



# CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY BERKELEY LAW

## **CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**

Monday, February 26, 2018

## **ROBERT J MACCOUN**

James and Patricia Kowal Professor of Law, Stanford University

### **“Rapidly Changing Standards and Practices in Empirical Social Science: What Does It Mean for Empirical Legal Studies?”**

In this talk, I will review the revolution that is happening in response to the "replicability crisis" in psychology, medicine, and other empirical disciplines, which is upending all sorts of beliefs about how to conduct and interpret quantitative evidence. I will discuss new "forensic statistics" tests for identifying "p-hacking," preregistration of hypotheses and tests, open data sharing, blinded data analysis, dramatically increased expectations about reasonable sample sizes, and the proposal to adopt  $p=.005$  as the new definition of "statistical significance." There are many reasons to celebrate these innovations, but they will create significant challenges for ELS because we rely so heavily on data from the field rather than the lab.

A recent relevant paper by Professor MacCoun and Saul Perlmutter is available on our website and in hard copy at the Center.

**PLACE** Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue  
**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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