



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY
BERKELEY LAW

CSLS SPEAKER SERIES

Monday, April 17, 2017

ROSS MATSUEDA

Professor of Sociology, University of Washington

“Social Capital, Collective Efficacy, and Broken Windows”

This talk draws on principles of Coleman’s (1990) *Foundations of Social Theory* to expand upon the concept of collective efficacy, specified by Sampson and colleagues. We begin by specifying collective efficacy as a collective property of neighborhoods that is produced through individual action of residents. Individual rational action, such as developing reciprocal obligations and expectations to maximize utility in various neighborhood interactions, gives rise to social capital. When aggregated to the neighborhood level, this form of social capital has positive externalities for residents, and therefore becomes a public good. Residents can draw on the neighborhood social capital to solve local problems. Moreover, in those neighborhoods with high collective efficacy, residents are able to overcome free rider problems and establish norms of building social ties and helping to resolve neighborhood problems. We test the central proposition that reciprocal ties provide positive externalities (in the form of social capital) which can then be drawn upon by residents to solve social problems, resulting in collective efficacy at the neighborhood level. We estimate multi-level models and control for spatial effects using the Seattle Neighborhoods and Crime Survey. Finally, we describe our proposed field experiments of physical disorder and norm violations, and their implications for collective efficacy and broken windows.

Professor Matsueda’s paper related to the first half of the presentation is available online at our website and in hard copy at the Center.

PLACE Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue
TIME 12:45 – 2:00pm
INFO <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/>
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