

CANADIAN LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DRAFT PROGRAM

All sessions will be held at Acadia University

Session Locations: KC Irving Building and Patterson Hall

Bookfair Location: Patterson Hall (open throughout the conference)

Keynote Address Location: Fountain Commons

Day 1: Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Registration: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (Location: Patterson Hall Main Lobby)

Session 1: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1.a. Life with AI: Developing Students' Research, Analytical and Communication Skills in an Age of Temptation

Mélanie Méthot (UAlberta): "Murder She Taught: Defying AI at the Undergraduate Level"

Lyndsay Campbell (Calgary): "Marginalizing AI in Undergraduate and JD Classrooms"

Nicole O'Byrne (UNB): "Moving Beyond the Hype and the Hysteria: An Examination of How Law Students Use AI"

Paolo Bohorquez (UofT) and María M. Gómez (SMU): "Teaching (in) Crisis; Crisis (in) Teaching"

Chair: TBD

1.b. Beyond the Rules: Technology, Power, and Change in Modern Legal Systems

Allison Leadley (CLEO) and Sarah Heath (UWinnipeg): "Beyond Efficiency: Evaluating the Quality of Court Forms Produced by Digital Legal Tools for Self-Represented Litigants"

Daniel Del Gobbo (Windsor Law): "Secondary Adversarialism: A Theory of Conflict Escalation and Agenda for Law Reform"

Christiana Essie Sagay (UofO): "Migrant Labour and the Myth of a Borderless Web"

Danielle Thompson (Waterloo): “Labour Unions and Collective Agreements as Regulatory Mechanisms in Workplace Surveillance

1.c. Socio-Legal Methodologies

McHugh-Russell (Dal): “What Can Legal Scholarship Do? Toward a Critical Schematic of ‘Impact’”

Isabel Garrido Gomez (Universidad de Alcalá): “Legal Norms and Rights in Hard Social Times”

Meray Sadek (Waterloo) and Neela Hassan (Waterloo): “Reimagining Ethics of Research with Refugees and Migrants: A Collaborative Autoethnography on the Ethics of Research”

Chair: TBD

1.d. Housing, Social Programs, and Legal Regulation: Contemporary Challenges

Felix Hoehn (USask): “Residential Densities - Can Equity Trump Zoning?”

Nicolas Spallanzani-Sarrasin (Université de Montréal): “Youth, Homelessness and Conflicts with Non-criminal Legal Systems”

Leanna Katz (Dal): “Financial Regulation of Social Programs: Childcare, Pension Funds, and Risk-Shifting in the Canadian Welfare State”

Kate Ashley (Acadia): “Commissioning Change: Federal Royal Commissions and Postsecondary Reform in Canada”

Chair: TBD

1. e. Transitional Justice

Annie Bunting (York) and Thomas Ochen: “Swimming Against the Tide: Youth, Peace-building and Transitional Justice-making”

Ghazal Andalib (Western): “Defining ‘Meaningful Participation’ in Transitional Justice Mechanisms: Conceptual and Legal Perspectives on Refugee Women”

Marianna Lovenko (Waterloo): “Dual Identities and Co-Creation of Knowledge in Ukraine: Methodology of Researching Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with NGOs and Survivor-Led Networks”

Can Turget (York): “Legal Mobilization of Memory Keepers: Disputing the Aesthetics of Transitional Justice in Turkiye”

Chair: Heather Tasker (Dal)

Health Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2.a. Practices and Theories of Judging

Erin Crandall (Acadia) and Andrea Lawlor: “Comparing Confidence: Theories of Judicial Support in the United States and Canada”

Clare Shrybman (Osgoode): “Is the Motion Judge the Gatekeeper to Positive Rights in Canada? Examining Motions to Strike for Justiciability and Canadian Courts’ Pre-emptive-closing of Gosselin’s Open Door”

Ali Ekber Cinar (McGill): “Mapping the Social Life of Precedent: A Computational Analysis of Canadian Judicial Citations”

MacIntosh Ross (SMU): “Abuse and the Autonomy of Sport in Canada”

Chair: TBD

2.b. Sex, Surveillance, and Redress: Contemporary Challenges in Law

Catherine Marquis Harvey (McGill): “Rising Tides, Receding Rights: Sex Workers’ Access to Justice under Canada’s End-Demand Model”

