



**Democratic Erosion and the Contemporary  
Assault on Education and Expertise**



**Drexel  
Law Review**

Thomas R. Kline School of Law



**I**n recent years, academic institutions and individual scholars and teachers in the United States and other countries have faced a rapidly growing panoply of politically and ideologically motivated efforts to restrict teaching and research on “controversial subjects,” particularly (but not exclusively) with respect to race and gender. Over this same period, scholars and other observers also have increasingly warned that in many of these same countries, the weakening of political institutions has placed democracy itself at risk. This symposium seeks to “connect the dots” between these two sets of developments, examining the contemporary assault on education, knowledge, and academic expertise and exploring its relationship to growing concerns about the erosion of democracy. Participants will discuss the extent to which democratic erosion has facilitated or contributed to the assault on education, knowledge, and expertise and the extent to which that assault should itself be understood as “anti-democratic” in character. Participants will also discuss strategies to protect academic freedom and educational integrity in the face of this onslaught, and the various ways that education and knowledge production can contribute to the protection and advancement of democratic principles, practices, and institutions.



# Knowledge at Risk: Democratic Erosion and the Contemporary Assault on Education and Expertise

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

8:00–9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:15 **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Anil Kalhan**, Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law ([bio](#))
- **Daniel M. Filler**, Dean and Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law ([bio](#))
- **Sarah Stone '24**, Executive Editor, Symposium, *Drexel Law Review*

9:15–10:45 **Panel One: Contextualizing the Contemporary Assault on Knowledge**

Chair/Moderator: **Sharrona Pearl**

Associate Professor of Medical Ethics and History, Drexel University ([bio](#))

- *Educational Gag Orders in Higher Education*  
**Jacqueline Allain**  
Program Coordinator, Freedom to Learn, PEN America ([bio](#))
- *Collective Bargaining as a Means of Protecting Academic Freedom and Promoting Democracy*  
**Anne Marie Lofaso**  
Arthur B. Hodges Professor of Law, West Virginia University College of Law ([bio](#))
- *Rising Antidemocracy and Diminishing Academic Freedoms: The Limits and Potentials of International Law*  
**Eve Darian-Smith**  
Professor and Chair, Department of Global & International Studies, University of California, Irvine ([bio](#))
- *Academic Freedom and the Separation of Powers*  
**Kim Lane Scheppele**  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs and the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University ([bio](#))

10:45–11:00 **Break**

11:00–12:30 **Panel Two: Dimensions of the Legal Assault**

Chair/Moderator: **Theodore W. Ruger**

Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania School of Law ([bio](#))

- *The Anti-Truth Movement in Context: Rethinking the Fight for Truth and Inclusive Education (Part 1)*  
**Morenike Fajana**  
Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund ([bio](#))
- *In the Eye of the Hurricane: Why the Story of New College Matters Beyond Florida*  
**Katrina Feldkamp**  
Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund ([bio](#))
- *A Case Study: Ohio*  
**Liz Leininger**  
Associate Professor, St. Mary's College of Maryland ([bio](#))
- *A Case Study: Ohio*  
**Emily Houh**  
Gustavus Henry Wald Professor of the Law and Contracts, University of Cincinnati College of Law ([bio](#))



## Knowledge at Risk:

# Democratic Erosion and the Contemporary Assault on Education and Expertise

12:30–1:00 **Break (and Lunch Pickup)**

1:00–2:00 **Keynote Speaker**

- *Building Trust*

**Sigal Ben-Porath**

MRMJJ Presidential Professor, University of Pennsylvania ([bio](#))

2:00–2:15 **Break**

2:15–3:30 **Panel Three: Conceptual Perspectives on Academic Freedom, Equity and Inclusion, and Democratic Education**

Chair/Moderator: **Ed Brockenbrough**

Associate Professor and Calvin Bland Fellow, University of Pennsylvania ([bio](#))

- *The Anti-Democratic Nature of Parents' Rights*

**Dara Purvis**

Professor of Law, Penn State University ([bio](#))

- *Undermining Academic Freedom by Expanding Speech Rights*

**Brian Soucek**

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Fellow, University of California, Davis School of Law ([bio](#))

