

## NATE ELA

American Bar Foundation  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-2020     **American Bar Foundation**  
Visiting Scholar
- 2019           **Northwestern Pritzker School of Law**  
Instructor, International Law (Spring term)
- 2007-2008     **Harvard Law School**  
Teaching Fellow; Clinical Litigation Fellow, Human Rights Program

### EDUCATION

- 2018           **Ph.D. (Sociology) University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Dissertation: *The Land Fix: Experiments with Property, Land, and Welfare in Chicago, 1895-2017*  
Committee: Erik Olin Wright (chair), Gary Green, Joel Rogers, Monica White, Alfonso Morales  
(Urban and Regional Planning)  
Preliminary exam fields: sociology of law, economic sociology
- 2012           **M.S. (Sociology) University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- 2007           **J.D., Harvard Law School, cum laude**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left*, 2005-2007
- 2000           **B.A. (Political Science), Columbia University, magna cum laude**

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Primary:*       Property; Local Government; Land Use Planning; Estates and Trusts; Food Law  
*Secondary:*    International Law; Human Rights; Torts; Legislation; Environmental Justice; Welfare Law; Law  
and Social Science

### ARTICLES AND WORKS IN PROGRESS (\* indicates peer review)

- Property and the Problem of Disuse* (job talk paper)
- CULTIVATING THE CITY: URBAN AGRICULTURE AND THE PROMISE OF PROPERTY (book manuscript, under review at University of Chicago Press)
- The Promise of Property: Cultivating Collective Efficacy and Legal Optimism in Chicago's Urban Agriculture District\** (revise and resubmit at SOCIAL PROBLEMS)
- Use-Based Welfare: Property Experiments in Chicago, 1895-1935\**  
43 SOC. SCI. HISTORY 319 (2019)
- Litigation Dilemmas: Lessons from the Marcos Human Rights Class Action\**  
42 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 479 (2017)  
- Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Law Section, 2016.  
- Best Scholarly Article Award (Honorable Mention), ASA Section on Human Rights, 2017.
- Urban Commons as Property Experiment: Mapping Chicago's Farms and Gardens*  
43 FORDHAM URBAN LAW J. 247 (2016)

*Reviewing Walker's First Year: An Agenda for the One Percent*  
42 SOCIAL POLICY 12 (2012) (lead author, with Edo Navot and Emanuel Ubert)

*Introduction: Reveling in Resistance, Imagining Reconstruction*  
3 UNBOUND: HARVARD J. LEGAL LEFT i (2007) (with Lauren Coyle and Zinaida Miller, equal authorship)

#### **BOOK CHAPTER**

*Land Tenure for Urban Farming: Toward a Scalable Model*  
in GOOD FOOD, STRONG COMMUNITIES: PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS (Steve Ventura & Martin Bailkey, eds. 2017) (lead author, with Greg Rosenberg)  
To be reprinted in THIS LAND IS OURS: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST, J.E. DAVIS, L. ALGOED, AND M. E. HERNÁNDEZ TORRALES, EDS. (2020)

#### **REPORTS AND WHITE PAPERS**

*Cultivating Productive Landscapes: A Vision for Urban Agriculture in the Millennium Reserve*  
Chicago Food Policy Action Council (2015) (with Erika Allen, equal authorship)

*Assessing Food Systems Sustainability and Resilience*  
Mayors Innovation Project (2012) (lead author, with Satya Rhodes-Conway and Marion Reitz)

*Cultivos Contaminados, Culturas Amenazadas: La Situación de los Transgénicos y Los Derechos Humanos en Pueblos Indígenas de Colombia.*

Report submitted by Colombian indigenous groups and environmental organizations to the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Issues (2009) (lead author).

- English translation, *Contaminated Crops, Threatened Cultures: Genetically Modified Organisms and the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Colombia*, submitted as parallel report to the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (44th Session, May 2010).

*Ya sabemos que el TLC es ilegal. Ahora, ¿Qué hacer?*  
40-41 REVISTA SEMILLAS 34 (2009)

*On Salvaging*  
20 PHILIPPINE HUMAN RTS. UPDATE 2 (2006)

#### **BLOGGING**

LEGISLATION LAW PROF BLOG, regular contributor, 2014-2015.

