

Law and Society Association at Stanford  
Seventh Conference for Junior Researchers  
Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA  
May 5th, 2023

## ROLE OF COURTS, LITIGATION, AND OTHER LEGAL INSTITUTIONS IN AN AGE OF SOCIAL CONFLICT

*Call for Abstracts*

### **Introduction**

The Law and Society Association at Stanford Law School (LSAS) is pleased to announce its Seventh Conference for Junior Researchers. After a long pandemic break, LSAS resumes its activities under a new name, reviving an international space of discussions and networking for young scholars. This one-day conference provides a forum for junior researchers to share their current research projects on law and society and receive input from faculty and other participants. The conference will also feature a keynote address by an internationally renowned scholar.

### **Conference Theme**

The seventh edition of the Conference for Junior Researchers will explore "the role of courts, litigation, and other legal institutions in an age of social conflict." It is clear that one role of the legal system is to contain and deal with social conflicts, but the impact of these conflicts on the legal system is a subject of debate. In part, the issue is one of definition: what is a social conflict? What is its influence on legal institutions?

In recent years, polarization, extremism, and radicalization seem to have increased social conflict. Social media have played a role in this process. Legal institutions respond-- in many ways. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* (1973) illustrates a response to the conflict over abortion in the United States. But there are many conflicts, in many societies, of many types. This conference will explore how courts, legislatures, and other legal institutions behave or change in light of old and new social conflicts.

We welcome topics that touch on the impact and relevance of legal institutions in shaping social movements; the functioning and malfunctioning of these institutions in the light of social conflict; the express and symbolic roles of legal institutions in mediating social conflict; and many other topics that are relevant to the general theme.

### **Eligibility**

Graduate students, post-graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, teaching fellows, and recent graduates who are not faculty members are eligible to apply. As this is an interdisciplinary conference, we welcome applicants from law, social science, and other fields.

## Submissions and Selection

Junior researchers are invited to submit paper proposals to [stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com) by **February 12, 2023**. Submissions must include:

- an abstract of up to 400 words, with 3 to 4 keywords describing the research paper
- the author's CV (no more than 2-3 pages)
- the abstract and the CV must be in English and in a single PDF file

We also request that you submit your proposals using the following naming convention:

(Last Name)\_(First Name)\_LSAS 2023\_Paper Proposal *e.g. Doe\_John\_LSAS\_2023\_Paper Proposal*

Proposals will be selected based on their quality and connection with the conference theme. All applicants will be informed of the decision by March 5th, 2023. All selected participants must submit their final paper by April 5th, 2023, so that it can be shared with the other members of their panel and their discussant for feedback.

The final paper should be no longer than 10,000 words (including footnotes). Each paper should be an unpublished work. We will consider papers that have been accepted for publication so long as they have not been published and the author may still have an opportunity to incorporate feedback from the conference.

## Financial Aid

A very limited amount of money is available to help cover participation costs. Unfortunately, *in no case will financial aid cover all the travel and lodging expenses* and so we strongly encourage participants to seek financial support to attend the conference in their home countries and institutions.

Only participants from outside the San Francisco Bay Area are eligible to receive such assistance. 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.

## Contact

Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to: [stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com).

## Law and Society Association at Stanford

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