- *Why the Difference Between Free Speech and Academic Freedom Matters When Assessing the Kalven Report and James Madison's Princeton Principles*

**Jennifer Ruth**

Professor and Associate Dean, College of the Arts, Portland State University ([bio](#))

3:30–3:45 **Break**

3:45–5:00 **Panel Four: Threats from Civil Society**

Chair/Moderator: **Chloe Silverman**

Associate Professor of Politics, Drexel University ([bio](#))

- *Deputizing Students as Vigilantes and Avoiding Judicial Review*

**Jyoti Jasrasaria**

Associate, Elias Law Group LLP ([bio](#))

- *More Than a Culture War: Following the Money in the Current Attacks on Academic Freedom*

**Isaac Kamola**

Associate Professor of Political Science, Trinity College ([bio](#))

- *An Academic Conference, a Bomb Threat, and a Title VI Complaint: US Hindu Nationalist Groups' Litigious Assault on Academic Freedom*

**Dheepa Sundaram**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Denver ([bio](#))

5:00–6:30 **Reception**



## Knowledge at Risk:

# Democratic Erosion and the Contemporary Assault on Education and Expertise

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

- 9:00–10:15 **Panel Five: Protecting and Advancing Education and Knowledge (Part 1)**  
Chair/Moderator: **Amelia Hoover Green**  
Former Associate Professor of Politics and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Drexel University ([bio](#))
- *Libraries and Anti-Democratic Attacks*  
**Alison Macrina**  
Founder and Executive Director, Library Freedom Project ([bio](#))
  - *Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future*  
**Henry Reichman**  
Professor Emeritus of History, California State University, East Bay ([bio](#))
  - *Anti-Truth Movements in Nazi Germany and Texas: The Repetition of History and Lessons in Truthful Reconstruction*  
**Antonio L. Ingram II**  
Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund ([bio](#))
- 10:15–10:25 **Break**
- 10:25–11:35 **Keynote Discussion**
- **Hon. Anna V. Eskamani**  
Member, Florida House of Representatives ([bio](#))
  - **Hon. Helen Gym**  
Former City Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia City Council ([bio](#))
- 11:35–12:00 **Break (and Lunch Pickup)**
- 12:00–1:30 **Panel Six: Protecting and Advancing Education and Knowledge (Part 2)**  
Chair/Moderator: **Amy C. Offner**  
Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania ([bio](#))
- *Deference and Vulnerability*  
**Jonathan D. Glater**  
Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law ([bio](#))
  - *Understanding Faculty Responses to Law-Based Threats to Academic Freedom and Racial Inclusion*  
**Liliana M. Garces**  
W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership, University of Texas at Austin ([bio](#))
  - *Exposing Undue Donor Influence at George Mason University, Organizing to Build Faculty Power*  
**Bethany Letiecq**  
Associate Professor, George Mason University ([bio](#))
  - *The Anti-Truth Movement in Context: Rethinking the Fight for Truth and Inclusive Education (Part 2)*  
**Allison Scharfstein**  
Education Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund ([bio](#))
- 1:30–1:45 *Closing Discussion*
- **Anil Kalhan**  
Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law ([bio](#))

## Keynote Speakers



### Sigal Ben-Porath

MRMJJ Presidential Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Sigal Ben-Porath is the MRMJJ Presidential Professor of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is also a member of the philosophy and the political science departments, and the faculty director of the SNF Paideia Program for civic dialogue. She received her doctorate in political philosophy from Tel-Aviv University in 2000, and was a fellow at Princeton University's Center for Human Values, the Institute for Advanced Studies, Tel-Aviv University's Safra Center for Ethics, and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. Her recent books are *Cancel Wars* (Chicago 2023), *Free Speech on Campus* (Penn Press, 2017) as well as *Making Up Our Mind* (with Michael Johaneck, Chicago 2019). She chaired Penn's Committee on Open Expression 2015-2019, and serves on the boards of the Teachers Institute of Philadelphia, Middlebury's Conflict Transformation Center, and Penn's Project for Philosophy for the Young. In recent years she offers guidance to college campuses on policy development and responses to controversies surrounding speech. ([more](#))



