Inaugural Social Science and Law Interdisciplinary Conference

Inequality and the Rule of Law

Frankopan Hall, Jesus College, Cambridge, 2-3 March 2018

The aim of SSLIC (the Social Science and Law Interdisciplinary Conference) is to explore the interface between law and the social sciences. We are interested in theoretical debates concerning the nature of law as a social practice and economic institution; methodological debates concerning the mapping and analysis of empirical legal phenomena; and policy debates concerning the role of the legal system in shaping more equitable and sustainable societies.

The focus of the inaugural SSLIC conference will be inequality and the rule of law in the global north and the rising powers, particularly China. The conference will cover subjects including: developments in the rule of law in China; innovations in law and economics that could improve understanding of inequality; the role of technology in causing (or preventing) inequality; inequality and public policy in Britain, with particular reference to Brexit; and the impact of financial and political power differentials on elections.

SSLIC aims to advance practical understanding of the possibilities of democratic politics; suggest future avenues for legal research that draw on a diverse array of disciplines; create opportunities for interdepartmental cross-pollination at and beyond Cambridge; and offer a context for developing new methodologies.

SSLIC’s inaugural conference is supported by Cambridge University’s ESRC Doctoral Training Programme and by the Cambridge Public Policy Strategic Research Initiative. We are also grateful for support and funding from the Intellectual Forum and Cambridge University China Centre at Jesus College, Cambridge.

For further information on the conference please contact Jacob Eisler (jme42@cam.ac.uk) or Simon Deakin (s.deakin@cbr.cam.ac.uk). For any questions relating to its organisation please email Rachel Wagstaff (r.wagstaff@cbr.cam.ac.uk).

To register for the conference please send an email confirming your attendance to Rachel Wagstaff (r.wagstaff@cbr.cam.ac.uk). Please also indicate if you have any special dietary requirements.

Provisional Schedule

Friday 2 March

14.00 Introduction: Thinking like a Lawyer in the Midst of Creative Disruption

Jacob Eisler

14.30 Panel 1: Inequality and the Economic Development in China

Chair: Peter Nolan

Samuli Seppanen: What Does China’s Ideological Turn Mean for Global Equality?

Ding Chen: Fintech in China: evolution, regulation and sustainability
16.00  Tea

16.30  Panel 2: Fairness in Law and Economics

Chair: Jacob Eisler

Irit Samet: Equity, Finance, and the Rule of Law

Zoe Adams: Towards a realist law and economics

Ann Sofie Cloots: Company law: In search of a more data-driven and co-evolutionary model

Saturday 3 March

9.30  Panel 3: Redefining Equality in the Era of Big Data and Automation

Chair: Simon Deakin

Ewan McGaughey: Will robots automate your job away? Full employment, basic income and economic democracy

Christopher Markou: Ubiquitous AI, smart cities and the right to privacy

James Davey: Efficient Breach and Non-Discrimination in the Age of Big Data

11.00  Coffee

11.30  Keynote: Inequality and Public Policy

Chair: Jacob Eisler

Sue Konzelmann, Simon Deakin and Marc Fovargue Davies: Labour, finance and inequality: the insecurity cycle in British public policy

Discussant: Graham Gudgin, University of Cambridge

1.00  Lunch

14.00  Panel 4: Electoral Design: Between Personal Freedom and Political Equality

Chair: Jacob Eisler

Richard Briffault

Michael Kang

David Howarth

15.30  Tea and Close