

NATE ELA

American Bar Foundation
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Aug. 2020- **University of Cincinnati**
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Law
- 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: Collective Efficacy and Legal Optimism in Chicago's Urban Agriculture District**
Forthcoming, 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

Redistributing through Use

Law and Society Association, Socio-Legal Approaches to Property research network, May 2020 (scheduled).

Property and the Problem of Disuse

Law and Political Economy Conference, Apr. 2020 (scheduled).

Property Works in Progress conference, Sept. 2019.

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.

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

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.

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.

BAR ADMISSION

Massachusetts, 2007 (Active)