### Hon. Anna V. Eskamani

Member, Florida House of Representatives

Anna V. Eskamani is a State Representative in the Florida House known for her advocacy on behalf of Florida families and everyday people. She was born and raised in Orlando to working-class immigrant parents who came to the United States from Iran in pursuit of the American Dream. Anna attended public schools in Orange County and obtained dual degrees from the University of Central Florida. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Affairs while working in the nonprofit sector. In 2018, Anna made history as the first Iranian-American elected to any public office in Florida after winning her legislative seat. Before entering politics, she held a senior director position at a local Planned Parenthood affiliate. She has successfully secured re-election in 2020 and 2022, garnering overwhelming support from voters. Throughout her tenure, Anna has been a vocal advocate for economic justice, environmental protection, climate change mitigation, healthcare access, equality, funding for public schools, and support for arts and culture. She has demonstrated her commitment to Floridians during times of economic hardship by using her own salary to assist families in need. ([more](#))



### Hon. Helen Gym

Former City Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia City Council

Helen Gym is a former City Council member and longtime community organizer with three decades of leadership in Philadelphia's education, immigrant, and political communities. In City Council, she led a bold human rights agenda that centered on the well-being of children and families and funded place-based investments to strengthen community resiliency. She championed the end of a 17-year state takeover of the Philadelphia public schools; and restored nurses, counselors, social workers, clean water, and instrumental music to every public school. She created one of the most successful anti-eviction programs in the country that reduced evictions by two-thirds and guaranteed a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction. As the past co-chair of Local Progress, she led a national network of 1,400 municipal officials advancing racial and economic justice policies. Prior to serving on City Council, Helen was a leading voice in education justice. She led a federal civil rights settlement holding school districts accountable for safety from harassment; founded the Public School Notebook, an education newspaper; and created Parents United for Public Education, a parent group which organized around funding equity and parent equity, including a campaign that won millions of dollars from the Philadelphia Parking Authority. ([more](#))

## Panelists and Moderators



**Jacqueline Allain**

**Program Coordinator, Freedom to Learn, PEN America**

As program coordinator for Freedom to Learn at PEN America, Jacqueline Allain designs and supports coalition-building efforts against educational gag orders and politically motivated restrictions on teaching and learning in our nation's educational institutions. Allain holds a PhD in History from Duke University and an MEd in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Virginia. Her academic writing has appeared in the journals *Slavery & Abolition* and the *Journal of Women's History*. She is the recipient of the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Duke University, the Albert J. Beveridge Award from the American Historical Association, and the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. ([more](#))



**Ed Brockenbrough**

**Associate Professor and Calvin Bland Fellow, University of Pennsylvania**

Ed Brockenbrough is an associate professor and the inaugural Calvin Bland Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE) in Philadelphia, PA, where he teaches courses on diversity and social justice in education, trains prospective secondary teachers, and offers professional development sessions to K-12 educators on culturally responsive pedagogy and LGBTQ+ issues in schools. His research focuses on Black masculinity politics in education and the learning experiences of LGBTQ+ youth. Brockenbrough is the author of *Black Men Teaching in Urban Schools: Reassessing Black Masculinity* (Routledge, 2018) and the forthcoming *Learning While Black and Queer: Intersectional Dilemmas, Educational Possibilities* (Harvard Education Press, 2024). ([more](#))



**Eve Darian-Smith**

**Professor and Chair, Department of Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine**

Eve Darian-Smith is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Studies & International Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in law, history and anthropology and interested in issues of postcolonialism, international law, human rights, legal pluralism, critical knowledge production and rising authoritarianism. Professor Darian-Smith is an award-winning author and teacher and has published widely including 13 books and edited volumes: *Laws and Societies in Global Contexts* (2013), *The Global Turn: Theories, Research Designs, and Methods for Global Studies* (2017), *Routledge Handbook of Law and Society* (2021), and most recently *Global Burning: Rising Antidemocracy and the Climate Crisis* (2022) which won the Betty & Alfred McClung Lee Book Award from the Association of Humanist Sociology, and the Silver Medal Winner in Environment/Ecology, Independent Publishers Book Award. Her forthcoming book is titled *Policing the Mind: Higher Education and Academic Freedom Under Attack* (Johns Hopkins University Press). ([more](#))