Brynn Colledge (Waterloo): “Secret Surveillance: How the Popularization of Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses Poses a Threat to Sex Worker Safety”

Sara Wideman (Trent) and Mandi Gray (Trent): “What’s the Damage? A Critical Feminist Analysis of Damages Awards for Defamation and Sexual Assault in Ontario, Canada”

Lara Karaian (Carleton): “Three Creeps and a Sex Crime?: Reimagining Deepfake Pornography and Pathways to Erotic Justice”

Chair: Alexa Dodge (SMU)

2.c. Indigenous Land Rights

Arthur Paluszkiwicz-Magner (UBC): “Locating Radical Crown Title in Civil Law Ownership”

Nicolette Amrita Prashad (UofT): “Representations of Resistance: The RCMP’s Representations of Wet’suwet’en Land Defenders’ Opposition to the Coastal GasLink Pipeline”

John Hempstead (UNB): “Expropriation as a Transformative Pathway for Indigenous Self-determination in New Brunswick” (title TBC)

Samuel Beswick (UBC) and Adam Hofri-Winogradow (UBC): “Strata Property Disputes before the BC Civil Resolution Tribunal: An Empirical Analysis”

Chair: TBD

2.d. Moving from Police-Based to Peer-Based Mobile Crisis Response in Rural Nova Scotia

Across Nova Scotia, the police are the default first responders to people experiencing mental health or substance use crises. While critiques of police-based approaches and demands to decrease police involvement in crisis calls have existed for decades, recent advocacy efforts and policy discussions have moved from the margins to the mainstream. Several major reports in Nova Scotia have pointed to the need to limit police involvement in health and social issues, and have recommended the expansion of civilian led alternatives. In response, new community-based crisis services are emerging in Nova Scotian communities, including the Peer Outreach Support Services & Education – Crisis Intervention & Addiction Outreach (POSSECIAO) program in the rural community of West Hants. This panel examines the development and early implementation of the POSSECIAO program, with particular attention to its peer-based, rights respecting, trauma-informed, harm reduction-oriented, and community-grounded approach to crisis intervention. The discussion situates the POSSECIAO program within a broader global context of growing non-carceral community crisis response models alongside expanding of coercive mental health and substance use legislation. Panelists critically reflect on the rural dimensions the program, exploring how geographic dispersion, limited service infrastructure, and close-knit community dynamics shape mobile crisis service delivery. By intentionally centering practitioner knowledge alongside scholarly analysis, this panel models the very approach it advocates: uplifting community-driven responses, reducing reliance on institutions, and highlighting the potential of rural, civilian-led crisis services to advance community-centered care, social justice, and equity.

Panelists:

Benjamin Dykeman (POSSE)
Kimm Kent (POSSE)
Jamie Livingston (SMU)
Mary Sweatman (Acadia)

2.e. Policing Narratives, Accountability, and Community Safety

Marcus Sibley (SMU) and Eden Ward: “Community Safety Groups and Claims-Making in Local Media”

Philip Boyle (Waterloo): “The Offence of Interference: Policing Critical Infrastructure”

Annie Li (UofT): “Narratives of Victim Precipitation in Police Accountability Reports: The Case of the SIU's Response to Suicide-by-Cop Declarations”

Véronique Fortin (Université de Sherbrooke): “De la police communautaire à la police de proximité : une analyse sociojuridique de la nouvelle politique ministérielle sur la police au Québec”

Chair: Joao Velloso (UofO)

Lunch Break: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Catered Lunch in Fountain Commons

Session 3: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lise Gotell (Location: Fountain Commons)

Health Break: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Session 4: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

4.a. Socio-Legal Topics in Medicine and Health (1)

Emily Snyder (UBC): “Partner Notification and STBBI Health Governance in Canada: The Need for Socio-Legal Critique”

Matthew Herder (Dal): “The Security of Experiment with IP: Scientists’ Struggles to Develop Ebola and Tuberculosis Vaccines”

Kyle Gordon Cayouette (Carleton): “When the Facemask Governs: Reading the Facemask as Law in Public Health Campaigns”

Joshua Shaw (USask): “Quackery and Anatomy Law in the Nineteenth-century Nova Scotia”

Chair: TBD

4.b. Carceral Spaces

Azar Mahmoudi (UAlberta): “Rising Tides Behind the Walls: Carceral Corruption and Institutional Erosion in a South African Correctional Center”