#### **LAW TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Northwestern Pritzker School of Law**, Instructor, Spring 2019  
Designed and taught International Law (introduction to public international law)

**Harvard Law School**, Teaching Fellow, 2007-2008  
Assisted Professor Lucie White in teaching the course Community Action for Social and Economic Rights

**Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic**, Litigation Fellow, 2007-2008  
Supervised student drafting on Alien Tort Statute litigation, led field mission to South Africa  
Guest advisor on interviewing and fieldwork techniques, October 2015

#### **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Lasell College**, Adjunct Professor of Sociology, Fall 2015  
Designed and taught course on Social Policy

**Peace Corps-Mozambique**, Secondary Education Volunteer, 2000-2002  
Taught middle- and high-school Geography and English as a Foreign Language

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Working Families Party**, Litigation strategy consultant (*pro bono*), 2015-2019  
Advised on test litigation under state constitutions to challenge bans on fusion voting.
- Chicago Food Policy Action Council**, Policy researcher and working group coordinator, 2011-2017  
Researched and wrote reports on zoning and land tenure issues raised by urban farming.
- American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange** (Madison, WI), Project assistant, 2011-2015  
Helped launch online library of state and local model law; coordinated drafting by law students and faculty.
- Center on Wisconsin Strategy** (COWS, Madison, WI), Project assistant, 2010-2016  
Legal and policy research and writing on topics including energy, food, and transportation.
- Grupo Semillas** (Bogotá, Colombia), Human rights researcher, 2008-2009  
Research and writing on human rights, food sovereignty, agriculture, and international trade law.
- Task Force Detainees of the Philippines** (Manila), Researcher, Summer 2006  
Field research on impact of landmark Alien Tort Statute class action on lead plaintiffs and class members.
- Amnesty International** (London, UK), Law clerk, Summer 2005  
Scenario planning on future of human rights for Amnesty's Secretary General.
- Schonbrun, DeSimone, Seplow, Harris & Hoffman** (Los Angeles), Law clerk, Summer 2005  
Legal research and drafting for Alien Tort Statute litigation against corporate defendants.
- New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board**, Investigator, 2003-2004  
Investigated and recommended disposition of complaints against NYPD officers.

## SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Best Scholarly Article Award (Honorable Mention), ASA Section on Human Rights, 2017.
- Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Law Section, 2016.
- Graduate Student Paper Prize (Honorable Mention), Society for the Study of Social Problems, Social Problems Theory Division, 2016.
- Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Dissertation Fellowship, 2016.
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, Law and Social Sciences Division, 2014-2015.
- C. Lowell Harris Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2014-2015.
- Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2012.
- Henigson Human Rights Fellowship, Harvard Law School, 2008-2009.

## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAINING

- Associate, Harvard University Department of African and African-American Studies, 2015-2017.
- Participant, Harvard Law School Institute for Global Law and Policy Doha Workshop, 2015.
- Graduate Research Fellow, UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty, 2014-2015.
- Participant, Summer Institute in New Economics, 2013.
- Honorary Graduate Fellow, Institute for Legal Studies, U. Wisconsin Law School, 2011-2013.
- Visiting Researcher, Harvard Law School, 2007-2008.

## INVITED TALKS

*Cultivating the City: Urban Agriculture and the Promise of Property*  
Northwestern University Sociology Department colloquium, May 2019.

*Cultivating a Commons? Urban Farming and Property Law in Chicago, 1893-1920*  
University of Chicago Law School, Nov. 2013.

*Modeling Progressive Law for States and Cities: The American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange*  
2013: Northwestern Law School; Stanford Law School (Shaking the Foundations Conference); Chicago-Kent College of Law; Northern Illinois University College of Law; John Marshall Law School.  
2012: Yale Law School (Rebellious Lawyering Conference); Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Society of Am. Law Teachers Retreat).

*Genetically-Modified Organisms and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Colombia*  
Universidad Libre Law School, Bogotá, Colombia, Aug. 2009.

