



Research Centers Newsletter, April 2019



Event Spotlight: 2019 Soffa Lecture



Dr. Brigitte Baptiste

The **2019 J. Jobe and Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa Lecture** will take place on **Thursday, April 11 at 4:00pm in the Alumni Lounge of the Pyle Center**. This year's lecture, titled "Queering Ecology," will be delivered by **Dr. Brigitte Baptiste**, Director of the Humboldt Institute of Biological Resources, Bogota. She is a 2017 Prince Claus Laureate.

Dr. Baptiste argues that the conventional approach to ecology has been developed more from the side of queer theory than from ecological thinking. However, biological evolution, based on a continuous arrangement of DNA texts, allows and even benefits from the existence of many "queer" species and behaviors. To many scholars "there is nothing more queer than nature," meaning that biological relationships among living beings are ecological narratives which produce queerness and innovation. The potential of such inquiry may help us understand and be prepared for the next generation of emerging, mutant or even cyber ecosystems.

Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa ('46 BA L&S) established the Soffa fund to support an annual public lecture on a contemporary issue of global significance by a distinguished woman in international public life. For more than a decade this fund has brought

renowned women from across the globe to lecture and meet with classes. Holders of the lectureship have included well-known “grassroots” leaders in the struggle for human rights and international understanding.

The 2019 Soffa Lecture is sponsored by the J. Jobe Soffa and Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa Distinguished International Visitor Fund, the Human Rights Program, Global Legal Studies Center, International Division, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and QLaw.

[Learn more about the 2019 Soffa Lecture](#)

[Register for the Soffa Lecture](#)

Event Spotlight: David Trubek

UW Law School Professor Emeritus Dave Trubek will be visiting the Law School in April. He will be giving two talks at the Law School. The first talk titled "**Building the Corporate Law Complex in Brazil, India and China: Diffusion, Variation, Exceptionalism**" will take place on **Monday, April 15th at 12:00pm in Lubar Commons (Room 7200)**. Professor Trubek's talk will be followed by comments from EALSC Director, John Ohnesorge, and Brazilian Lawyer and UW Graduate Student, Sarah Marinho.

On **Wednesday, April 17th at 12:00pm in Room 3260**, Professor Trubek will participate in a roundtable on international economic law. The roundtable discussion, titled "**China's Rise and the End of Embedded Neo-Liberalism**," will include **Professor Emeritus Charles Irish and Professor Emeritus Edward Friedman**. For background on this topic, please read "**Embedded Neoliberalism and Its Discontents: The Uncertain Future of Trade and Investment Law.**"

Both events are sponsored by the East Asian Legal Studies Center.



[David Trubek](#)

Delegation from Thammasat University



A seven member delegation from **Thammasat University** will visit the Law School on **April 18th**. The delegation will be headed by the Dean of the Law School, Professor Udom Rathamarit, and will comprise Associate Dean Munin Pongsapan (Director of International Programs), Associate Professor Supreeya Kaewla-iad (Associate Dean), Assistant Professor Niramai Phitkhae (Associate Dean), Dr. Junavit Chalidabhongse (Assistant Dean), Ms. Pranee Kurupintalak (Head of Administrative Staff), and Ms. Tassanee Silapanorasath (Deputy Head of Administrative Staff). Thammasat University partners with the UW Law School in several

ways: through the EALSC internship program, the study abroad program, and the Graduate Programs. This visit will consolidate a long-standing relationship between the two institutions, and will provide an opportunity to renew existing ties and explore the possibility of establishing new collaborations.

The visit will be hosted by Professor John Ohnesorge, director of the EALSC, and Professor Jason Yackee, director of the exchange program with Thammasat University. While in Madison, the delegation will meet with interested faculty, students, and staff members at the Law School as well as relevant officials on campus.

Selected Upcoming Events

- **April 3, 2019:** Ideas and Innovations Speaker Michelle Wilde Anderson (Dean's Office)
- **April 5, 2019:** WILJ Symposium (GLS/EALSC)
- **April 11, 2019:** Annual J. Jobe and Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa Lecture (GLS/HRP)
- **April 12, 2019:** Compliance Initiative Speaker Susan Yackee (ILS)
- **April 18, 2019:** Law & Society Speaker Sheila Foster (ILS)
- **April 24, 2019:** Law and Society Speaker Kate Andrias (ILS)
- **April 25, 2019:** Panel Discussion on Tiananmen Square at 30 Years (GLS/HRP)

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit: <http://law.wisc.edu/researchcenters/events.html>

Faculty Spotlight



Yaron Nili

Yaron Nili

Yaron Nili is an Assistant Professor of Law. His work is focused on contemporary issues in the governance of public corporations, with a particular focus on the intersection of shareholder activism, corporate governance and the structure and composition of the board of directors of public corporations. His research examines this constantly evolving landscape and the players that reshape it, from both a descriptive and a critical prism. He uses a number of methodological lenses to examine these issues.

Recently he has focused his research on issues related to public companies' boards. In one project, recently published in the *Indiana Law Journal*, he examined the gender diversity of boards by using metrics that go beyond the mere number of women on boards. He found that women are not only underrepresented as far as their numbers on boards, but they are also not afforded the same opportunities in many substantive metrics related to the board and their leadership roles in it. In a second project, forthcoming in the *California Law Review*, he and his co-author explore, through quantitative and qualitative data, the role of what they term as "Shadow Governance" documents. While the focus of many in practice and academia has been directed to the corporate charter and bylaws, they explore the role of other governance documents that are adopted by the board, such as guidelines, policies, and committee charters in the corporate governance eco-system.

Aside from research, Professor Nili has also launched several initiatives in the law school including the Transactional LawMeets moot competition, which allows students to experience first-hand how transactional work is conducted in practice, and a series of lunch time talks on business law issues.

Visiting Scholar Spotlight

João Daniel Resque

GLS Visiting Scholar João Daniel Resque will be at the Law School until May 2019. João's home institution is UW Law School's exchange partner, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio). His faculty advisor is Professor Heinz Klug.

João's research analyzes the effects of affirmative action in the higher education system of Brazil. After approximately fifteen years of racial quota policies in public universities in Brazil, racism is still a major problem. João's research seeks to understand the limits of this type of public policy in the fight against racism.

When choosing UW Law School for his research, João was drawn to the school's resources, including the library and professors. The Global Legal Studies Center and the Human Rights Program were also appealing to him. He felt that UW Law was an ideal place to continue to develop his research on human rights and affirmative action.



João Daniel Resque

Student Spotlight



Grace Kube and Classmates

(pictured) and play for the university basketball team.

Grace Kube, 3L

Grace Kube studied abroad at FGV, Sao Paulo, Brazil, in Spring 2018 as part of the Global Studies Master's Program. During her time abroad, Grace took seminar classes taught by professors and professionals from around the world who are leaders in their fields. Studying abroad in Brazil has been the highlight of Grace's Law School career. It was a unique opportunity to combine the study of law with learning a new culture and exploring a new city. In addition to her studies, Grace was able to explore the area

News and Announcements

- The **South Asia Legal Studies Workshop** has issued its **call for proposals and moderators**. Proposals are due **Friday, April 12, 2019**.
- The **2019 J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History** will take place from **June 9, 2019 - June 22, 2019**.
- Applications for the **ILS Graduate Fellows program** are due on **Monday, April 29, 2019**. **More information about the program**.



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