CSLS Visiting Scholars Speaker Series

Friday, September 28, 2018

YOAV MEHOZAY
Haifa University

“The Epistemology of Algorithmic Risk Assessment and the Path Towards a Non-Penology Penology”
(Forthcoming in Punishment & Society; co-author Fran Fisher)

In this article, we argue that algorithmic risk assessment cannot be understood merely as a technological advancement that improves the precision of previous methods. Instead, we look at algorithmic risk assessment as a new episteme. This new way of thinking assumes a new conception of human nature, which we seek to unravel. To do so, we recall the history of criminological knowledge and analytically distinguish algorithmic knowledge from the two previous epistemes that dominated the field – the rational and pathological epistemes. We argue that the algorithmic episteme introduces substantial social and moral ramifications, specifically with regard to the type of penology it informs. It leads to a new type of penology which can be described as lacking a humanistic component, bringing Malcolm Feeley and Jonathan Simon’s “new penology” to fruition as a non-penology penology. (Paper attached & online at CSLS website.)

DORON DORFMAN
Stanford University

“[Un]Usual Suspects: Deservingness, Scarcity, and Disability Rights”

People encounter disability in public spaces where accommodations are granted to those who fit into this protected legal class. Nondisabled people desire many of these accommodations—such as the use of reserved parking spots or the ability to avoid waiting in a queue—and perceive them as “special rights” prone to abuse. This apprehension about the exploitation of rights by those pretending to be disabled erodes trust in disability law and negatively affects people with disabilities. Using a series of survey experiments as well as in-depth interviews, this Article brings to light the psychological mechanism of suspicion and identifies factors that motivate it. Its findings help to outline the normative implications for the design and implementation of laws affecting millions of individuals.

PLACE Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue
TIME 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Beverages and light refreshments provided.
INFO https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/
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