Hosanah Santana Filho (Carleton): “Life Time vs. Sentence Time: Late-life Incarceration in a Brazilian Prison”

Louise Borges Barbosa (Carleton): “Between Care and Obstetric Violence: Experiences of Pregnant and Postpartum Women in a Women's Prison in the Brazilian Amazon”

Luana Leite Rabelo (Carleton): “Governing Through Medicalization? Gendered Prison Governance in Women's Prisons in Pernambuco, Brazil”

Chair: TBD

4.d. Technologies of Punishment

Paula Maurutto (UofT): “The Role of AI Developers in Redefining Criminal Justice and Legal Practices”

Robin Whitehead (Lakehead): “Examining the Legal Implications of AI-Generated Police Reports in Canada”

Sarah Turnbull (Waterloo) [and non-presenting co-authors]: “Trickle-down Punitiveness: Transparency, Carceral Cascading, and Victims’ Rights”

Helene Love (Simon Fraser): “Sentencing Youth with Mental Health Diagnoses: A Quantitative Review of Case Outcomes”

Chair: TBD

4.e. Reconciliation

Johannes Wheeldon (Acadia) and Emily Richardson (Acadia): “Cannabis, Indigenous Rights, and Reconciliation: The Case of Nova Scotia”

Leo Baskatawang (UManitoba) and Jeremy Patzer (UManitoba): “Historic Treaties and Contemporary Disputes: The Case for Good Relations and Living Rights”

Justine Monette-Trembley (Université du Québec à Montréal): “Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Challenged by Victims' Perceptions of Justice: Critical Reflections and Possible Solutions”

Genevieve Renard Painter (Concordia): “An Invisible Pillar, and Tutor, of Canada’s Constitutional Order: The Indian Act and Indian Women”

Chair: TBD

6:00 p.m. Conference Kick-Off Social at Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards

(tickets for purchase by 15 May on the [CLSA website](#))

Day 2: Thursday, 11 June 2026

Registration: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (Location: Patterson Hall Main Lobby)

Session 1: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1. a. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Brit Pulsifer-Hiltz: “Reducing the Barriers: Perpetrator Access to Intimate Partner Violence Programing and Resources in Nova Scotia”

Julia Rowena Tolmie (University of Auckland): “Documenting Intimate Partner Violence Entrapment and Imagining Alternatives”

Neela Hassan (Waterloo): “Stories of Precarity: Domestic Violence Experiences of Migrant Women in Canada”

Rowan Helmer (Dal): Title TBD

Chair: Heather Tasker (Dal)

1.b. Law, Citizenship, Authoritarianism

Matvey Lomonosov (Nazarbayev University): “Citizenship Laws in former Yugoslavia and USSR: Where the Theories of Citizenship Ethnicization do not Work and Why?”

Mugambi Jouet (University of Southern California): “The Sphere of Criminality: A Window into History, Democracy, and Authoritarianism”

Taylor Paige Winfield (University of Arizona): “Unstandard Standardization in the U.S. Military”

Gamze Ovacik (McGill): “Policies for Externalization of Migration Control in North America and Europe: A Model of Containment and Illegalization of Mobility”

Chair: Jeffrey Sachs (Acadia)

1.c. Gender(ed) Justice, Community Knowledge and Armed Conflict

Ijeamaka Elizabeth Anika (UBC): “Filtering Justice: Sustaining Community Knowledge in ICC Reparations Implementation”

Chika Maduakolam: “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Men and Boys – Revising Silence and Stigma”

Cora Fletcher (Dal): “‘I Had to Keep Quiet’: Comparing Internally and Non-internally Displaced Survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence Experiences with Legal Processes and Perceptions of Justice in the Eastern DRC”

Heather Tasker (Dal): “The Politics of Gender Justice and Backlash at the International Criminal Court”

Chair: Annie Bunting (York)

1.d. How Can Research on Palestine Contribute to Solidarist Discourse?

Collectively, the panel reflects on how scholarly work can resist divisive narratives, challenge the policing of knowledge, and contribute to a more solidaristic and justice-oriented discourse within and beyond the academy. Given that the conference also invites participants to engage in unconventional panel presentations, we propose to engage in a fishbowl conversation by ‘unconferencing’ the conference. The question we pose is this – who gets to speak about Palestine?