*The Practice and Ethics of Human Rights Litigation in U.S. Courts* (with Meghan Morris)  
Universidad de los Andes Law School, Bogotá, Colombia, Nov. 2008.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

*Law & Social Welfare Distribution*  
Sociology of Law Section session, American Sociological Association, Aug. 2018.

*Reimagining Access: Institutional Experiments in the Postindustrial City*  
Law and Society Association, June 2017 (with John Robinson, Washington University Dept. of Sociology)

*The Sociolegal Researcher as Social Justice Advocate: Challenges and Opportunities*  
Law and Society Association, June 2016 (with Thomas Mitchell, U. Wisconsin Law School)

*Bending Toward Justice? Reflecting on the Role of Sociolegal Research in Advancing Social Change*  
Law and Society Association, May 2015 (with Thomas Mitchell, U. Wisconsin Law School)

*Re-envisioning the City: The Limits and Possibilities of Property*  
Law and Society Association, May 2015 (with John Robinson, Northwestern Dept. of Sociology)

*Resistance and the Law: Radicalism, Extremism, Legitimacy, Cooptation*  
Harvard Law School, March 2007 (with co-editors of *Unbound*)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

*How Voting Became a Duty in Kansas City*  
Social Science History Association, Nov. 2019 (Scheduled).

*The Promise of Property: Cultivating Legal Optimism and Collective Efficacy in Chicago's Urban Agriculture District*  
American Sociological Association, Aug. 2019.

*Locking in Urban Transformation Through Organizational Experiments*  
ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section Pre-Conference Workshop, Aug. 2019.

*Properties of Urban Resilience*  
Law and Society Association, Socio-Legal Approaches to Property research network, May 2019.

*Making Property Useful*  
Association for the Study of Law, Property, and Society, May 2019.

*The Land Fix*  
Law and Society Association, Socio-Legal Approaches to Property research network, June 2018.

*Use-Based Welfare: Property Experiments in Chicago, 1895-2015*  
2017: American Sociological Association.

2016: ASA Economic Sociology Section Pre-Conference Workshop; Boston College Environmental Sociology Working Group; UW-Madison Economic Sociology Workshop.

*Reclaiming the Commons, Activating Space: A Dual Genealogy*

2016: American Sociological Association; Society for the Study of Social Problems; UW-Madison Economic Sociology Workshop.

2015: International Association for the Study of the Commons; Law and Society Association.

*Urban Commons as Property Experiment: Mapping Chicago's Farms and Gardens*

Society for the Study of Social Problems, Aug. 2016.

International Association for the Study of the Commons, Nov. 2015.

*Regulating the Resilient City: A Project to Study Socio-Ecological Urban Governance*

Harvard Law School Institute for Global Law and Policy workshop, Jan. 2015.

*Commoning as an Urban Social Practice*

Midwest Law and Society Retreat, U. Wisconsin Law School, Oct. 2014.

*The Urban Agriculture Land Trust as a Vehicle for Commoning*

Urban Agriculture Law Conference, U. Maryland School of Law, Sept. 2014.

*Cultivating a Commons? Urban Farming and Property Law in Chicago, 1893-1920*

Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop, Indiana University, June 2014.

*How to Analyze Alien Tort Litigation and Social Movement Mobilization*

Law and Society Association, June 2011.

## BAR ADMISSION

Massachusetts, 2007 (Active)

## REFERENCES

### Lucie E. White

Louis A. Horvitz Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School  
lwhite@law.harvard.edu  
(617) 495-4633

### Ajay Mehrotra

Professor, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
Executive Director, American Bar Foundation  
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### Terence Halliday

Research Professor  
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### Tyler Giannini

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Co-Director of the International Human Rights Clinic  
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### Joel Rogers

Sewell-Bascom Professor of Law and Sociology  
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### Nadav Shoked

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Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
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### Sida Liu

Associate Professor of Sociology and Law  
University of Toronto  
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### Erik Olin Wright\*

Vilas Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
\* Professor Wright, who chaired my dissertation committee, passed away in 2019. A prior letter is available by contacting Professor Rogers.