms. José was born and raised in San Salvador, El Salvador. He earned a B.A. in history and philosophy from the University of Virginia, where he was a Jefferson Scholar. He completed his J.D. studies at Yale Law School in the spring of 2019. At Yale, José was awarded the Quintin Johnstone Prize in Real Property Law and served as a Legal History Fellow and as a Coker Fellow. He will clerk for Judge Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit during the 2020-2021 term.

Aaron Hall

Aaron Hall is a historian of slavery, constitutionalism and governance in the United States. Beginning in June of 2019, he will be a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Cornell University. In 2020, he will join the History faculty of the University of Minnesota. Aaron is writing a book on the creation of an authoritative Founding in American constitutional culture through conflicts over slavery in the Early Republic. From schoolhouses and popular conventions to courtrooms and legislatures, this project traces how antebellum Americans made claims upon a prescriptive constitutional past to govern the country's most traumatic subject. Aaron is also working on a second project that studies slavery as an instrument and artifact of public power. His articles have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Law and History Review* and *Law and Social Inquiry*. Aaron is a graduate of Harvard Law School and received his PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2019. As a graduate student, he has been supported by a Golieb Fellowship at NYU Law School and a dissertation fellowship from the McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

Larissa Kopytoff

Larissa Kopytoff is an Instructor at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. She earned her Ph.D. in African history from New York University in 2018. Her dissertation, "The Boundaries of Citizenship: Political Imagination and French Colonial Administration in Senegal's Quatre Communes," addressed what are often described as legal anomalies: French colonial subjects in West Africa who claimed and exercised political and legal rights generally reserved for French citizens. Her work examines how African citizens and subjects themselves shaped Senegal's complex and ambiguous citizenship laws and explores why citizenship in Senegal mattered for the expansion and restriction of rights elsewhere in colonial Africa and the French empire. More broadly, Larissa's research interests focus on political participation and affiliation in colonial Africa, the intersections of legal status and racial and religious identities, and the translation of colonial law and administration into everyday practices. She has won teaching awards at New York University and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, and her work has been supported by the Fulbright-Hays DDRA Program.

Julia Leikin

Julia Leikin is a historian of Russia and Eurasia, with an interest in the development and practice of international law and legal culture more broadly. Currently, a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Exeter, she is working on a monograph tentatively titled *In the Spirit of the Laws: The Russian Empire in the International Order*. The book analyzes the practice of the law of nations in the Russian Empire's maritime realms in the eighteenth and nineteenth century; it argues that the sea was central to the development of the discipline of international law in imperial Russia in the middle of the nineteenth century. Her recent publications, including an article in *Law and History Review*, set the scene for understanding the "Russian Mediterranean" – an important legal frontier in the development of Russian international and maritime law. Together with E. B. Smilianskaia, she is the editor and translator of *Russian Faith, Honour & Courage Displayed in a Faithful Narrative of the Russian Expedition by Sea in the Years 1769 & 1770 by Rear-Admiral John Elphinston*, which will appear in Russian translation in 2019 and subsequently in the original English.

She received a Ph.D. from University College London in December 2016, and has held fellowships at the Institute of Historical Research, London, and the German Historical Institute, Moscow. Her research has been supported by IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship, the Scouloudi Foundation, the British Institute at Ankara, and the Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies, and the Hakluyt Society. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and has previously worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. and in the financial sector in New York.

Brianna Nofil

Brianna Nofil is a PhD candidate in U.S. history at Columbia University, where she specializes in the history of immigration and the criminal justice system. Her dissertation, "Detention Power: Jails, Camps, and the Origins of Immigrant Incarceration, 1900-2002," examines how immigration detention emerged as a distinct form of "administrative imprisonment," tracing its development from the era of Chinese Exclusion to the era of ICE. By paying particular attention to how the immigration service's reliance on county jails fostered a century of collaboration between local communities and the federal government, this project recasts deportation as a federal initiative impossible to carry out without local cooperation. Brianna received her B.A. from Duke University and previously held the Bear Fellowship in Business, Law, and Human Rights at the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Her final year at Columbia is being supported by fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Jefferson Scholars Foundation.

Emily Prifogle

Emily Prifogle is a social and legal historian of rural communities. In May 2019, she defended her dissertation, "Cows, Cars, and Criminals: The Legal Landscape of the Rural Midwest, 1920-1975," which argues that the legal remaking of rural communities was a central feature of twentieth-century America. It utilizes case studies to examine critical topics that historians and legal scholars have framed as quintessentially urban issues—land use and zoning, policing and prosecution, education equality, labor and economic opportunity, local community organizing and advocacy, and infrastructure and mobility—and reveals their manifestations in rural geographies, economies, and social norms. The result is a new legal history that tells not a story of rural decline but a story of the rural Midwest in a constant process of transformation along lines of class, race, and gender.

