Stanford Program in Law and Society

Second Conference for Junior Researchers
Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA
May 15-16, 2015

On Law and Social Transformations

Call for Papers

Introduction

The Stanford Program in Law and Society (SPLS) at Stanford Law School is pleased to announce its Second Conference for Junior Researchers. Following the success of last year's Inaugural Conference, this event seeks to continue the community-building process by providing a forum where aspiring scholars from around the globe can meet to present and discuss their current projects on law and society and create a fruitful ground for future cooperation. The conference is specially designed for junior researchers to present their work in progress and receive input from faculty and other participants, while promoting vibrant discussions and the exchange of ideas. The conference will also allow participants to develop their research skills through a special workshop.

Conference theme

The Second Conference for Junior Researchers invites papers from junior researchers (graduate students, post-graduate students, post-doctoral researchers as well as recent graduates from law schools and social science departments) that explore the relationship between law and social transformations. We live in a dynamic world, where social attitudes, realities, norms, practices, and needs are constantly evolving. Consequently, questions about the role law plays in creating those changes or following those transformations arise. Is law an efficient instrument to promote the development of societies, groups, institutions, and markets? Or should we be more cautious about the power of law to bring about social transformations? When does law lag behind changing societies, institutions, and markets? Or maybe law is just not the relevant framework for discussing these changes?

Research on the relationship between law and society has always been interested in how law connects with developments in society as well as circumstances where law is considered a cornerstone for implementing new norms. How does law function as a building block for constructing a change in norms? What are the conditions that allow law to keep pace with social transformations? How do changes in moral perceptions or social attitudes affect the way people regard the law? In other words, what is the relationship – if one exists – between developments outside the legal realm and the legal system itself?

The conference invites junior researchers to submit research papers in all fields that analyze, discuss, or reflect on the abovementioned themes. As this is an interdisciplinary conference, empirical law-related or law-relevant research projects from all social sciences are encouraged.

Details about the conference

The two-day conference will comprise panel discussions, a research skills workshop, and a keynote address on the conference theme by an internationally renowned law and society scholar. Participants will have opportunities to share their work, receive feedback from faculty and other participants, develop their professional skills, and network with other junior researchers.

Submissions and selection process

Junior researchers are invited to submit an abstract of up to 400 words, together with their CV. All abstracts and CVs should be submitted to stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com by January 12, 2015. Conference participants will be selected by a panel in a competitive process based on the quality of their proposals and their relation to the conference theme. All applicants will be informed by email of the decision by February 9, 2015. All selected participants must submit their final paper by April 13, 2015 so that it can be shared with other members of their panel and their discussant for feedback. The final papers should be no longer than 15,000 words (including footnotes). Papers should be an unpublished work in progress. We welcome papers that have been accepted for publication, as long as they are not yet published and the author still has the opportunity to incorporate feedback from this conference.

Financial aid

Limited financial assistance to cover travel expenses will be available to some participants. Only participants from outside the San Francisco Bay area are eligible to receive such assistance, and only in those cases where they do not receive funding from their own institutions. Together with the notification of acceptance, selected participants will receive a financial aid request form. Participants will have to submit such form in order to be considered for the limited financial assistance. Due to the very limited financial assistance we will be able to provide, we strongly encourage participants to seek financial support to attend the conference in their home countries and institutions.

Contact

Please feel free to direct any question or comment to:

stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com

For further information on the Second Conference for Junior Researchers and on the Stanford Program in Law and Society visit:

http://www.law.stanford.edu/spls/2nd-conference-2015

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