Race, Law, and the American State: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

April 26, 2014
1070 South Hall
The University of Michigan Law School
Attention to the role of the state in producing racial knowledge, creating racial identities, policing racial boundaries, and distributing resources unequally across racial categories, are just some of the topics currently flourishing in the fields of history, legal studies, and American political development. And new theories of the interaction of race, law, and the state are proliferating at an extraordinary rate. This one-day interdisciplinary symposium will take a close look at new work currently defining the fields at the intersection of Race, Law, and the American State. Our goal is to produce a future research and writing agenda collaboratively.

Matt Lassiter, Associate Professor of History and of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan

Bill Novak, Charles F. and Edith J. Clyne Professor of Law and codirector of the Program in Race, Law & History, University of Michigan Law School
8:15 A.M.   Coffee and continental breakfast

9:00 A.M.   Panel I: Historians and the Racial State
            Moderator: Matt Lassiter, University of Michigan
            Nathan Connolly, Johns Hopkins University
            Martha Jones, University of Michigan
            Heather Thompson, Temple University
            Paul Kramer, Vanderbilt University

11:15 A.M.  Panel II: Race and American Political Development
            Moderator: Mariah Zeisberg, University of Michigan
            Commenter: Robert Lieberman, Johns Hopkins University
            Dan HoSang, University of Oregon
            Joe Lowndes, University of Oregon

1:00 P.M.   Lunch (provided)

2:15 P.M.   Panel III: New Theories of the State
            Moderator: Bill Novak, University of Michigan
            Gary Gerstle, Vanderbilt University
            Stephen Sawyer, American University of Paris
            Jim Sparrow, University of Chicago

4:30 P.M.   Brainstorming Session: Future Directions
            Invited participants only

6:30 P.M.   Dinner for invited guests
PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Nathan Connolly

Gary Gerstle
Gary Gerstle is the James G. Stahlman Professor of American History at Vanderbilt University. He is also a professor of political science and the director of the Vanderbilt History Seminar. Professor Gerstle is a historian of the 20th-century United States, with particular interest in three major areas of inquiry: 1) immigration, race, and nationality; 2) the significance of class in social and political life; 3) and social movements, popular politics, and the state. Professor Gerstle is the author, coauthor, and coeditor of six books and the author of more than thirty articles on these topics.

Dan HoSang

Martha Jones
Martha Jones is the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the University of Michigan, where she teaches history, African American studies, and law and codirects the Michigan Law Program in Race, Law & History. She is the author of *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900* (2007). Her current book project is *Overturning Dred Scott: Race, Rights, and Citizenship in the Antebellum America*.

Paul Kramer
Paul Kramer is Associate Professor of History at Vanderbilt University and coeditor of the United States in the World series at Cornell University Press. He is the author of *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines* (2006) and currently at work on a history of the geopolitics of U.S. immigration control across the 20th century.
PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Matt Lassiter
Matt Lassiter is Associate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author of The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South (2006) and coeditor of The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism (2009). His current book project is The Suburban Crisis: Crime, Drugs, and the Lost Innocence of Middle-Class America.

Robert Lieberman
Robert Lieberman is Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Johns Hopkins University. His books include Shifting the Color Line: Race and the American Welfare State (2001) and Shaping Race Policy: The United States in Comparative Perspective (2005).

Joe Lowndes
Joe Lowndes is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Oregon. He is the author of From the New Deal to the New Right: Race and the Southern Origins of Modern Conservatism (2008) and coeditor of Race and American Political Development (2008). He is currently working on a project on American populism.

Bill Novak
Bill Novak is the Charles F. and Edith J. Clyne Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School. In 1996, he published The People’s Welfare: Law and Regulation in Nineteenth-Century America, which won the American Historical Association’s Littleton-Griswold Prize and was named Best Book in the History of Law and Society. Professor Novak is currently at work on The People’s Government: Law and the Creation of the Modern American State, a study of the transformation in American liberal governance around the turn of the 20th century.

Stephen Sawyer
Stephen Sawyer is chair of the History Department, founder of the Urban Studies program and cofounder of the History, Law, and Society program at The American University of Paris. Previously, Professor Sawyer was at the University of Chicago center in Paris and the Ecole Normale Supérieure where he was lecturer in the final years of the preparation of his dissertation. After receiving fellowships from the EHESS, Fulbright, and Sciences Po, from 2005 to 2009, Professor Sawyer served as part-time assistant to Pierre Rosanvallon at the Collège de France.
**Jim Sparrow**
Jim Sparrow is an Associate Professor of U.S. History at the University of Chicago Department of History. His research and teaching focus on the state and social citizenship in the modern United States, and he is especially interested in national political culture and its formation within specific social, cultural, and institutional contexts. Professor Sparrow’s first book was *Warfare State: World War II Americans and the Age of Big Government*. His current book project, *The New Leviathan*, examines changing notions and practices of sovereignty during the United States’ rise to globalism.

**Heather Thompson**

**Mariah Zeisberg**
Mariah Zeisberg is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, where she teaches about constitutional and legal theory and American Political Development, among other fields. She is the author of *War Powers: The Politics of Constitutional Authority* (2013).