Emily will be a Faculty Fellow at the University of Michigan Law School beginning fall 2019. Her scholarship has been supported by a National Fellowship at the Jefferson Scholars Foundation and an Early Career Research Fellowship from the Cromwell Foundation. She is a former associate blogger for the Legal History Blog and current advisory board member and co-founder of WomenAlsoKnowHistory.com. She received a MSc in comparative social policy from Oxford and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley. She also clerked for Judge David Hamilton on the Seventh Circuit.

Sanne Ravensbergen

Sanne Ravensbergen is a cultural historian of colonial law based at Leiden University. Her PhD thesis *Courtrooms of Conflict. Criminal Law, Local Elites and Legal Pluralities in Colonial Java* that she is currently reworking into a book, demonstrates the role of criminal law and courtroom dynamics in the process of colonial state formation in nineteenth century Java, where separate courts and laws existed for different population groups. In the pluralistic law courts— the *landraden* and *ommeegaande rechtbanken*—where the local (and other non-European) population was tried, Javanese and Dutch court members decided over the verdict together by ballot, with Islamic and Chinese leaders providing advice on religious and local legal traditions. In this pluralistic setting, it was by keeping laws undefined, procedures vague, and networks informal—by institutionalizing uncertainty—that space was created to exercise and challenge colonial rule. Sanne’s postdoctoral research project ‘Building Cultures of Legality’ follows on her PhD research but expands geographically. It zooms in on the actual moments of the making of compendia and colonial legislation in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, when colonial commissions of inquiry sought local expertise and new legal constructs were formed in the local contexts of South Sulawesi, East Java, West Sumatra, Southeast India, and Sri Lanka. In 2015 and 2016, Sanne co-initiated and co-organised two international conferences entitled *Ocean of Law*, bringing together scholars working on the legal history of the Indian Ocean World. She teaches and designs undergraduate and honours courses on the history of Dutch empire, legal history of the nineteenth century, and currently contested issues in the Netherlands related to its colonial past.

Allison Schwartz

Allison Schwartz is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation – “Banking on a Woman’s Worth: Personhood and the New Patriarchy of Debt, 1961-2008” – explores how debt and credit served as sites where American women both challenged and experienced gender and racial inequality. In analyzing credit, housing, and bankruptcy legislation passed during the 1970s, she illuminates the myriad ways in which a woman’s capacity to repay her debt conditioned her claim to legal personhood. By placing women’s indebtedness at the center of neoliberal transformations, she traces the enduring power of an American legal system which privileged the profits of capitalist institutions extending loans over the financial security of women depending on borrowed money. She received her BA from the University of Chicago and MA from Columbia University. She was a fellow at the Women in Prison Project where she worked to secure the passage of the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA). Her research has been supported by the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Duke University’s Sallie Bingham Center, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

Mariam Sheibani

Mariam Sheibani is a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Law School's Program in Islamic Law. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. She specializes in the intellectual and social history of medieval and modern Islamic societies, with a focus on law, ethics, and contemporary Islamic thought. Her first book project, entitled "Islamic Law in an Age of Crisis and Consolidation: 'Izz al-Dīn Ibn 'Abd al-Salām (577-660/1187-262) and the Ethical Turn in Medieval Islamic Law," undertakes an intellectual biography of a thirteenth-century Shāfi'ī jurist who pioneered a crucial ethical turn in Islamic law and whose impact was widely felt across the Islamic world in subsequent centuries and up to the present day. Ibn 'Abd al-Salām's innovative thought represented a move away from a formal approach to the law towards a more ethical, teleological, and socially responsive legal discourse. Her project integrates unpublished manuscripts collected during extensive fieldwork in European and Middle Eastern manuscript libraries. She has studied and conducted research in Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Spain, the UK and West Africa. She earned a BA in Public Affairs and Policy Management, an MA in Legal Studies, and an MA in Islamic Studies. Her PhD research has been supported by fellowships from Harvard Law School, the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Jesse Watson

Jesse Watson is historian of imperial China with a particular interest in the early empires (3rd century BCE to 3rd century CE), legal history and materiality. His doctoral dissertation, entitled "Paperwork Before Paper," uses tens of thousands of newly excavated manuscripts to argue for the crucial role of legal culture in the formation of the Qin and Han empires (221 BCE-220 CE). Jesse's work with manuscripts inscribed on bamboo, wood, silk, and clay has led to a strong interest in comparative methodologies for legal history and the study of law and society. He is especially interested in the ways that attention to the production and circulation of legal manuscripts can reveal the sociality inherent in the making of law. Jesse is currently a doctoral candidate in history at the University of California, Berkeley. Beginning in August he will be a visiting assistant professor of history at Oberlin College.