**Morenike Fajana**

**Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund**

Morenike Fajana serves as Senior Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc where she works on Pro-Truth, voting and criminal justice cases. Prior to this role, Morenike was a Special Counsel at the New York State Office of the Attorney General, where she worked on civil rights litigation, policy and advocacy matters. Morenike previously worked as a tenant attorney representing individuals, tenant groups and tenant associations across New York City at the Legal

Aid Society and the New York Legal Assistance Group. Morenike began her legal career as a human rights researcher working in Berlin, Germany and Port-au-Prince, Haiti. ([more](#))



### Katrina Feldkamp

Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Katrina Feldkamp serves as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She primarily works on LDF's efforts to preserve truth in education, school desegregation cases, and other education equity matters. Katrina joined LDF from Bronx Legal Services, where she negotiated a landmark settlement on behalf of four students with disabilities who experienced gender-based violence while attending New York City public schools. The settlement resulted in significant changes to the Department of Education's policies on gender-based violence and established a new policy for supporting students with trauma-related disabilities. As coordinator of the Healing-Centered Schools Working Group, Katrina authored the *Community Roadmap to Bring Healing-Centered Schools to the Bronx*, a document describing how schools can replace punitive and racist structures with practices that center healing and provide a culturally-responsive learning environment. Katrina received her J.D. from the New York University School of Law. She is barred in New York State and the Eastern District of New York. ([more](#))



### Liliana M. Garces

W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership, University of Texas at Austin

Liliana M. Garces, J.D., Ed.D., is the W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership at the University of Texas at Austin, with courtesy appointments at the School of Law and the Center for Mexican American Studies. Her research examines how legal and education systems shape educational opportunity for historically marginalized student populations in higher education. Her scholarship focuses on race-conscious policies in postsecondary admissions, freedom of expression and racial equity on college campuses, and the use and influence of research in law. Internationally recognized for her scholarship, she has published over 35 articles in top peer-reviewed education journals and law journals, and co-edited three books, most recently, *Racial Equity on College Campuses: Connecting Research and Practice* (SUNY Press, 2022). Most recently, she served as counsel and co-authored an amicus brief filed by 1,241 social scientists in support of Harvard's defense of its race-conscious policies in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023). Dr. Garces holds a doctorate in education from Harvard University, a juris doctor from the University of Southern California School of Law, and a bachelor of arts from Brown University. ([more](#))



### Jonathan D. Glater

Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

Jonathan Glater joined the Berkeley Law faculty in 2021. His research has focused on the ways that law promotes and limits access to education, especially higher education, and the impact that education debt has on educational opportunities. Recent publications include *Qualified Sovereignty* (with Kate Sablosky Elengold) (Wash. L. Rev. 2022); *Pandemic Possibilities: Rethinking Measures of Merit* (UCLA L. Rev. 2021), and *The Civil Rights Case for Student Debt Reform* (with Dalié Jiménez) (Harv. Civil Rights-Civil Liberties L. Rev. 2020). He is also coauthor with Amy Gajda on a casebook, *The Law and Higher Education: Cases and Materials on Colleges in Court* (5th ed.). ([more](#))





## Amelia Hoover Green

Former Associate Professor of Politics and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Drexel University

Amelia Hoover Green (Ph.D., Yale University, 2011) is a researcher and consultant whose work has spanned human rights, education, public benefits, and economic development. Most recently, she was Staff Quantitative Researcher at Code For America, where she worked with software developers, state partners, and academic colleagues to lower barriers to public benefits in California (SNAP), Louisiana (SNAP, WIC, Head Start), and Illinois (child care assistance). From 2012 to 2022, she was a faculty member in Drexel University's Department of Political Science, where she taught and researched the politics and measurement of wartime human rights violations. During her final two years at Drexel, she also served as the first-ever Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Arts and Sciences. ([more](#))



