



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY BERKELEY LAW

The Center for the Study of Law and Society invites you to the

CSLS Visiting Scholars Speaker Series

An occasional series of presentations & discussion

With wine and light refreshments

Moderated by Jonathan Simon

Please join us for two presentations
in the Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Ave.

Friday, October 7th

3:10 to 4:30pm

Manoj Dias-Abey

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace
Queen's University, Canada

“Sandcastles of Hope?”

Can Non-Traditional Labor Organizations Improve the Working Conditions of Migrant Farm Workers in North America?”

Migrant farm workers make up the vast majority of the waged farm workforce in the United States and Canada. These workers are subject to very poor working and living conditions, and for a variety of reasons, the traditional mechanisms used to ensure decent working standards, such as collective bargaining and statutory standards enforced by government agencies, do little to address the situation. However, there is a small glimmer of hope because a growing number of non-traditional labor organizations are engaging with law in creative ways to improve the lives of these workers. I outline the work of three organizations that I studied using fieldwork in the course of my doctoral work. By placing the work of these organizations in the context of the broader political economy of the global food system, I argue that their strategies hold real promise.

Amelia Thorpe

Senior Lecturer and Director of Environmental Law Programs,
University of New South Wales, Australia

"Hegel's Hipsters: Claiming Ownership in the Contemporary City"

Through a detailed examination of PARK(ing) Day, a loosely-organised international event to reclaim street space from cars, this paper explores the ways in which understandings of law and legality shape, and are in turn shaped by, practices of participation in planning. For ten years, participants in PARK(ing) Day have used creative interpretations of property to reveal new spaces for participation in the production of the built environment. Claims about law are central to these practices. PARK(ing) Day was based on a creative reading of the type of property produced and producible within the rules governing parking in San Francisco, California. In subsequent iterations in cities around the world, participants in PARK(ing) Day have claimed and reclaimed the street in many ways, revealing diverse and dynamic understandings of ownership, law and legality.