

**ClassCrits**

A Network for Critical Analysis of Law and  
Economic Inequality



## CALL FOR PAPERS & PARTICIPATION

ClassCrits XII:

Facing Our Challenges: Rescuing Democracy, Ensuring Wellbeing & Exorcizing the Politics  
of Fear (Or: How To Be Free)

Co-Sponsored by

Western New England University School of Law and ClassCrits, Inc. [www.classcrits.org](http://www.classcrits.org)

November 15 & 16, 2019

This year, ClassCrits seeks the mantle of the FREE. To be free requires that we actively face the challenges that all humanity now jointly confronts. These include the accelerating environmental degradation of the Earth's natural systems, the dramatic rise in economic inequality, the failure of our institutions, the breakdown of our communities, and the alienation from our selves (body, mind and spirit) and one another. However, these challenges cannot be met unless we rescue or even reinvent our democracy, ensure the wellbeing of all as the appropriate measure of justice, and exorcize the politics of fear. From this perspective, democracy, economic wellbeing, and fearlessness present challenges, each of which requires an appropriate response. In addition, however, these core concepts serve as commitments, methods, and practices that advance justice and engender the solidarity necessary to tackle the existential threats we now face.

Over the last few years, hope in this darkening time has been kept alive by the activism both here and abroad of young people, people of color, women, and white progressives. In the United States, the recent election of an energized, fearless, and diverse group of congress people committed to justice, equality, and the future of our planet also captures this hope. A spirit of hope and enthusiasm insists that we can rebuild our polity and contribute to reordering the world despite increasing practices of hate, fear-mongering and fear-based policy-making. We can refuse to be bounded by an anti-democratic rhetoric of liberty that is anything but freeing and animated by abuse of power, sought homogeneity, and the making and exploitation of insecurity. In this vein, ClassCrits seeks ideas, work, activities and practices that: (1) analyze and propose

concrete solutions to the existential threats to humanity and planet Earth; (2) demand expansive democracy and justice; (3) embrace and seek to ensure the economic wellbeing of all across our differences; and (4) inspire courage and solidarity.

We invite panel proposals and paper presentations that speak to this year's theme of "Facing Our Challenges: Rescuing Democracy, Ensuring Wellbeing & Exorcizing the Politics of Fear," as well as to general ClassCrits themes. See below for details.

In addition, we extend a special invitation to junior scholars (i.e., graduate students or any non-tenured faculty member) to submit proposals for works in progress. A senior scholar as well as other scholars will comment upon each work in progress in a small, supportive working session. **Error! Filename not specified.**

Other ClassCrits Themes Include:

- □□□ The legal and cultural project of constructing inequalities of all kinds as natural, normal, and necessary.
- □□□ The relationships among economic, racial, and gender inequality.
- □□□ The development of new methods (including the interdisciplinary study and development of such methods) with which to analyze and criticize economics and law (beyond traditional "law and economics").
- □□□ The relationship between material systems and institutions and cultural systems and institutions.
- □□□ The concept and reality of class within the international legal community, within international development studies and welfare strategies, and within a "flattening" world of globalized economics and geopolitical relations.

#### Proposal Submission Procedure and Deadline

Please submit your proposal by email to [classcrits@classcrits.org](mailto:classcrits@classcrits.org) by June 1, 2019 with the following details:

Individual paper proposals should include a title and short abstract, along with the presenter's name, contact information, institutional affiliation (if any), and a short speaker bio (1-3 sentences). Individual papers (other than works-in-progress submissions, see below) will be grouped by the conference organizers into panels.

Works-in-progress submissions (for junior or emerging scholars seeking individualized presentations and comments) should be clearly identified as "Work-in-Progress" and

should similarly include a title, short abstract, name and contact information, and a 1-3 sentence bio.

Panel proposals may use a variety of formats, including traditional paper presentations, roundtables, and audience discussions. Please indicate the format of the proposed panel, and include a proposed panel title, a short description of the overall topic, and a list of confirmed panelists, with contact information. For panels comprised of individual presentations, please include titles and short summaries of each presentation and a short bio (1-3 sentences) for each panelist or panel organizer.

#### Logistics & Fees

The venue for the gathering is the Western New England University School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts. The conference will begin with continental breakfast on Friday, November 15, 2019, and continue through the afternoon of Saturday, November 16, 2019. Arrangements are being made for conference hotels.

For updates, please check [www.classcrits.org](http://www.classcrits.org), where you can also sign up as a ClassCrits member. As a member you will be on our contact list and allowed to post a profile that will build our network and showcase your work. Associate membership is free; full membership dues are \$25 for 2019 (includes ClassCrits, Inc. voting rights and 2019 conference discount).

The registration fee is \$215.00 for accepted presenters who are full-time faculty members; ClassCrits members get a discounted registration fee of \$200. Registration is free for students and activists. Participants who do not fit into these categories, and/or who for individual reasons cannot afford the registration fee, should contact us at [classcrits@classcrits.org](mailto:classcrits@classcrits.org). Workshop attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

#### Who We Are

Twelve years ago, a group of scholar-activists organized a series of conversations about law and economic class. Building on “outsider” jurisprudence that has moved inequalities of race, gender, and sexuality from the margins to the center of law, the group proposed a jurisprudence of economic inequality. To foreground economic justice, the group sought to critique mainstream law and economics and to focus on the lives of poor and working-class people.

Rejecting the neoliberal ideology of scarcity, and reclaiming the possibilities presented by the commons and by collective action, ClassCrits was born. Our name “ClassCrits” reflects our

ties to critical legal analysis and our goal of addressing economic class in the multiple intersecting forms of subordination. We confront the roots of economic inequality in divisions such as race and gender and in legal and economic systems destructive to the well-being of humanity and the planet.

### **ClassCrits Conference Planning Committee**

Wendy Bach, University of Tennessee College of Law

Victoria Haneman, Creighton University School of Law

Danni Kie Hart, Southwestern Law School

Lucy Jewel, University of Tennessee College of Law

Tom Kleven, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
Athena Mutua, University at Buffalo School of Law

René Reich-Graefe, Western New England University School of Law

ClassCrits, Inc. Board of Directors

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