## Emily M.S. Houh

Gustavus Henry Wald Professor of the Law and Contracts, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Emily Houh is the Gustavus Henry Wald Professor of the Law and Contracts at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she teaches contracts, sales law, and critical race theory. A graduate of Brown University and the University of Michigan Law School, Houh served as a law clerk in federal district court in Detroit, a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, and an associate at a large firm in Detroit before starting her teaching career in 2000. She has been teaching since 2003 at Cincinnati Law, where she is a five-time winner of the Goldman Prize for Excellence in Teaching. In 2010, Houh co-founded the College's Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice, which she co-directed until 2020. Much of her writing focuses on how contract law and critical race theory intersect and, increasingly, on academic freedom. She is a member of the American Association of University Professors' Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. She also served on the AAUP's Special Committee on Governance, Academic Freedom, and Institutional Racism in the University of North Carolina System and currently serves on its Special Committee on Academic Freedom in Florida. ([more](#))



## Antonio L. Ingram II

Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Antonio Lavelle Ingram II serves as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He is a graduate of Yale College and UC Berkeley School of Law. He previously served as a federal judicial law clerk for the honorable Ivan L. Lemelle in the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana and for Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. He also completed a Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship in Malawi where he worked for the Malawian government and served in their Anti-Corruption Bureau. ([more](#))



## Jyoti Jasrasaria

Associate, Elias Law Group LLP

Jyoti Jasrasaria is an associate at Elias Law Group, where her practice focuses on democracy-related litigation. She has experience litigating in state and federal courts across the country. Jyoti is a core member of ELG's redistricting team and has been involved in the fight for fair maps in Alabama, Florida, Minnesota, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In 2020, she was involved in all aspects of the litigation concerning the presidential election results in Michigan and defended the presidential electors pledged to support then-President-elect Biden in a Nevada election contest. Alongside her election law work, Jyoti represented the United Faculty of Florida, March for Our Lives, and several professors and students in a years-long federal court challenge to Florida's

2021 House Bill 233, which allows public university and college students to record their faculty members without notice or consent, mandates an annual “intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity survey,” and prohibits “shielding” from unwelcome ideas and opinions on public campuses. Jyoti is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She clerked for the Hon. David J. Barron of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston. ([more](#))



### Anil Kalhan

Professor of Law, Drexel University

Anil Kalhan writes and teaches in areas including immigration law, constitutional law, privacy and surveillance, criminal law, and international human rights. He is an Affiliated Fellow at the Yale Law School Information Society Project and an Affiliated Faculty Member at the University of Pennsylvania South Asia Center, and during the 2021–22 and 2022–23 academic years he was a Visiting Professor of Law at Yale Law School. His scholarship has examined themes including the growing and transformative use of surveillance technologies for immigration control purposes; the expansion of immigration detention; judicial independence and judicial politics in the United States, Pakistan, and India; and issues that arise when legal regimes span periods of authoritarian and democratic rule. He is a member of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors, and he also serves on the New York City Bar Association’s Task Force on the Rule of Law and its International Human Rights Committee, which he chaired from 2015 to 2018. An elected member of the American Law Institute and fellow of the American Bar Foundation, he received the Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty’s Chris Kando Iijima Teacher and Mentor Award in 2018. ([more](#))



### Isaac Kamola

Associate Professor of Political Science, Trinity College

Isaac Kamola is an associate professor of political science at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. His research examines the political economy of higher education, critical globalization studies, and African anticolonial theory. He is author of *Free Speech and Koch Money: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War* (with Ralph Wilson, 2021) and *Making the World Global: US Universities and the Production of the Global Imaginary* (2019) and co-editor of *Politics of African Anticolonial Archive* (2017) and *The Transnational Politics of Higher Education* (2016). He is the creator of Faculty First Responders, a program that monitors right-wing attacks on academics and provides resources to help faculty members and administrators respond to manufactured outrage. ([more](#))



### Liz Leininger

Associate Professor, St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Dr. Liz Leininger is a neuroscientist and STEM Education researcher at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College. Her research focuses on the evolution of neural circuits for vocalization in frogs. More recently she has forged a program in STEM Education research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Her current interests in this area include teaching about sex and gender in neuroscience, teaching critical information literacy in science classes, and understanding how interactive simulations can help students learn neurophysiology concepts. From 2017–2023, Dr. Leininger was a faculty member at New College of Florida where she also served as the Director of New College’s First-Year Seminar program and helped design and implement the “Chart Your Course” general education curriculum. A vocal critic of the

takeover of New College, she has been interviewed by local, national, and international outlets such as the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Inside HigherEd*, *New York Times*, *Associated Press*, CNN, and *The Guardian*, among others. She holds a B.A. with honors with a major in Biology and minor in Art History from Swarthmore College, and a PhD in Neurobiology and Behavior from Columbia University. ([more](#))