The format is as follows: The inner circle comprises the three of us and the moderator/discussant. The outer circle is the audience. We leave an empty chair open at all times for anyone – community members, students, and scholars – facing institutional pressure. We may also include those who are silenced or self-censoring due to fear of reprisals etc. We plan to ask anyone who may have experienced any of these institutional constraints to take the empty chair and participate in these discussions organically. This then makes the precarious nature of the academy and activism more visible. It shifts the authority from “scholarship” or “expertise” to lived experiences. We propose this format as one of the ways in which we could potentially turn solidarity into practice.

Panelists:

Safiyah Rochelle (York): “Palestine Is Not Past: Student Protest, Memory, and Racial Necrogeographies”

Laura Moore (York): “Silencing Palestine: How Media and Universities Contribute to Rising Anti-Palestinian Racism in Canada”

Jay Ramasubramanyam (York): “Solidarity in Retreat? India’s Shifting Palestine Policy from Resistance to Realignment”

Health Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2.a. Hate Speech

Allyson Lunny (York): “Confusing Symbols and Hate Speech Laws: What Could Go Wrong???”

Arunita Das (York): “Far-Right Women in Canada: Widening the Rising Tide of Online Hate”

Kaitlyn Blaser (UBC) [and non-presenting co-author]: “Decision-Making and Hateful Expression: Insights from a survey experiment”

Chair: TBD

2.b. Empirical and Lived Perspectives on Race and Justice

Joao Velloso (UofO): “Fighting a Supreme Court Precedent: Law & Society Style – Uses of empirical and interdisciplinary research in *Quebec v. Luamba et al.*”

Camisha Sibblis (Windsor) and Danardo Jones (Windsor): “Same, Same...But Different? Comparing the Assessment of Risk, Moral Blameworthiness and Utility of IRCAs in Companion Youth Cases: *R v SB* and *R v IM*”

Clifton Anthony Grant (York): “Black Men, Post Incarceration, the Struggle is REAL!”

Jackie Sikdar (York): “Behind the Trigger: Childhood Gun Exposure, Victimization, and Trauma Among Black Male Gun Offenders in Toronto”

Chair: TBD

2.c. Law, Violence, and the Production of Legality

Gail Super (UofT): “Sticks and Stones Will Break My Bones, But Names Will Also Hurt Me: Penal Violence and Othering in Spaces of Urban and Rural Precarity”

Catherine Evans (UofT): “Burning Down Wooden Towns: Making Sense of Incendiarism in Colonial Canada”

Amy Swiffen (Concordia): “When Biopolitics is Not Given: Law-Preserving Violence and Juridical Authority under Legal Pluralism”

Matthew P. Unger (Concordia): “Mystical Grounds: Bourdieu and Derrida on the Force of Law”

Chair: TBD

2.d. Lifting the Smallest Boats: Strengthening Children’s Access to Justice Amid Rising Tides

Mona Pare (UofO): “Child and Youth Advocates in Canada: A Child Rights-based Approach to Access to Justice?”

Anne Levesque (UofO): “Whose Human Rights? Children’s Access to Justice in the Canadian Human Rights Landscape”

Jean-Frédéric Hübsch (UofO): “Access to Fairness for Children: Are Canadian Ombudsman Child-friendly?”

Chair: TBD

2.e. Socio-Legal Topics in Medicine and Health (2)

Meng Lam Chen (Singapore University of Social Sciences): “Reconsidering Loss of Chance in Medical Negligence in Canada: Addressing Evidentiary Injustice”

Matheus Zuliane Falcão (McGill): “From Individual Privacy to Health Data as a Common Good: A Socio-legal Comparison of Quebec, Alberta, and Ontario, Including Indigenous Data Governance in Ontario”

Josephine L. Savarese (STU): “Contemplating the ‘Rough Ground’: Thoughts on the Importance of Culturally Sensitive Death Investigation Protocols”

Chair: Joshua Shaw (USask)

Lunch Break 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CLSA Annual General Meeting (lunch will be provided)

Session 3: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

3.a. Feminism Against the Tides

Maggie Ross (UofT): “Contesting Vagrancy in the History of Sex Work: Vice, Policing, and Queer Activism in Canada”

Hiba Akbar (UofT): “Vulnerability, Gender, and the Postcolonial State”

Yukiko Kobayashi Lui (UofT): “Feminism, Law, and Poverty”

Jeanne Mayrand-Thibert (UofT): “Policing our Way to Gender Justice? A Critical Reading of Canadian Jurisprudence on Police Powers and Intimate Partner Violence”

