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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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



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

Leonard v. B. Sutton Colloquium
**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON
EQUAL PARTICIPATION AS A
DEMOCRATIC VALUE**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER**

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

Ricketson Law Building
Room 165

Leonard v. B. Sutton Colloquium

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON EQUAL PARTICIPATION AS A DEMOCRATIC VALUE

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

GREGORY H. FOX

Director of the Program for International Legal Studies, Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School

Gregory Fox is the director of the Program for International Legal Studies at Wayne Law. He has written widely on a variety of international law topics, including civil war peace agreements, the powers of the UN Security Council, international occupation law, international control of territory, and international efforts to promote democratic governance. His most recent projects have employed quantitative methods to assess the status of rules and institutions in international law. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan Law School and the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law at Cambridge University, a Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Public International Law and Comparative Public Law in Heidelberg, Germany, and a Fellow at the Schell Center for Human Rights at Yale Law School, among other institutions. In addition to his academic work, Gregory Fox has served as counsel in several international cases.

PANEL 1

Participation as Democratic Practice

SHREYA ATREY

Associate Professor of International Human Rights Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Shreya Atrey is an Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, and is based at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights. She is an associate member of the Oxford Human Rights Hub, an Official Fellow and Racial Justice and Equality Fellow at Kellogg College, and a Senior Teaching Fellow at New College. Shreya is the Editor of the Human Rights Law Review (OUP). Previously, she was based at the University of Bristol Law School and has been a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence, and a Hauser Postdoctoral Global Fellow at the NYU School of Law, New York. She works on equality and human rights issues in comparative and international law. Her first monograph, *Intersectional Discrimination* (OUP 2019) won the runner-up Peter Birks Book Prize in 2020.

RACHEL A. EPSTEIN

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

Rachel Epstein is Professor of International Relations and Director of the Sié Chéou-Chang Center for International Security and Diplomacy. Previously, Professor Epstein was Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research from 2018 to 2021 and then Senior Associate Dean of the Korbel School until 2024. Her research focuses on both international political economy and international security, spanning topics from financial crises, the politics of foreign bank ownership, and financial reform to the enlargement of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and those organizations' effects on target states. With a particular focus on East Central Europe, Rachel Epstein's research has examined democratic erosion in the region, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the developmental prospects of post-communist states for catching up in the European and global economies. Her latest book is *Speaking Science to Power: Responsible Researchers and Policymaking* (Oxford 2024), edited with Oliver Kaplan.

DAVID VITALE

Associate Professor, Co-Director of Centre for Constitutions in Context, University of Warwick School of Law

David Vitale researches constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights, drawing on interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives informed by training in both law and psychology, as well as professional experience across multiple jurisdictions. His work is particularly concerned with public trust in government, including its conceptual foundations, institutional functions, and potential to advance public law. In his latest monograph, *Trust, Courts and Social Rights: A Trust-Based Framework for Social Rights Enforcement*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2024 as part of the Cambridge Studies in Constitutional Law series, he develops an innovative framework for the judicial enforcement of social rights grounded in public trust in government. He is currently the UK Principal Investigator for a multi-institution Trans-Atlantic Platform project titled *Open Constitutional Democracy: Reconciling Deliberation and Constitutional Democracy*. He is also the co-founder and co-director of the Centre for Constitutions in Context at Warwick Law School.

SHITONG QIAO

Ken Young-Gak Yun and Jinah Park Yun Distinguished Professor of Law, Duke University School of Law

Shitong Qiao is the Ken Young-Gak Yun and Jinah Park Yun Distinguished Professor of Law at Duke University, where he teaches Property and Comparative Law. He also holds the title of Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong and is a core faculty member of the Asia/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University. He was previously a tenured professor at the University of Hong Kong, a Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) fellow at Princeton University, and the inaugural Jerome A. Cohen Visiting Professor of Law at NYU. Shitong Qiao employs mixed methods to explore the relationship between political power, law, and private ordering. His second monograph, *The Authoritarian Commons: Neighborhood Democratization in Urban China* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), provides an ethnographic account of how hundreds of millions of Chinese homeowners practice democracy in and beyond their condominium complexes.

