

Critical Theory Research Group Events SPR 2021/22

Critical Imaginaries

This term the critical theory research group continues the theme of 'critical imaginaries' and invites conversations on how we might imagine law/ our disciplinary tools otherwise. We see the concluding workshop of the 'After Rights?' project, welcome WiP and an external critical friend for a book talk.

Week 5

Wed 23 February, 1.00-5.30pm

After Rights? Politics, Ethics, Aesthetics

WORKSHOP 4: Rights, Justice and Ecology

This is an online session. To register, please email Bal (b.sokhi-bulley@sussex.ac.uk) or Louiza (l.odysseos@sussex.ac.uk)

PANEL A: Revolution, Relation and Abolitionist Praxis

13.00-15.00 UK Time

Chair: Bal Sokhi-Bulley | Discussant: *Olivia Umurerwa Rutazibwa, LSE*

After Rights...Renarration, Reparation, Relation
Louiza Odysseos, University of Sussex

"After" the Haitian Revolution: A recursive analysis of the concept of liberation
Taylor Borowitz, SOAS University of London

Freedom now: Envisioning Palestinian liberation through abolitionist praxis
Shaimaa Abdelkarim, University of Birmingham

(30 Minute break)

PANEL B: Grief, Fugitivity and Art Worlds

15.30-17.30 UK Time

Chair: Louiza Odysseos | Discussant: *Swastee Ranjan, University of Exeter*

Ecology of Grief: Climatic Events, Rights of River and the Anthropocene in the Himalayas
Rahul Ranjan, Oslo Metropolitan University

Beyond Representation – Fugitive Law for More-than-human Worlds
Marie-Catherine Petersmann, Tilburg University

Before, Beside and Beyond Rights
Lola Frost, King's College London

Week 8

Thursday 17 March, 2.00-3.30

Critical Conversations

PhD RESEARCHER ROUNDTABLE EVENT

Chairs: Hannah Blitzer and Christina Miliou Theocharaki (Sussex Law School)

Joint event with SCHRR

This is a hybrid event – Venue and Zoom link to follow

This session is concerned with inciting conversations between researchers, and creating awareness and an ethos of openness amongst our critical research community. Led by *Hannah Blitzer and Christina Miliou Theocharaki*, the session will feature presentations by PhD researchers in LPS on their current work. Planned in a roundtable style, these conversations will be themed around questions that include: How do we do critical work/what does it mean to take a critical approach to our specific research interests/what does it mean to do decolonising work/how can we integrate theory and practice, particularly for those who are conducting fieldwork or have practical experience? We invite researchers who are familiar with critical theory topics, as well as those who are new to the field or want to explore their research through a critical lens.

Week 9

Thursday 24 March, 2.00-3.30pm

Critical Legal Geographies

WIP SESSION

This is an online session – Zoom link to follow

Edward Guntrip, Sussex Law School: *The Significance of Space: Contextualising the Intersection of International Investment Law and Human Rights*

Abstract: The intersection of international investment law (IIL) and human rights is frequently examined in the abstract. That is, reference is made to the content of substantive laws, and the legal frameworks in which these laws are created and interpreted, without taking into account the variability that arises when laws are transposed into specific investment settings. This paper employs aspects of critical legal geography to understand how law, space and power interrelate in an investment setting that raises human rights issues. With reference to a case study of an investment project in Cambodia, a spatial analysis of the intersection of IIL and human rights reveals that IIL is poorly equipped to deal with space because of its internationalised legal framework. Further, IIL's international focus masks nuances in the distribution of power across investment projects, which can generate human rights injustices. Thus, it is argued that IIL can only address human rights injustices by recognising the unique power dynamics that exist in each investment project.

Alex Fusco, Department of Geography, *'The production of (camp) space'*

Abstract to follow.

Week 11

Thursday 28 April, 2.00-3.30pm

Book Talk

Scott Veitch's *Obligations: New Trajectories in Law* (Routledge, 2021)

This is a hybrid session – Venue and Zoom link to follow.

In this session, *Scott Veitch* will present themes from his recent book, *Obligations: New Trajectories in Law* (Routledge, 2021). He will focus on the different ways in which our 'age of rights' has obscured the important work of obligations in modern societies. Drawing on examples from the workplace, the market, and conditions of indebtedness, he shows how obligations and hybrids of obligation and obedience play a key role in sustaining inequalities in contemporary society. He will also assess the potentially positive contribution of discourses of obligations for critical legal analysis.

With discussants *David Karp (IR Sussex)* and *Bal Sokhi-Bulley (Sussex Law School)*

Scott Veitch is Paul KC Chung Professor in Jurisprudence at the University of Hong Kong.