Chair: Brenda Cossman (UofT)

**3.b. « Comment le droit peut-il contribuer à améliorer la situation plutôt qu'à l'aggraver? »
[bilingual panel]**

Dominique Bernier (Université du Québec à Montréal): « Quelques considérations récentes sur le pouvoir discrétionnaire dans les plaintes liées aux violences genrées »

Marika Allain (Université du Québec à Montréal): « Entre discrétion et discrimination: une réflexion critique du pouvoir discrétionnaire des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales au Québec »

Carmen Hojabri (Université du Québec à Montréal): “Moralized and Pathologized: Gender, Discretion, and Parole in Quebec”

Chair: TBD

3.c. Navigating Immigration and Refugee Law in a Non-Traditional Gateway City: Hidden Work and Precarious Infrastructures

Katherine Pendakis (MUN): “From Policy to Practice: The Hidden Labour Behind Newcomer Settlement in Northern Ontario”

Jennifer Dagsvik (Lakehead): “Precarity in the Periphery: Access to Justice Infrastructures for Migrants and Refugees in Thunder Bay”

Stephanie Holman (McMaster): “When Exploitation Falls Short of Trafficking: Legal Definitions and Access to Remedy for Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada”

Chair: Elizabeth Rondinelli (Acadia)

3.d. Aboriginal Title and Private Property: Considering the Cowichan Tribes and Wolastoqey Nation decisions

Renee Pelletier (OTK Law): “The Wolastoqey Nation Decisions (NBKB and NBCA)”

Presenter TBD: “The Cowichan Tribes Decision: Declarations of Title and Fee Simple Interests”

Robert Hamilton (Calgary): “Reconsidering Title and Private Property”

Chair: TBD

Health Break 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Location TBC)

Session 4: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

4.a. The Politics of Immigration Detention and Deportation

Rine Vieth (Université Laval): “Comparing Anti-Gender Impacts: Anti-Gender Activism and SOGI Refugee Claims in Canada and the UK”

Jessica Templeman (MUN) and Emma Campbell (MUN): “Accessing Inadmissibility: A Critical Analysis of Decisions to Deport”

Ash De Visser (Carleton): “Navigating Post-Deportation: Ethnographic Insights into Reintegration, Language, and Identity in Small-Town Mexico”

Claire Linley-Moore (York): “Between Law and Security: Procedural Fairness and the Limits of Alternatives to Immigration Detention”

Lili Dao (UofO): “Austerity and Managing Migration”

Chair: Sarah Turnbull (Waterloo)

4.b. Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Harm

Suzie Dunn (Dal): “Staying Afloat in an Era of Image-based Abuse”

Alexa Dodge (SMU): “Desperately Seeking Non-Judgemental Supports: Young Peoples’ Perceptions of Adult Responses to Technology-Facilitated Harms”

Emily Lockhart (Acadia) and Allison Smith (Acadia): “Meaningful Pathways to Justice: Amplifying Queer Youth Voices in Research on Technology-Facilitated Harm”

Lise Gotell (UAlberta): “Canadian Sexual Assault Decisions and the Digitization of Sexual Violence”

Chair: TBD

4.c. Law and the Environment

Rachel Ariss (Ontario Tech): “Environmental Rights Decision-Making in Widely Different Statutory Contexts: Tides Rising in Isolation?”

David Wright (UCalgary): “Deregulation Tidal Waves and the Erosion of Impact Assessment: Stemming the Tide or Sinking the Ship through Cost-Benefit Analysis?”

Heather Gill-Frerking (Carleton): “Exploring the Lack of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Law, Policy, and Practice Documents Associated with Climate-Related Migration” (virtual)

Janakan Muthukumar (Carleton): “Governing Nuclear Participation by Law: International Legal Architecture and Canada's Pearson-Era Nuclear Policy, 1963 to 1968”

Ivan Dario Vargas Roncancio (York): “‘Hiding the Metal’: Samai, Eco-legal Resistance, and the Alchemy of the Energy Transition in the Andes-Amazon”

Chair: Katie Mazer (Acadia)

4.d. Lessons from the Coverage of the 1899 Murder of Mary Le Blowitz and from the Police Case File

Janaya Iverson (UAlberta): “Rita and Mary: The Victims of Boxing Day 1899 Tragedies in Australia”

