

The Rights/Rites of Blood: A Critical Theory of Blood

Organizers: Edgar Aguilasocho, Joni Carrasco, Andrea Smith, Irina Trasovan, Kathryn Henne, Jacob Kang-Brown, Diren Valayden, and Megan McCabe

Blood has a long and marked history within various legal, political, and cultural discourses; it is precisely this endurance and flexibility of blood as an analytic that might fruitfully be explored in light of urgent debates about human rights, social justice, violence, and war. What would a critical approach to blood entail for thinking about the broader theme of “becoming human”? How can taking blood as an analytic open the category of the human to questions of justice – how differential categories of humanity are created and to what consequences? In this vein, we would like to read and discuss how a critical interdisciplinary approach to blood opens onto such topics as: Sovereignty, Immigration and Citizenship, Debates over *ius soli* and *ius sanguine*, Genetics and the Biomedical field, Race and antiracism, Issues of privacy, Blood and kinship, Circulation and flows of people and capital.

Bringing together a broad range of readings across disciplines, we intend to create a future conference that would draw scholars and activists across various disciplines to reflect on a ‘critical theory of blood’. We also propose to host a number of workshops during the 2010-11 school year, which will allow us to sharpen our questions and to create discussions on the topic around campus. We have in mind to hold a workshop with Professor Dean Spade, founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and law faculty at Seattle University in the spring.

Transnational Family Reading Group

Organizers: Samuel Lam, Joni Carrasco, Katie Dingeman, and Caitlin Fouratt

In recent years, global labor chains and migration policies have promoted the proliferation of transnational family formations. These forces powerfully influence the structure of the social ties of family members who are spread out across various nation-states. The strategies transnational families employ to navigate their situations challenge notions of households, kinship, and gender, urging scholars to reconsider the impacts of migration on family structures and the lifecourses of migrants and their children. Recent scholarly research on transnationalism has thus shifted to an analysis of the relationships between migration and family. We propose to establish a reading group which will examine this new body of literature. Specifically, we will explore the following topic areas: Globalization and Labor, Transnational Families and Law, and Transnational Family-Life.

During the academic year 2010-2011, we will 1) establish a graduate student reading group that will examine existing and burgeoning interdisciplinary literature on transnational

families; 2) host a film screening and speaker related to the effect of current deportation policies on migrant families; and 3) convene a graduate student research workshop in which both students and faculty will discuss ongoing research projects related to families negotiating life across borders.

Climate Change Tort Litigation: A Practical and Sustainable Remedy for Climate Change Victims?

Organizers: Theresa Bichsel, Jean Su, and Josh Gellers

This project explores the critical and pioneering issue of attaining social justice for vulnerable victim populations of climate change, specifically through tort litigation. This project seeks to address the practicality of international tort compensation by systematically examining its key challenges and potential solutions. Questions to be addressed are: 1) What are the international legal grounds to bring a claim against defendant nation-states or companies? 2) What are the best venues to bring international tort claims—domestic court, world court, or adjudication panels of international organizations? 3) What are the ideal compensation mechanisms? How do we define public nuisance, foreseeability, and the wrongs of past governments to be shouldered by new governments and populations?

This project seeks funding to produce the following deliverables: 1) A collaborative UCI symposium on the practicality of climate change tort litigation; 2) Endorse an essay competition from domestic and international graduate students for a chance to publish in UCI graduate journals or the UCI Law Review; 3) Collaborative article from symposium organizers.

The Growth of the Exception and the Death of Democracy: Human Rights in 21st Century America

Organizers: Tracy Steele and Adam Shniderman

The 20th and 21st Centuries have ushered in a growing number of violations of Americans civil/human rights. Particularly after 9/11, the government, and more specifically the Executive, has taken a number of steps, including the passage of the U.S.A. PATRIOT ACT, the expansion of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, limitations on free speech and increased surveillance of American citizens that run counter to the rights and norms outlined by the framers in 1789. These actions are often justified as necessary for the protection of national security and characterized as exceptional measures that must occur outside of the democratic Rule of Law. During this period of time the government must take on a stronger character, that of a “constitutional dictatorship,” which may abridge the rights and freedoms of its subjects to preserve and maintain the existing constitutional order. Thus, the exceptional government must be a temporary measure designed to restore the freedoms and liberties of the constitutional order.

As a part of the CLSC initiative, we propose a conference that would allow experts from a variety of disciplines, legal and non-legal, to come together to discuss the rights violations taking place in the United States that are arising from the global war on terror. Individuals from disciplines such as law, surveillance studies, political science, and criminology will bring to bear a wealth of knowledge about the changing character of democracy in the 21st Century, the evolution and alteration of civil rights in the United States, and the role of technology in fostering rights violations. The conference would serve to make the public face these issues and to discuss any remedies that may aid in preserving rights and equality for all.

Web Design: The New Platform for Academic Presentation and Discussion

Organizers: Luke Boughen, Theresa Bichsel, Jean Su, and Josh Gellers

This project explores a field that we interact with everyday, but rarely use in the academic setting outside of reading articles, posting syllabi or emailing questions to professors: the Internet and web design. The field of web design has been developing quickly within the past ten years and Internet-conferencing, Facebook walls, and issue-focused blogging are becoming common in certain fields and groups. The purpose of this project is to use the strengths of political science, law, and computer science to create a platform for communal editing, educating groups about their rights, and developing ideas that can be acted on.

This project seeks funding to produce the following deliverables: 1) A Video-Hosting Website that can showcase events at UC Irvine and be a forum for discussing issues; 2) A Collaborative and Community Involving Website that will partner with local organizations and provide space for groups to contact one another and organize by independent means; 3) An Information-Sharing Website that will provide information on issues related to law, society, and culture; 4) A Web Publication through the live webcast, personally blogging, and by soliciting writers and commentators.

Jurisdiction, Power, and the Frontiers of Empty Space

Organizers: Jenn Henry, Ben Cox, Sean Mallin, and Josh Clark

This project will explore issues of sovereignty, jurisdiction, and power in empty spaces through four case studies: the high seas, the Moon, abandoned lots in post---Katrina New Orleans, and the colonization of the Americas. Participants in the project will analyze both spaces that are "empty" by virtue of the absence of settled human populations (such as the Moon and the high seas) and spaces that are imagined as empty (early colonial landscapes and abandoned lots). This approach reflects the project objectives of exploring the production of

emptiness, attempts to regulate empty spaces, and the instrumental uses of discourses of emptiness.

This project seeks funding to produce the following deliverables: 1) A Reading Group to explore the issue of empty space through specific case studies, and will then move to discussions of empty space as a general legal concern; 2) Speakers to present on topics related to legal landscapes in empty spaces; 3) A Collaborative Paper about a particular issue rising out of the project; 4) The Empty Space Essay Contest targeted to UCI graduate students with cash prizes.