



SSSP

# Pro Bono



SSSP

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Newsletter of the Law & Society Division

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Law and Society  
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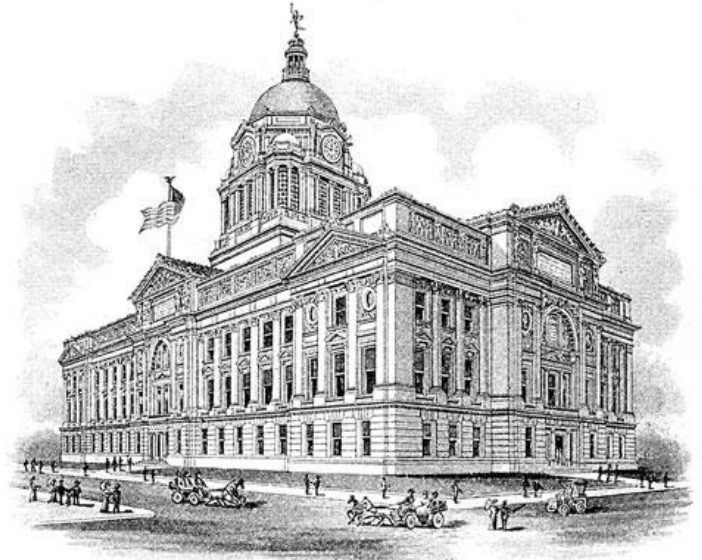
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## Notes from the Chair

Let me start out by thanking all of our members and the Society for giving me the opportunity to serve our division and to congratulate Edi Kinney of San Jose State University as incoming Chair of the Division. It has been a fantastic two years for me - seeing a set of amazing papers, people, and books win awards from our division. Now that I've mentioned awards, I am extremely pleased to announce that two longtime division members, and steady supporters of the Society, Kitty Calavita and Valerie Jenness, have won the Sutherland Book Award for their amazing book *Appealing to Justice: Prisoner Grievances, Rights, and Carceral Logic* from UC Press. This book is quite an extraordinary glimpse into the legal consciousness of both prisoners and prison staff in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Congratulations to Kitty and Val!

Our annual Lindesmith Award for the Best Paper in Law and Society scholarship by a graduate student goes to Lara Janson of the University of Chicago for her paper "Our Great Hobby:

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The Construction of Legal Consciousness in Online Networks for Buyers of Sex in Chicago." Lara Janson is a doctoral student in the Sociology department at the University of Chicago. Her paper focuses on how men who buy sex online interpret laws regarding selling sex in Illinois. Congratulations, Lara!

In addition, the division would like to thank Stephen Morewitz for Chairing the Sutherland Book Award Committee, and Lloyd Klein for Chairing the Lindesmith Award Committee as well as the members for their time in reviewing the submissions for this year's awards.

This year's meeting in Seattle promises to be a good one! We have some amazing panels on sex, punishment, globalization, conflict and movements against the law, violence, surveillance and high technology, environment and health, drugs, justice, policing, and what promises to be a fascinating look into law, policy and institutional ethnography in local and global contexts. Let's do our best to get attend these fascinating sessions, hear some new work, and support our colleagues, the work of our division, and our co-sponsors! AND, please attend our business meeting and be a part of the division's momentum for next year in Montreal! This would seem to be the perfect time to jump in and get involved with an international destination for SSSP! The meeting is on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 to 2:10pm, in room Cascade II.

Seattle in August! What could be better? While you're here, reuniting with friends and colleagues, please take the time to see this beautiful city and its surroundings. Every time I am here, I am fascinated by the things that I stumble across both new and old, all somehow in a very different perspective than I am accustomed to on the East Coast.