Kenzie Ryan (UAlberta): “Local versus Metropolitan Narratives: Shock and Doubt over Procedural Niceties”

Ella Phillips (UAlberta): “Breakdown of Communication: A Telegram-Based Analysis of a Murder Investigation”

Dakota Jorgensen (UAlberta): “When Forensic Evidence Is Sorely Missing: Repeat, Eliminate and Invent”

Brady Katchur (UAlberta): “From Sensation to Memory: Newspaper Reconstructions of the Mary Le Blowitz Murder, 1900-1937”

Chair: Mélanie Méthot (UAlberta)

5:15 p.m. CLSA Board Meeting (KCIC Board Room)

Day 3: Friday, 12 June 2026

Registration: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (Location: Patterson Hall Main Lobby)

Session 1: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1.a. The Blackout Period in Aboriginal Law: Section 141 and Colonial Legal Governance

Hannah Wyle (SMU) and Keith Cherry: “Section 141 in Historical Context: A Legal-Political Ecology”

Amy Swiffen (Concordia): “Applying Section 141 in Practice: Administrative Enforcement and Individual Cases”

Kris Millet (MSVU): ““Agitators and Exploiters”: Justifying Section 141”

Chair: TBD

1.b. From the Ground Up: Seeking Collective Wisdom on Creating a New Law School

Facilitated by Kelly Gallagher-MacKay (Wilfred Laurier) and Marcia Oliver (Wilfred Laurier)

Wilfrid Laurier University is proposing to open a new law school in Brantford, Ontario. The planned focus of the school is to prepare graduates to meet the acute legal needs of smaller and mid-size communities, while ensuring that students have broad academic and professional training that is a hallmark of Canadian legal education. An essential component of the plan is strong, ongoing relationships with local Haudenosaunee and Anishnaawbe communities, and a Law-Society approved Integrated Practice Program of supervised work placement and required curriculum elements that qualifies graduates to write bar admissions exams without additional articling requirements.

This interactive session is designed to draw on the collective wisdom of the CLSA membership, both critical socio-legal scholars and those who teach in law schools, and to provoke reflection on opportunities within existing law schools.

Core questions for discussion will be: What are powerful tools for building inclusive and dynamic sense of **community and shared vision** within a new law school? To improve **access**, we're hoping to build in a planned part-time pathway and year-round operation – are there approaches that lead to greater success for part-time students, or other approaches that have effectively opened doors for students who have likely borne the brunt of systemic discrimination? Alongside intentional recruitment and curriculum, are there suggestions about intentional ongoing **engagement with First Nations** to ensure direction and two-way support? How can newcomer law schools develop a niche in a potentially **skeptical legal profession** to create opportunities for graduates? Any advice on **hard curriculum choices** facing a smaller law school? For those with experience with new law schools, any **unexpected pitfalls or opportunities** to which we should be alert?

1.c. Visual Art, Legal Artefacts and the Museum: Unsettling Colonial Practices

Jeffery Hewitt (York): “Visually Producing Authority”

Madeline Davis (York): “Colonialism All the Way Down: Museums, Empire and Law”

Ruth Buchanan (York): “Selling off the Hudson's Bay Charter”

Natlie R. Richer (York): “Show, Don't Tell: Display, Indigenous Legal Orders, and Research-Creation”

Chair: TBD

1.d. Book Launch: Understanding *New Brunswick Politics: A Canadian Microcosm*

Nicole O'Byrne (UNB) in conversation with editor Mario Levesque (Mount A) (Location TBA)

New Brunswick is one of Canada's geographically smallest and least populated provinces, yet it contains all of the different historic, cultural, linguistic, political, economic, and social experiences and challenges found in the rest of the country. This volume questions what we can learn from New Brunswick's post-2000 experience that can ultimately inform governance and policy-making elsewhere in Canada.

New Brunswick Politics begins by situating the province's social, linguistic, and economic dynamics regionally and nationally. Contributors then examine the governments of Bernard Lord, Shawn Graham, David Alward, Brian Gallant, and Blaine Higgs and their policies to reveal how their governance and policy directions reflected broader trends in Canadian politics while, at other times, they provided opportunities for unique new policy directions to emerge. Key socio-legal issues examined include the residual welfare state, language politics, healthcare reform, equity-denied groups, and housing.