### Bethany Letiecq

Associate Professor, George Mason University

Bethany Letiecq is an associate professor in the School of Education in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at George Mason University. She is an expert in community-based participatory action research (PAR) and recently co-founded the CEHD Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research Collaborative. She is the former President and current VP of the GMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the President of the Virginia Conference of the AAUP. She also co-founded the GMU Coalition for Worker Rights. In partnership with the student organization Transparent GMU and UnKoch My Campus, she led GMU-AAUP efforts to expose undue donor influence at Mason, focusing on the GMU Law School and Economics Department, and successfully advocated for a new Gift Acceptance policy at Mason and revision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. ([more](#))



### Anne Marie Lofaso

Arthur B. Hodges Professor, West Virginia University College of Law

Anne Marie Lofaso is the Arthur B. Hodges Professor at West Virginia University College of Law, where she teaches Labor and Employment Law, Constitutional Law, and Jurisprudence. She is a prolific writer of over fifty articles, three textbooks in private and public-sector labor/employment law, two labor law treatises, and many other publications. She formerly served as the Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development at WVU; Senior Academic Visitor on the Oxford Law Faculty; and a Keeley Visiting Fellow at Wadham College, Oxford. Prior to entering academia, Professor Lofaso clerked for the Honorable James L. Oakes, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, worked as an associate in Milbank's business reorganization department, and spent ten years at the National Labor Relations Board as Appellate and Supreme Court counsel. Professor Lofaso holds a doctorate from Oxford, a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and an A.B., magna cum laude, from Harvard. ([more](#))



### Alison Macrina

Founder and Director, Library Freedom Project

Alison is an activist librarian and the director of Library Freedom Project. Alison started LFP in 2015 to organize and build community with other librarians who are dedicated to library values of privacy, intellectual freedom, social responsibility, and the public good. ([more](#))

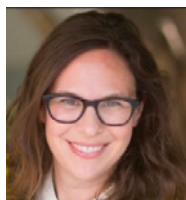


### Amy C. Offner

Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

Amy C. Offner is associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and the president of the Penn chapter of the AAUP. Her research focuses on the history of political economy and empire in the United States and Latin America. She is the author of *Sorting Out the Mixed Economy: The Rise and Fall of Welfare and Developmental States in the Americas*, which won book prizes in the fields of economic history, international history, Latin American history, and

political economy. Her current research projects explore the unraveling of the employment relationship since 1945 and the history of debt among Native Americans. Before becoming a historian, she worked as a union organizer and an editor at *Dollars & Sense* magazine. ([more](#))



### Sharrona Pearl

Associate Professor of Medical Ethics and History, Drexel University

Sharrona Pearl is a historian and theorist of the face and body, she has published widely on the Victorian history of medicine, media, and religion, and critical race, gender, and disability studies. Her recently released book *Do I Know You? From Face Blindness to Super Recognition*, with Johns Hopkins University Press is the third in her face trilogy, following *Face/On: Face Transplants and the Ethics of the Other* (University of Chicago Press, 2017) and *About Faces: Physiognomy in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Harvard University Press, 2010). She also has a trade book forthcoming on “The Mask” with Bloomsbury Academic. Pearl maintains an active freelance profile, with bylines in a variety of newspapers and magazines including *The Washington Post*, *Lilith*, and *Real Life Magazine*. ([more](#))



