



Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

**The Ved Nanda Center for
International & Comparative Law**



**DENVER JOURNAL
OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW & POLICY**

**Sié Chéou-Kang Center for
International Security & Diplomacy**

Leonard v. B. Sutton Colloquium
**Global Perspectives on Equal Participation as a
Democratic Value**

Friday, April 10, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Ricketson Law Building

Room 165

9:00 Registration

9:30 Welcome Remarks

Bruce Smith, Dean, Sturm College of Law

Kelley Loper, Director, Ved Nanda Center for International &
Comparative Law, Sturm College of Law

Rachel Epstein, Professor and Director, The Sié Chéou-Kang Center
for International Security and Diplomacy, Josef Korbel School of
Global and Public Affairs

**9:45 Keynote Address: *Democracy and International Law: A Problematic
Introduction***

Gregory H. Fox, Director of the Program for International Legal
Studies, Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School

10:30 Break

10:45 **Panel 1: Participation as Democratic Practice**

Moderator: Nancy Leong, Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship and Provost Professor, Director, Constitutional Rights and Remedies Program, Sturm College of Law

***The Limits of Contestatory Democracy, Shreya Atrey**, Associate Professor of International Human Rights Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford*

***Equal Participation in International Politics through Democratic Sovereignty: East European Cases and Paradoxes, Rachel A. Epstein**, Professor and Director, The Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy, Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs*

***The Democracy-Participation-Trust Relationship and its Implications for Constitutional Rights Adjudication, David Vitale**, Associate Professor, Co-Director of Centre for Constitutions in Context, University of Warwick School of Law*

***Rule of Law and Democracy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in China, Shitong Qiao**, Ken Young-Gak Yun and Jinah Park Yun Distinguished Professor of Law, Duke University School of Law*

12:15 Lunch

2:00 **Panel 2: Participation and Civil Society Under Political Constraint**

Moderator: Lisa Conant, Professor of Political Science, Faculty Affiliate of the Sié Center, and Core Faculty of the Institute for Comparative and Regional Studies, University of Denver

***Unfashionable Participation: Marginalized Political Agency in the Global South, Wahid Abedini**, Farzaneh Family Assistant Professor of Iranian Studies, David L. Boren College of International Studies, University of Oklahoma*

***One Country, Two Conceptions of Justice? A Cross-cultural Approach to Hong Kong's Constitutional Politics, Marco Wan**,*

Professor and Director of the Programme in Law and Literary Studies,
Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong

(Un)Equal Participation: Governmental Strategies of Dividing and Demolishing Civil Society in Russia, **Dmitrii Kuznetsov**, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Ved Nanda Center for International & Comparative Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, PhD candidate, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

3:15 Break

3:30 **Panel 3: The Conditions of Equal Participation**

Moderator: Wyatt Sassman, Associate Professor of Law, Sturm College of Law

AI, Rights, and the Vita Activa: Rethinking Reskilling for Equal Participation, **Lelia Mooney**, Adjunct Lecturer, Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies (SCS) and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (SFS) Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)

The Role of Democracy and Participation in Protecting a Healthy Environment, **Annecoos Wiersema**, Associate Dean of Graduate and International Legal Programs, Catherine Boggs Endowed Faculty Research Scholar, Professor of Law

Work Families and the Democratic Value of Equal Participation, **Suzanne Kim**, Professor of Law and Chancellor's Scholar, Rutgers Law School

4:45 **Concluding remarks**

Kelley Loper, Director, Ved Nanda Center for International & Comparative Law, Sturm College of Law

Anya Szentes, Editor-in-Chief, *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*

5:00 **Reception**