This is the first comprehensive book on New Brunswick politics in sixty-five years, and it presents a province struggling to address questions of conflict, power, marginalization, and governance as it carves out its unique path in addressing pressing public policy questions.

Mario Levesque is an Associate Professor in Political Science at Mount Allison University. He is the co-author of *Environmental Governance in the Gulf of St. Lawrence* (UBC Press, 2025) and the winner of the 2025 Mount Allison Students' Union Excellence in Teaching Award.

Health Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2.a. Psychiatry, Law, and Institutional Entanglements

Laura Beach (Carleton): “Harmful, Irrational, and Legal: An Examination of Prescription Practices in Canadian Provincial Prisons”

Delphine Gauthier-Boiteau (UofO): “An Ethnography of Psychiatric Settings in a Montreal Hospital: Studying Practices in Light of Consent and Coercion”

Emmanuel Nwatu (UofO): “The More Things Change the More they Stay the Same: A Critical Analysis of the Regulation of Detention Related to Madness in Canada”

Sheila Wildeman (Dal): “Abolition Remedies? On Failing Better in Pursuit of Prison Decarceration and Disability Deinstitutionalization”

Chair: William Hébert

2.b. Locating Property and the State

Hone Belaye (Concordia): “Condominium Committees and the Politics of Property in Addis Ababa's Urban Margins”

Arthur Magner (UBC): “Locating Radical Crown Title in Civil Law Ownership”

Douglas Harris (UBC) and Robert Clifford YELKATTE: “Deer Eradication, Ecological Restoration, and Local Government in a Propertied Landscape on Indigenous Lands”

Kutay Kutlu (York): “Governing Infrastructure Through Exception: Acceleration, National Interest, and the Transformation of Rural Land in Turkey and Canada”

Chair: TBD

2.c. History, alternative histories of law and rights (this is not a title, but an explanation)

Jamesy Patrick (USask): “Sustaining Two-Eyed Seeing in Action: Moving Child Protection Legal Education out of the Margins”

Michael Luba (McGill): “In Search of an Aboriginal Right to Protest”

Mathilde Baril-Jannard (McGill): “Reflections on the ‘Other’ History of Labour Law”

Greg Marquis (UNBSJ): “Celebrity on Trial: The Queen vs. James Marshall Hendrix, Toronto, 1969”

Chair: TBD

2.d. Law and Religion

Gabriella L Brown (UofO): “The Racialization of Secularism: A Critical Race Theory Analysis of Quebec’s Bill 21”

Bruce Ryder (York): “Anti-Semitism and the Origins of Ontario Anti-Discrimination Legislation”

Keyser Alberto Besa (UAlberta): “Who Shall Judge the Saints? A Biblical Case for the Law of Justiciability”

Chair: Jeffrey Sachs (Acadia)

Lunch Break: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Session 3: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

3.a. In Whose Interest? Mi’kmaw Law and Resource Development in Mi’ma’ki Today

In Nova Scotia, and in Canada generally, we find ourselves in a moment of renewed and intensified natural resource development. Provincial and federal governments frame resource and related infrastructure development as a necessary pathway to economic security in the face of tariff threats and unpredictable geopolitics. Meanwhile, climate change, Indigenous rights, and the prospect of a just transition seem to have suddenly fallen to the political wayside. In many places, Indigenous and settler communities have responded with great concern about these renewed state efforts to develop natural resources, insisting that a different form of economic development is both necessary and possible.

The panel will take the form of a roundtable discussion that brings together Mi’kmaw legal experts and practitioners to consider the place of Mi’kmaw law-ways in this moment of intensified resource development in Nova Scotia. At the same time as Mi’kmaw communities have asserted their legal responsibilities to protect lands and waters, non-Indigenous communities are facing the limitations of their own legal tools as they attempt to intervene in unwanted projects. Drawing on contemporary examples of resource disputes and movements for water and land defence, the proposed panel will explore questions about the resurgence of Mi’kmaw law, encounters between Mi’kmaw and colonial legal systems, and the potentials and pitfalls of the peace and friendship treaties to serve as an overarching framework for protecting Mi’ma’ki and envisioning a more livable future.