I want to thank all of our members again for the support and encouragement I have received over the last two years chairing the division. Anna Linders has been a fantastic and energetic co-chair, as well as her graduate student Katie Durante who set up and handles our facebook page. If you haven't liked the page, please do! Kristen Maziarka of UC Irvine has been a fantastic newsletter editor for the last two years. Thank you, Kristen! On a personal note, I would like to thank Lori Sexton of UMKC and our division members for supporting last year's resolution to stand in solidarity with our colleagues who suffered through some particularly horrendous racist attacks in 2014-2015. Although largely symbolic, our resolution sends a clear message that we support scholars of color, activist scholarship, and academic freedom. Finally, thank you to all of our members who supported a graduate student as division chair! I thoroughly enjoyed these two years and very much look forward to being of continued service to the division in my new position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Manhattan College in Riverdale, the Bronx! Let's have a great meeting in Seattle!

Jay Borchert,

Chair

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# Message from the Incoming Chair

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Greetings, colleagues!

I am honored to begin my term as Chair of the Law & Society Division of SSSP. I am excited for the opportunity to engage division members to cultivate opportunities for collaboration, public intellectualism, and scholar-activism.

In my current position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies at San Jose State University, I coordinate our Legal Studies minor and also work in our Human Rights program. As an interdisciplinary scholar studying law, crime and social movements, my work examines the interplay between activism and state responses to social problems including human trafficking, sex crime policy, and mass incarceration. From teaching to testing to service-learning programs, I am committed to broadening the academy to include the voices of criminalized populations, formerly incarcerated people, and marginalized communities to advance social justice – linking scholarship to movements for social change.

This summer, as I have travelled across the U.S. from the Bay Area in California to my home state of Minnesota, I have been struck at the multitude of often competing ways in which people understand and engage the law. Early conservationists' appeals to law to protect the pristine mountain lakes of the Grand Tetons and the natural wonders of Yellowstone preserves our environment for future generations. Yet in neighboring territories, white politicians, soldiers and settlers exploited law to advance their occupation and colonization of lands sacred to the Indigenous peoples. Speaking with Sioux people raised on isolated and underserved reservations reminded me how visions of law's purpose are not always shared, and that law often falls short of its promise to resolve conflict and ensure justice.

I also drove with a heavy heart as the headlines reported yet another African American man shot dead in a police encounter, followed by news of an attack on law enforcement protecting people exercising their right to protest the police. In these tumultuous times, I was left wondering how to unpack the events of the summer for my Justice Studies students this fall semester: What roles does law play in society, and how does society shape the meaning and implementation of law?

For both students and the general public, our Division members' research and teaching play a key role in informing debates about some of the most pressing social problems of our time: How can we ensure that authorities enforce the law in a fair, equitable, and just way? How can law serve as a forum for debate and a mechanism of dispute resolution? And how does law simultaneously operate as a tool of social control and a vehicle for social change?

As we prepare for another semester of questioning students, challenging conversations, and debates about the best ways to ensure just, transparent, and accountable governance that addresses social problems in the U.S. and communities throughout the world, I invite our Law & Society Division members to consider these difficult and distressing times as a moment of opportunity. As scholars and public intellectuals, we can shed light on the complex social problems of the day and advance timely academic research in our respective fields to support activists, policy makers, and public debate. In this spirit, I'll head home to California with a new appreciation for the opportunities that our scholarly

community will provide to address social problems and controversies in the coming years.

I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the growth and advancement of the Law and Society Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. As an interdisciplinary scholar and lawyer, I look forward to engaging with you to bring our research findings to bear on the social problems confronting our communities.

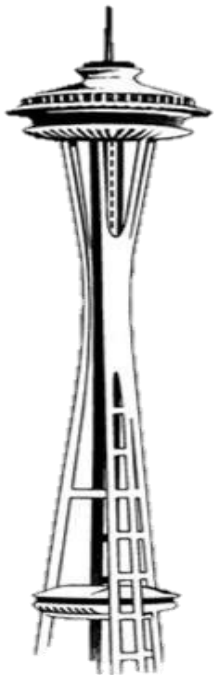
From the Incoming Chair,  
 Edith (Edi) Kinney  
 San Jose State University

