

The Syllabus

The Activist #25

March 18 - March 25, 2020

ACADEMIC

The Value of Law

Katharina Pistor | Theory and Society

"...Law, I argue, is the very stuff from which many wealth generating, or capital, assets are made, foremost among them intangible assets that account for most of the private wealth today..."

Ends of Medicine and the Experience of Patients

Robert MacDougall | The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy

"...how to characterize terms like health and disease; whether medicine's goals should be extended to include enhancement beyond normal human function...[the] conception of medicine's ends [raises] a wide variety of issues...in the philosophy and ethics of medicine."

Attitudes Towards Carbon Taxes Across Europe: the Role of Perceived Uncertainty and Self-Interest

Resul Umit, Lena M. Schaffer | Energy Policy

"...aversion to carbon taxes...improves with political trust and external political efficacy...these factors alone would be large enough to reverse the public resistance to carbon taxes in some countries..."

Global Food Waste Across the Income Spectrum: Implications for Food Prices, Production and Resource Use

Emiliano L. Barrera, Thomas Hertel | Food Policy

"...emerging economies, particularly China and South Asia, are likely to play a key role in determining global food waste at mid-century..."

Open Secrecy: How Police Crackdowns and Creative Problem-Solving Brought Illegal Markets Out of the Shadows

Isak Ladegaard | Social Forces

"...advances in information technology have expanded the opportunity structure for cooperation and creative problem-solving in the underworld...shocks did not hinder but rather stimulate development in digital drug markets..."

Welfare-To-Work, Structural Injustice and Human Rights

Virginia Mantouvalou | The Modern Law Review

"...Welfare-to-work schemes...[violate] principles that are enshrined in human rights law, which the authorities have an obligation to examine and address."

Governing Through Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism: Proofing, Problematization and Securitization

Claire Hamilton, Randy K. Lippert | Critical Criminology

"... human rights proofing (forms of human rights protection)...dilute the restraining power of human rights law and extend security measures..."

BOOKS

Cities At War: Global Insecurity and Urban Resistance

Mary Kaldor, Saskia Sassen | Columbia University Press

"Through analyses of how contemporary forms of identity, inequality, and segregation interact with the built environment, this book explains why and how political violence has become increasingly urbanized."

Power Grab: Political Survival Through Extractive Resource Nationalization

Paasha Mahdavi | Cambridge University Press

"By taking control of the means of production and establishing state-owned enterprises, leaders capture revenues that might otherwise flow to private firms, and use this increased capital to secure political support."

Disordered Violence: How Gender, Race and Heteronormativity Structure Terrorism

Caron Gentry | Edinburgh University Press

"This book looks at how gender, race, and heteronormative expectations of public life shape Western understandings of terrorism as irrational, immoral and illegitimate."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Is Race Real? - Race Is Real, But It's Not Genetic

Alan Goodman | SAPIENS

"For over 300 years, socially defined notions of 'race' have shaped human lives around the globe-but the category has no biological foundation."

Ship Shape (on the city)

David Vega-Barachowitz, Adam Lubinsky | Urban Omnibus

"An average day in New York sees about 1.1 million shipments roll out across the city - a three-fold increase from 2009, at the dawn of same-day delivery... As the carbon footprint of e-commerce grows, and vacant storefronts proliferate, the environmental and social costs to this profound shift are becoming clearer by the day... How might logistics better integrate with the city's sidewalk ballet?"

The Uses of "Populism"

Prabhat Patnaik | Peoples Democracy

"The term 'populism' thus has been transformed from its original meaning, of seeing the 'people' as undifferentiated in class terms, into something quite different, which underplays the viciousness of Right-wing supremacism, and which lumps it along with redistributive economic measures in favour of the poor, as belonging to one kindred tendency."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Reparations, Racial Exploitation, and Racial Capitalism

Rose Lenehan | MIT

"Getting to something that could be called a non-racial capitalism would require not merely a redistribution of wealth but a reconfiguration of global relations of production."

Populism and War

Andrea Mattozzi | European University Institute

"...the consequences for civil war risk and inequality are largely negative, while interstate conflict risk increases for dyads with sufficient asymmetry in terms of trade openness and relative military power."

The Brahmin Left, the Merchant Right, and the Bloc Bourgeois

Bruno Amable, Thibault Darcillon | Université de Genève

"This paper tests the influence of income and education inequalities on political leaning and a variety of policy preferences: the support for redistribution, for investment in public education, for globalisation and immigration."

VIDEOS

How Oil Corruption Contaminates the World

Alexandra Gillies | UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix

"How do the many stories around the world, of corruption crises that erupted during the recent oil boom, fit together? And, if the corruption is so vast and so tied up with powerful interests, how do we begin to fight back?"

Theory Sustainability and the Politics of Consumption: a Materialist Feminist Approach

Krista Hatfield | Dal's College of Sustainability

"This lecture explores a more expansive vocabulary and new approaches of inquiry in order to understand the many contradictions, strengths and weaknesses of sustainable modes of consumption, including the power and limits of consumer agency."

Guns, Torts, and Market Regulation

Mary A. Franks | Duke University School of Law

"Guns can be - and perhaps increasingly are - regulated outside the process we usually envision in which laws get debated and passed through the legislature. Through lawsuits asserting tort and tort-like liability, ... civil litigation and the private market are taking on a larger role in the regulation of firearms."

PODCASTS

On the End of Farming

Christopher D. Bellaigue, Andrew McGregor | The Guardian's Audio Long Reads

"Over the past 20 years or so, from South America to the Danube basin, ad hoc coalitions of politicians, activists and conscience-stricken billionaires (whose core activities ... are often less than environmentally friendly), have rewilded millions of acres of mostly failed agricultural and grazing land."

Daily Stress and the Stress of Being a Sexual Minority

Ashley Copper | Relationship Matters

"This episode discusses the effects of stress on relationships in same-sex couples, both from everyday life and from being a sexual minority in a heteronormative society."

Reimagining Liberation

Annette Joseph-Gabriel | Time to Eat the Dogs

"Black women writers led the fight for decolonisation in France, Africa and the Caribbean, shaped by their own experience of travel."

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