VAHID ABEDINI

Farzaneh Family Assistant Professor of Iranian Studies, David L. Boren College of International Studies, University of Oklahoma

Vahid Abedini is the Farzaneh Family Assistant Professor of Iranian Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Before joining OU, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Arkansas. Vahid Abedini's research focuses on the intersection of international relations and comparative politics, with particular emphasis on elite politics, foreign policy, and political economy. His book manuscript, based on his doctoral dissertation, examines the generational gap among Iranian political elites in the post-revolutionary era and addresses the question of succession crises and political instability in the absence of strong political party institutionalization in post-revolutionary states. His second book project traces the trajectory of elite-making in modern Iran, exploring how politics, education

MARCO WAN

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

Marco Wan is Professor of Law and Director of the Programme in Law and Literary Studies at the University of Hong Kong. He writes and teaches in law and humanities; constitutional law; law, gender, and sexuality; and legal theory. His research has been awarded the biennial Penny Pether Prize from the Association of Law, Literature and Humanities of Australasia, as well as the HKU Research Output Prize. His work focuses on the complex intersections between law and other areas of the humanities, and he is currently writing a monograph that explores how literary and cultural theory might shed light on the legal regulation of sexuality. His latest book, *Film and Constitutional Controversy* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) examines how constitutional debates are refracted in Hong Kong cinema. He is Managing Editor of *Law & Literature*, which was founded as the journal of the Law and Literature movement. He serves on the editorial boards of the Edinburgh Critical Studies in Law, Literature and the Humanities and the Edinburgh Studies in Law, Justice and the Visual (both from Edinburgh University Press); Hong Kong University Press; Law and Visual Jurisprudence (Springer); and the International Studies in Law and Literature (Brill).

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

Dmitrii Kuznetsov is a PhD candidate with the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He specialises in constitutional law, human rights law, and international law. He holds an LLM degree in comparative constitutional law from Central European University, Budapest/Vienna. Before joining Gothenburg University, he worked with the European Court of Human Rights as a case-processing lawyer, specialising in freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and fair trial rights cases. The topic of his Fulbright research is the separation of powers and the role of the judiciary in the implementation of states' environmental obligations. The study aims to address questions arising within the domain of implementing the state's climate obligations and environmental human rights.

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)

Lelia Mooney is an international lawyer, senior-level manager and renowned expert on governance and rule of law, business sustainability, change management, leadership development and multi-stakeholder engagement. She is an Adjunct Lecturer at the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies (SCS) Master in Supply Chain Management and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (SFS) Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). She previously served as Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of the Rule of Law in the Americas (CAROLA) at Georgetown Law. In April 2022, she was awarded the American Bar Association International Law Section Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law. She served on the International Steering Committee Board of the Voluntary Principles for Business and Human Rights and the United Nations Global Compact Business for the Rule of Law Initiative. She is the author of several publications in English and Spanish including *Promoting the Rule of Law: A Practitioner's Guide to Key Issues and Developments*, and *The Business, Human Rights and Sustainability Sourcebook*, both published by the American Bar Association.

ANNECOOS WIERSEMA

Associate Dean of Graduate and International Legal Programs, Catherine Boggs Endowed Faculty Research Scholar, Professor of Law, Sturm College of Law

Annecoos Wiersema is currently serving as Associate Dean of Graduate and International Legal Programs at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she is the Catherine Boggs Endowed Faculty Research Scholar and a Professor of Law teaching international law, environmental law, and natural resources law subjects. Her research focuses on international environmental and natural resources law, with particular emphasis on international wildlife law, species and biodiversity conservation, and natural resources. Prof. Wiersema was a Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School in 2024 and 2025, where she taught International Environmental Law. She also serves as Faculty Advisor to the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy, and a member of the Accountability Panel for the Wildlife Justice Commission.

SUZANNE KIM

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Scholar, Rutgers Law School

Suzanne A. Kim is Professor of Law and Chancellor's Scholar at Rutgers Law School. Her scholarship addresses intersections of family, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and culture from legal and socio-legal perspectives. She has been Associate Dean for Faculty Development and has served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns. She has taught at Stanford and Fordham Schools of Law and has been a visiting scholar at Columbia Law School.