### Dara Purvis

Professor of Law, Penn State University School of Law

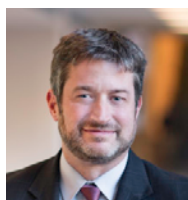
Professor Dara E. Purvis is currently the Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships and Professor of Law at Penn State Law, and will be joining the faculty of Temple University Beasley School of Law in the summer of 2024. She is a scholar of family law, feminist legal theory, masculinities, and sexuality, gender identity, and the law. She is particularly interested in the rights of transgender children and determinations of parentage. She has been published in, among others, the *California Law Review*, *Wake Forest Law Review*, *Florida State Law Review*, *Michigan State Law Review*, *Case Western Law Review*, the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*, Cambridge University Press, and the *New York Times*. Prior to joining Penn State Law, Professor Purvis was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and a visiting fellow at the University of Kent Research Centre for Law, Gender, and Sexuality. A former editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law Journal*, she clerked for the Hon. Gerard E. Lynch, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Hon. Raymond C. Fisher, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. ([more](#))



### Henry Reichman

Professor Emeritus of History, California State University, East Bay

Henry Reichman is a professor emeritus of history at California State University-East Bay; former AAUP vice president and president of the AAUP Foundation; and from 2012 to 2021 chair of AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. His book, *The Future of Academic Freedom*, was published in 2019 and won the American Library Association's Eli Oboler Memorial Award, given annually to “a significant published work in the area of intellectual freedom.” His book, *Understanding Academic Freedom*, was published in October 2021. At CSU East Bay he served three times as chair of the academic senate and for nine years on both the CSU systemwide academic senate and on the California Faculty Association collective bargaining team. ([more](#))



## Theodore W. Ruger

Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania School of Law

Theodore W. Ruger is a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where he was Dean from 2015 to 2023. He is a scholar and teacher of constitutional law, health law and regulation, and the legal profession and legal academy. Ruger joined the Law School in 2004 and has also served as Deputy Dean. Prior to joining the Law School, Ruger practiced law at Ropes & Gray in Boston and Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., and began his academic career at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. Ruger holds an AB from Williams College and a JD from Harvard Law School, and he was a law clerk to Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. ([more](#))



## Jennifer Ruth

Professor and Associate Dean, College of the Arts, Portland State University

Jennifer Ruth is Associate Dean in the College of the Arts and Professor in the School of Film at Portland State University. She writes about academic freedom and higher education and also on literature and cinema. She served two terms on the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Committee A (for academic freedom), served two years as the faculty editor of the *Journal of Academic Freedom* and three years as Portland State-AAUP's Vice President of Academic Freedom and Grievances. She is a contributing editor to the Academe blog. Ruth is the author of *Novel Professions: Interested Disinterest and the Making of the Professional in the Victorian Novel* (The Ohio State, 2006) and, with Michael Bérubé, *The Humanities, Higher Education and Academic Freedom: Three Necessary Arguments* (Palgrave, 2015) and *It's Not Free Speech: Race, Democracy, and the Future of Academic Freedom* (Johns Hopkins, 2022). She is a co-editor of *The Right to Learn: Resisting the Right-Wing Attack on Academic Freedom*, forthcoming from Beacon Press. She holds a Ph.D. from Brown University. ([more](#))



## Allison Scharfstein

Education Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Allison Scharfstein is an Education Fellow at the Legal Defense Fund, where she focuses on school desegregation, affirmative action, and pro-truth advocacy. She graduated magna cum laude from New York University School of Law in 2021, where she served as a student advocate in NYU's Civil Rights, Racial Justice, and Housing Law clinics. She received the Vanderbilt Medal for outstanding contributions to the law school community. Prior to law school, Allison taught social studies for six years at a public school in Boston. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University where she majored in American Studies. ([more](#))



## Kim Lane Scheppele

Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs and the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University

Kim Lane Scheppele is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Princeton University. Her work has focused on the rise and fall of constitutional democracy at home and abroad. After 1989, she studied the emergence of constitutional law in Hungary and Russia, living in both places for extended periods. After 9/11, she researched the effects of the international "war on terror" on constitutional protections around the world. Since 2010, she has

been documenting the rise of autocratic legalism around the world and her forthcoming book on this topic is called *Destroying Democracy by Law*. Scheppele is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the International Academy of Comparative Law. In 2014, she received the Law and Society Association's Kalven Prize for influential scholarship and from 2017-2019, she served as president of that Association. Before coming to Princeton, she taught for 12 years in the political science department at the University of Michigan and 10 years in the law school at the University of Pennsylvania. She also founded the Gender Studies Department at Central European University which has since been chased out of Budapest to Vienna. ([more](#))



