



**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**

## **2026 Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium**

# **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON EQUAL PARTICIPATION AS A DEMOCRATIC VALUE**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Ricketson Law Building  
Room 165**

## Schedule & Program

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09:00 - 09:30

Registration

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome Remarks

**Bruce Smith**, Dean and Professor of Law, 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

09:45 - 10:30

Keynote Address

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

*Democracy and International Law: A Problematic Introduction*

10:30 - 10:45

Break

10:45 - 12:15

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 - 02:00

Lunch

# 2026 Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium

02:00 - 03:15

## Panel 2: Participation and Civil Society Under Political Constraint

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

***Unfashionable Participation: Marginalized Political Agency in the Global South***, **Vahid 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, Sturm College of Law, PhD candidate, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

03:15 - 03:30

## Break

03:30 - 04:45

## 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, Sturm College of Law

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

04:45 - 05:00

## 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

05:00

## Reception

# 2026 Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium

Wifi Access: DU Guest Wifi

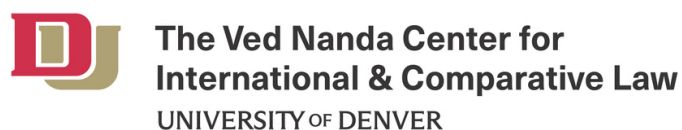
To access the presentation abstracts and speaker biographies, scan this QR code or visit our website.



<https://www.law.du.edu/nanda-center/calendar/2026-leonard-vb-sutton-colloquium>

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The 2026 Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium on “Global Perspectives on Equal Participation as a Democratic Value” is hosted by the Sturm College of Law, the Ved Nanda Center for International & Comparative Law and co-hosted with the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at Korbel and the Denver Journal on International Law & Policy



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