# SSSP Annual Meeting

## August 19-21, 2016

### Westin Seattle Hotel; Seattle, WA

#### Law and Society Panels for 2016



SESSION TITLE
Sexuality, Gender, and the Law
Sexuality, Gender, and the Law II
Punishment and Culture: Facilitating labels and Social Distance
Law and Globalization
Conflicts and Movements Against the Law
Law and Violence
Surveillance and Society in an Age of High Technology
Law, Policy, and Institutional Ethnography in Local and Global Contexts
Environment and Health, Harm and Inclusivity
Drugs and the Criminal Justice System
Law and (In)Justice: When the Law Turns Against Us
Law and (In)Justice: Who Does the Law (Not) Protect?
Policing and Social Control in a Global Context
Law and (In)Justice: Punishing Law

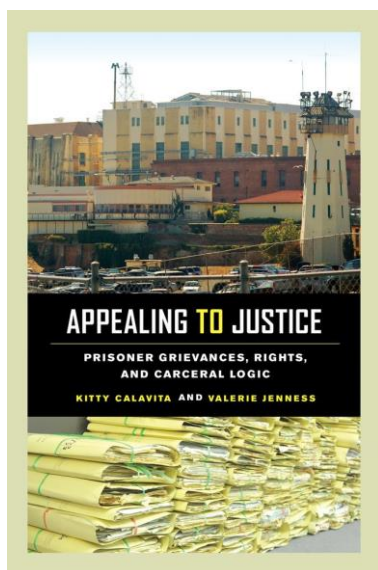
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# Winner of the 2016 Sutherland Book Award

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**Kitty Calavita and Valerie Jenness**

*Appealing to Justice: Prisoner Grievances, Rights, and Carceral Logic.* UC Press.



Having gained unique access to California prisoners and corrections officials and to thousands of prisoners' written grievances and institutional responses, Kitty Calavita and Valerie Jenness take us inside one of the most significant, yet largely invisible, institutions in the the United States. Drawing on sometimes startlingly candid interviews with prisoners and prison staff, as well as on official records, the authors walk us through the byzantine grievance process, which begins with prisoners filing claims and ends after four levels of review, with corrections officials usually denying requests for remedies. *Appealing to Justice* is both an unprecedented study of disputing in an extremely asymmetrical setting and a rare glimpse of daily life inside this most closed of institutions. Quoting extensively from their interviews with prisoners and officials, the authors give voice to those who are almost never heard from. These

voices unsettle conventional wisdoms within the sociological literature—for example, about the reluctance of vulnerable and/or stigmatized populations to name injuries and file claims, and about the relentlessly adversarial subjectivities of prisoners and correctional officials—and they do so with striking poignancy. Ultimately, *Appealing to Justice* reveals a system fraught with impediments and dilemmas, which delivers neither justice, nor efficiency, nor constitutional conditions of confinement.

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## 2016 Lindesmith Award Winner

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**Lara Johnson**, University of Chicago; Paper title: “Our Great Hobby: The Construction of Legal Consciousness in Online Networks for Buyers of Sex in Illinois”

*From Lloyd Klein, Lindesmith Award Committee Chair:* Lara’s paper presents an impressive analysis of consumers exploring illicit practices and how such individuals are impacted by legal changes. This is one of the better papers submitted to the Lindesmith Paper competition within recent years. Please attend the upcoming SSSP conference and learn more about Lara Janson’s outstanding research. One committee member commented, “Drawing on a large sample of online postings made “before, during, and after the passage of legislation in Illinois designed to curtail the demand for commercial sex,” the author uncovers how johns’ rhetoric shifted from “with the law” to “against the law” as they came to understand the risks involved with the new Illinois legislation... This paper is well-written, is interesting, has a strong data and methods section, a strong findings section with excellent analysis, and makes a clear contribution to the law and society literature.”

