

Law and Society Association at Stanford
Ninth Conference for Junior Researchers
Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA
May 9th, 2025

THE POWER OF LAW: BALANCING AUTHORITY, JUSTICE, AND REFORM

Call for Abstracts

Introduction

The Law and Society Association at Stanford Law School (LSAS) is pleased to announce its Ninth Conference for Junior Researchers. This one-day conference provides a forum for junior researchers to share their current research projects on law and society and receive input from faculty and other participants. The conference will also feature a keynote address by an internationally renowned scholar.

Conference Theme

The ninth edition of the Conference for Junior Researchers engages with questions about the power of law and its relationship with the structures of authority.

Legal systems do not operate in isolation—they are deeply embedded in the political environments that shape their evolution. This year, we focus on the intersections of law, power, and reform, particularly in systems undergoing rapid political or social transformation. How do courts navigate these transformations, and what role do legal actors play in resisting or facilitating change? Submissions may explore themes such as the politicization of judicial reform, legal institutions under authoritarian regimes, and comparative perspectives on how courts shape or are shaped by political forces.

Eligibility

Graduate students, post-graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, teaching fellows, and recent graduates who are not tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply. As this is an interdisciplinary conference, we welcome applicants from law, social science, and other fields.

Submissions and Selection

Junior researchers are invited to submit paper proposals to stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com by **February 28, 2025**. Submissions must include:

- an abstract of up to 400 words, with 3 to 4 keywords describing the research paper
- the author's CV (no more than 2-3 pages)
- the abstract and the CV must be in English and in a single PDF file

We also request that you submit your proposals using the following naming convention:

(Last Name)_(First Name)_LSAS 2025_Paper Proposal *e.g. Doe_John_LSAS_2025_Paper Proposal*

Proposals will be selected based on their quality and connection with the conference theme. All applicants will be informed of the decision by March 14, 2025. All selected participants must submit their final paper by April 11, 2025, so that it can be shared with the other members of their panel and their discussant for feedback.

The final paper should be no longer than 10,000 words (including footnotes). Each paper should be an unpublished work. We will consider papers that have been accepted for publication so long as they have not been published and the author may still have an opportunity to incorporate feedback from the conference.

Financial Aid

A very limited amount of money is available to help cover participation costs. Unfortunately, *in no case will financial aid cover all the travel and lodging expenses* and so we strongly encourage participants to seek financial support to attend the conference in their home countries and institutions.

Only participants from outside the San Francisco Bay Area are eligible to receive such assistance. Together with the notification of acceptance, selected participants will receive a financial aid request form. Participants will have to submit such form in order to be considered for the limited financial assistance.

Contact

Conference Co-chairs:

Alex Chu, JSD Candidate, Stanford Law School

Hadar David, JSD Candidate, Stanford Law School

Yufei Peng, JSD Candidate, Stanford Law School

Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to: stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com.

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