### Chloe Silverman

Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Center for Science, Technology and Society, Drexel University

Chloe Silverman is Associate Professor of Politics and a faculty member in the Center for Science, Technology, & Society at Drexel University. She writes about the ethics of socially complex diagnoses including autism in humans and Colony Collapse Disorder in honey bees. She is the author of *Understanding Autism: Parents, Doctors, and the History of a Disorder* (Princeton University Press, 2011) and recently published an article in *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* about the history and current uses of the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test," a neurocognitive task that has had a curious career beyond its original uses in characterizing the nature of social differences in autism. Since 2009, she has served as an editor at *BioSocieties*, a journal devoted to the social studies of the life sciences and biomedicine. She is currently working with collaborators to publish results of a four-year NSF-funded study on the ethics of community engagement and stakeholder participation in autism research. ([more](#))



### Brian Soucek

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Fellow, University of California, Davis School of Law

Brian Soucek's research and teaching spans Antidiscrimination and First Amendment law to Civil Procedure, Asylum/Refugee Law, and Art Law. Prof. Soucek is a recent chair of the University of California's systemwide faculty committee on academic freedom, and a recent fellow with the UC Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. His recent articles at the intersection of speech and equality in higher education include *Misunderstanding Meriwether* (*Fordham Law Rev.*); *Speech First, Equality Last* (*Arizona State L.J.*); and *Diversity Statements* (*UC Davis Law Rev.*). Prof. Soucek has a JD from Yale Law School and a PhD in Philosophy from Columbia University. Prior to coming to Davis in 2013, Prof. Soucek clerked for the Hon. Mark Kravitz in the District of Connecticut and the Hon. Guido Calabresi in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. ([more](#))



### Dheepa Sundaram

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Denver

Dr. Dheepa Sundaram is a scholar-activist who studies online hate politics, digital religious publics, and religious nationalism. Her research and publications focus on the formation of Hindu/Hindu nationalist virtual religious publics through internet-based platforms such as social media, apps, virtual reality and artificial intelligence. Her current book project titled *Globalizing Dharma: The Making of a Global Hindu Brand* examines how the commercial world of Hindu ritual websites helps sell a cosmopolitan, "Vedicized" Hinduism which grounds the Hindu nationalist civilizational project in India. In 2021, she, along with several scholars of South Asia, cofounded the South Asia Scholar Activist Collective (SASAC) to advocate for academic freedom and inclusive politics in South Asia and its diaspora. SASAC promotes educational diversity, calls

attention to Hindu nationalist violence against religious and caste-oppressed communities, and is building an educational platform on global Hindu nationalism which includes a field manual on how to combat harassment. ([more](#))

## Acknowledgments

For their invaluable assistance, input, and support in planning and organizing this symposium, we are very thankful to Manan Ahmed, Nicole Aiken-Shaban, Leah Seppanen Anderson, Emily Baker, Sigal Ben-Porath, Brian Crooks, Purnell Cropper, Emily Drabinski, Zhiying Feng, Charlotte Garden, Marie-Amélie George, Jamie Gershkow, Jonathan Glater, Deborah Gordon, Daniel Greene, Mallory Heller, Emily Houh, Sherrilyn Ifill, Afshan Jafar, Ravi Kalhan, Santosh Kalhan, Satish Kalhan, Tom Kline, Jin Hee Lee, Nancy Long, Alec Lynch, Christina Marinos, Mary McGovern, Irene Mulvey, Zinelle October, Faith Pensinger, Monica Clarke Platt, Hank Reichman, Alexandria Richards, Jennifer Ruth, Brittney Schoenbeck, Greg Scholtz, Kara Stein, Tracy Tripp, Veronica Wheelock, Jeremy Young, and many student volunteers from the *Drexel Law Review* Volume XVI and the American Constitution Society's Drexel Chapter. We are also thankful to Dean Daniel M. Filler for his support for this event, and we are especially grateful to all of the symposium participants for sharing their time and expertise with us.

### **Sarah Stone '24**

Executive Editor, Symposium, *Drexel Law Review*, Volume XVI

### **Anil Kalhan**

Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

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