



# CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY BERKELEY LAW

## CSLS SPEAKER SERIES

Monday, September 12, 2016

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## “Beyond Pastures: Networked Commons v. Natural Commons”

From software and science to collaborative forms of cultural production, the commons of the so-called knowledge economy are typically figured as networks, either material or virtual. No longer associated with groups of people sharing the same workspace, most of these collaborations are figured as changing grids, with interactions following a schedule so variable as to question traditional notions of collaboration. Face-to-face interactions do happen but are no longer the rule. This is in stark contrast with the images of green village pastures or communal fisheries that are typically mobilized to exemplify these kinds of technological commons. More than just a problem of poorly fitting metaphors this indicates a tension within current conceptualizations of the commons -- a tendency to conceptualize it as resource rather than a specific form of collaborative action. The mobilization of geographically-specific and community-managed pastoral figures of the commons indexes a conservative undercurrent within otherwise progressive intellectual property politics that, I argue, ends up romanticizing communities and their allegedly organic norms and forms of collaboration. In doing so, it unwittingly reifies the logic of property (albeit in the form of communal property) rather than un-think it to make room for post-property concepts better able to capture collaborative knowledge making and knowledge access.

PLACE Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Ave.  
TIME **12:45 – 2:00pm**. Coffee and water provided. Bag lunches welcome.  
INFO <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/>  
EMAIL [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu)

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