

Grounding law: learning with each other: May 28 & 29 2019

Territory of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish),
and Sel̓ilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.
Simon Fraser University: Vancouver

May 28th: 9:00 am – 17:00 pm, Wosk Centre, SFU (WCC20 ICBC Salon B); May 29th 9:00 am – 13:00 pm, Harbour Centre 7000.

You are invited to attend a free international legal geography workshop on May 28th and the morning of May 29th, at SFU's downtown campus. The workshop analyzes the way in which law is grounded in at least two senses: (1) as a set of practices that ground us in particular places, or severs the connections we have with those places, through processes of expulsion and dispossession; and (2) as a form of knowledge, constituted in particular places, in distinctive ways.

The aim of the workshop is to understand both dynamics, and to benefit both practically and epistemologically from them, by bringing Canadian/American and Colombian legal geographers together to learn 'with each other.'

This innovative gathering builds on a number of epistemological insights. First, it aims to 'provincialize' legal geography. Anglospheric legal geography is in danger of universalizing a set of grounding assumptions regarding its foundational concepts, particularly its epistemologies of 'law' and 'space'. In challenging these foundational concepts, we hope not only to engage in more respectful intellectual dialogue with colleagues in Latin America, but also to enrich our shared methodological and conceptual repertoires, advancing scholarship and policy as a result.

Second, in confronting universalism, the workshop aims to force legal geography to acknowledge forms of knowledge and practice that have been historically ignored and precluded from Western forms of understanding. Latin American legal geography is not only characterized by distinctive empirical and historical concerns, but also by distinctive traditions of legal theorization and practice, drawing from different geographies and histories

Presenters will explore and illustrate the manner in which law structures social, political, and cultural relationships to place, creating security and fixity for some, while producing dislocation, expulsion, and dispossession, for others. Participants will simultaneously be asked to reflect critically on the manner in which they conceive of both law and place, and the relationship between the two. We encourage reflection on how concepts related to how law and space can be 'provincialized', and thus learnt from.

Presenters include: Natalia Perez, Sarah Hunt, Maria Victoria Castro Cristancho, David Delaney, Sandra Gomez, Nick Blomley, Valentina Montoya, Marie-Eve Sylvestre, Alexandra Flynn, Maria Carolina Olarte, Carolina Bejarano, Andres Gomez Ley, Daniela Palacios, Sergio Latorre, Diana Ojeda, Lina Buchely, Juan Amaya & Laura Porras.

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