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## New Books

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**Jennifer Reich of the University of Colorado Denver***Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines*

NYU Press

“The measles outbreak at Disneyland in December 2014 spread to a half-dozen U.S. states and sickened 147 people. It is just one recent incident that the medical community blames on the nation’s falling vaccination rates. Still, many parents continue to claim that the risks that vaccines pose to their children are far greater than their benefits. Given the research and the unanimity of opinion within the medical community, many ask how such parents—who are most likely to be white, college educated, and with a family income over \$75,000—could hold such beliefs.

For over a decade, Jennifer Reich has been studying the phenomenon of vaccine refusal from the perspectives of parents who distrust vaccines and the corporations that make them, as well as the health care providers and policy makers who see them as essential to ensuring community health. Reich reveals how parents who opt out of vaccinations see their decision: what they fear, what they hope to control, and what they believe is in their child’s best interest. Based on interviews with parents who fully reject vaccines as well as those who believe in “slow vax,” or altering the number of and time between vaccinations, the author provides a fascinating account of these parents’ points of view.

Placing these stories in dialogue with those of pediatricians who see the devastation that can be caused by vaccine-preventable diseases and the policy makers who aim to create healthy communities, *Calling the Shots* offers a unique opportunity to understand the points of disagreement on what is best for children, communities, and public health, and the ways in which we can bridge these differences.”

**Lauren Edelman, University of California at Berkeley***Working Law: Courts, Corporations, and Symbolic Civil Rights*

University of Chicago Press

In her new book (forthcoming November 11) Lauren Edelman presents both a novel theory of law and organizations and a compelling analysis of how and why discrimination remains so prevalent in the American workplace despite the widespread adoption of policies designed to prevent it. She argues that many of these policies are merely symbolic and fail to dispel longstanding patterns of discrimination. Even more troubling, constructions of the law that evolve within companies tend to eventually make their way back into the legal domain, inconspicuously influencing lawyers for both plaintiffs and defendants and even judges. When courts look to the presence of antidiscrimination policies and personnel manuals to infer fair practices and to the presence of diversity training programs without examining whether these policies are effective in combating discrimination and achieving racial and gender diversity, they wind up condoning practices that deviate considerably from the legal ideals. The book is based on empirical analyses of organizational responses to civil rights laws; of the roles of management consultants, HR professionals, and lawyers constructions of law; and of judicial decisions in federal civil rights cases over the past half century. [http://www.amazon.com/Working-Law-Corporations-Symbolic-Chicago/dp/022640062X?ie=UTF8&\\*Version\\*=1&\\*entries\\*=0](http://www.amazon.com/Working-Law-Corporations-Symbolic-Chicago/dp/022640062X?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0)



## Member Publications

If you have something you would like in the next SSSP Law and Society Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

- Borchert, Jay (In Press). State Correctional Department Leaders and the Persistent Sociolegal Control of Consensual Sex Among Prisoners. *Law & Social Inquiry*.
- Link, Nathan W. and Catherine G. Roman (In Press). Longitudinal Associations among Child Support, Debt, Employment, and Recidivism After Prison. *The Sociological Quarterly*
- Sumner, Jennifer and Lori Sexton. (In Press). Same Difference: The “Dilemma of Difference” and the Incarceration of Transgender Prisoners. *Law & Social Inquiry*.

## Announcements

- **Good News for Last Year’s Lindesmith Award Winners!** Matthew Clair and Alix S. Winter of Harvard University, the 2015 winners of the Lindesmith Award for the Best Graduate Student Paper in Law and Society, are happy to announce that their paper “How Judges Think About Racial Disparities: Situational Decision-Making in the Criminal Justice System” has been published in the May 2016 issue of *Criminology* (Volume 54, Issue 2). Congratulations to Matt and Alix on this excellent achievement!
- **A Defended Dissertation and a Tenure-track Job for Our Chair:** Happy to announce to everyone that I have successfully defended my dissertation and will be joining the faculty at Manhattan College this Fall as an Assistant Professor of Sociology, where former SSSP President Ricardo Dello Buono is Chair. A huge thanks to everyone at SSSP and particularly in our division for the support during this final stretch as a graduate student!