Panelists:

Tuma Young, IPC, KC

Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, JD, LLM

Cheryl Maloney, Mi'kmaq activist and practitioner of Indigenous law

Tuma Sakej Wilson, JD

Chairs: Sadie Beaton (Dal) and Katie Mazer (Acadia)

3.b. Constitutional Law

Iryna Ponomarenko (USask): “Reconceptualizing the Civil Standard of Proof in *Charter* Adjudication”

Joe Byram (UCalgary Law): “Free 2(b) Queer: A Preliminary Reorientation of the Foundations of *Charter* Freedom of Expression”

Dominique Clement (UAlberta): “Human Rights Law and Institutions in Canada - Systemic Underfunding and Policy Reform”

Chair: Erin Crandall (Acadia)

3.c. Criminal Law and Equality

Constance Backhouse (UofO): “Criminal law as a Legal Avenue for Human Rights Violations? Quebec's 1964 Experiment”

Adelina Ifene (Dal): “Sentencing Vulnerability: An Empirical Study Into the Role of Personal Characteristics and the Foreseeable Experience of Confinement at the Sentencing of Older Adults”

Sarah-Jane Nussbaum (UNB): “Sentencing, Pregnancy and Early Parenting, and the Experience of Punishment in Prisons for Women”

Sylvia Rich (UofO): “Anger, Injustice and Criminal Law”

Chair: TBD

3.d. Book Launch: *The Bylaw State: Encampment Evictions and the Struggle for Public Space*

Authors: Alexandra Flynn (UBC) and Joe Hermer (UofT)

This book examines how municipal bylaws have become central instruments in Canada's governance of homelessness, transforming technical rules into powerful mechanisms of displacement and control. Anchored in the 2022–23 evictions at Prince George's Millennium Park and Vancouver's CRAB Park, the book traces how benign-seeming regulations were deployed to remove encampment residents despite legal uncertainty, intergovernmental conflict, and the absence of adequate shelter or housing. The Millennium Park case, far from anomalous, reflects a nationwide pattern: across Canadian municipalities, bylaws drafted in the language of safety, order, and public space management serve as the primary (and often punitive) response to a deepening housing and human rights crisis.

Through legal analysis, case studies, and close attention to the everyday workings of local governance, the book argues that bylaws operate as a form of "neo-vagrancy law," resurrecting historical techniques for policing poverty. These regulations, whether visibly enforced through signage or invisibly embedded in the

urban landscape, render unhoused people as problems to be removed rather than rights-holders entitled to dignity, shelter, and security. Courts have provided limited checks on municipal power, but judicial oversight remains fragmented and constrained by case-specific reasoning.

Situating contemporary encampments within broader crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, overdose deaths, racial inequities, and the chronic shortage of affordable housing, the book shows how bylaw enforcement reinforces vulnerability while obscuring the systemic failures that force people to live outside. It concludes by arguing that meaningful reform requires dismantling the bylaw-centred approach to homelessness and replacing it with rights-based, accountable, and care-focused frameworks that recognize encampments as urgent expressions of unmet human needs rather than administrative nuisances.

Health Break: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Session 4: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4.a. Critical Analysis of Criminal Sentencing

Caroline Dick (Western): “Authenticity Standards and Identity Fraud in the Sentencing of Indigenous Offenders”

Jaime Snow (Carleton) [non-presenting author Quimey Margarzo]: “Neoliberalism, Gender, and Carceral Policy in Argentina and the United States”

Sam Ghebrai (Western): “Recognized in Law, Denied in Practice: Formerly Incarcerated Trans Women and Transfeminine People’s Experiences of Correctional Reform in Canada”

Chair: TBD

4.b. Economics and Rights Internationally

Unyime Abasi Odong (University of Ottawa Law): “Rising Tides, Sinking Rafts: Canada and Africa in Global Fintech Trade Flows”

Adelanke Y Aremo (USask): “From Judgment to Impact: Assessing the Effectiveness of Strategic Litigation in Advancing Socio-Economic Rights in Nigeria”

Mahan Ashouri (MacEwan): “Assessing the Effects of Canada's Economic Sanctions Regimes on International Dispute Settlement as a Barrier to Achieving Canada's Sustainable Development Goals”

Chair: TBD

4.c. The Rights of Children

Adam Foster: “The Problem with Children These Days: Biopolitics and the Limits of Children's Rights Liberalism”

Haley Hrymak (UBC): “Economic Abuse and the High Costs of BC’s Child Support System”

Kristen McKinnon (Ontario Tech): “Advocating for Inclusion: Empowering Caregivers to Uphold Autistic Children's Legal Right to In-person Education in Ontario”

Chair: TBD