

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

- 202x University of California Berkeley, Ph.D., Jurisprudence and Social Policy
Qualifying Exam Committee: David Singh Grewal, Kinch Hoekstra, Daniel Lee, Ryan Goodman (external)
- 2014 New York University School of Law, J.D.
John Bruce Moore Award for Excellence in Law & Philosophy
Institute of International Law & Justice Scholar
Managing Editor, *N.Y.U. Law Review*
Substantial Writing: *A Positivist Defense of International Law* (supervised by Robert Howse)
- 2011 University of Virginia, B.A.
Graduated with highest distinction
Majors: Russian & East European Studies; Interdisciplinary Studies
Publication: *The Role of Perceptions of the United States in the Five-Day War Between Georgia and Russia in August 2008*, 1 OCULUS: FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDITION 79 (2011) (in Russian with English abstract).

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- PRIMARY Civil Procedure; International Law; Conflict of Laws
- SECONDARY International Litigation and Arbitration; International Criminal Law; International Business Transactions; History and Theory of International Law; Philosophy of Law

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

[*Procedural Sovereign Distinction*](#), 57 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. (forthcoming 2024).

Civil procedure sets different rules for foreign sovereign and foreign private defendants in U.S. courts. Ostensibly, the reason for distinguishing between these defendants is grounded in the nature of sovereignty. However, many procedural rules have lost track of the concept of sovereignty, creating a mismatch between the justification for the distinction and the way it's applied. In this Article, I argue we should at least acknowledge this mismatch exists, and we should consider revising our procedural rules to promote the value of coherence and justification in law.

[*Culpability in Atrocity and the Role of Complicit Observer*](#), 37 TEMP. INT'L & COMP. L.J. (forthcoming 2024).

Atrocity crimes are often associated with an aesthetic of horrific spectacle, the criminal nature of which is deemed intuitively recognizable. This invited symposium contribution on Randle DeFalco's *Invisible Atrocities* (CUP 2022) argues culpability as imagined by the observer is an important and overlooked dimension of the so-called "atrocity aesthetic." It is the sense of our complicity being intolerable that distinguishes the atrocity aesthetic—and atrocities from "mere" tragedies—rather than the spectacular.

SELECTED SHORT-FORM PUBLICATIONS

[Russia Continues Pressing Sovereignty Claims in the Yukos Award Saga](https://tlblog.org/russia-continues-pressing-sovereignty-claims-in-the-yukos-award-saga/), TRANSNAT'L LITIG. BLOG (Jan. 25, 2024), <https://tlblog.org/russia-continues-pressing-sovereignty-claims-in-the-yukos-award-saga/>.

[Missouri's COVID Suit Against China Revived](https://tlblog.org/missouris-covid-suit-against-china-revived/), TRANSNAT'L LITIG. BLOG (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://tlblog.org/missouris-covid-suit-against-china-revived/>.

[North Sea Continental Shelf Cases](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-68846-6_581-1), in GLOBAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TERRITORIAL RIGHTS (Michael Kocsis, Kevin W. Gray, Costas Laoutides, Laura Lo Coco, Lavonna L. Lovern, Nick C. Sagos & Katrinka Somdahl-Sands eds., 2022), https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-68846-6_581-1.

[Why Them? On the U.S. Sanctions Against International Criminal Court Officials](https://www.justsecurity.org/72275/why-them-on-the-u-s-sanctions-against-intl-criminal-court-officials/), JUST SECURITY (Sept. 2, 2020), https://www.justsecurity.org/72275/why-them-on-the-u-s-sanctions-against-intl-criminal-court-officials.

[The Significance of the Supreme Court's Opati Decision for States and Companies Sued for Terrorism in U.S. Courts](https://www.justsecurity.org/70260/the-significance-of-the-supreme-courts-opati-decision-for-states-and-companies-sued-for-terrorism-in-u-s-courts/), JUST SECURITY (May 19, 2020), https://www.justsecurity.org/70260/the-significance-of-the-supreme-courts-opati-decision-for-states-and-companies-sued-for-terrorism-in-u-s-courts.

Resuscitating a Holocaust Restitution Claim: Cassirer v. Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, 52 ABA/SIL YIR 429 (2018).

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Peculiar Sovereignty: The Use and Abuse of a Commercial–Sovereign Dichotomy in Foreign Sovereign Immunity

Under the commercial activity exception of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), foreign states can be sued for their “commercial acts,” but the statute provides scant guidance on what this category entails. Courts have stepped into the breach, defining “commercial acts” in contrast to “sovereign acts,” and slowly establishing a sense of what conduct each category includes. This commercial–sovereign dichotomy, however, is both unnecessary and undesirable. While created by courts, the dichotomy forces judges to engage in artificial constructions of alleged conduct, sometimes leading to absurd conclusions. It also generates potential conflict with other areas of law and, in its current form, it constructs a notion of sovereignty as intertwined with the right to abuse.

Abandoning Sovereignty in Personal Jurisdiction

The question scholars and courts have been asking for decades—whether personal jurisdiction is limited by states’ sovereignty or by individuals’ liberty—has often misunderstood what form of sovereignty is at stake. The fact that defendants are able to consent to jurisdiction indicates that the relevant form of sovereignty must internal, relating to the relationship between sovereigns and individuals, rather than external, relating to the relationship between sovereigns. This suggests claims of jurisdiction being limited by horizontal federalism are misplaced, and that the relevant concept of sovereignty in the domain of personal jurisdiction is effectively coterminous with individual liberty.

Impossible Commands: Hobbes and Spinoza on Law, Rights, and Resistance

In this draft, I examine Thomas Hobbes and Baruch Spinoza’s approaches to laws that would require an individual to perform an act contrary to their human nature. Doing so begins to reveal the range of possibilities available and the vast ramifications that even small shifts in our political theory of obedience and resistance can have.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018–2019 Chief of Staff, Oxford University Press, New York, NY
2017–2018 Assistant Editor, Oxford University Press, New York, NY
2015–2016 Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP, New York, NY
2015 Legal Assistant to the Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 Research Scholar, N.Y.U. School of Law
2014–2015 Graduate Scholar, Institute of International Law & Justice, N.Y.U. School of Law
2013 Research Assistant to Professor Ryan Goodman, N.Y.U. School of Law
2012–2013 Research Assistant to Professor Amy Adler, N.Y.U. School of Law

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Spring 2024 Instructor, Writing-Intensive Section in Philosophy of Law (with Professor Christopher Kutz)
Fall 2023 Graduate Student Instructor, International Relations & International Law (Professor Sarah Graham)
Spring 2023 Graduate Student Instructor, Foundations of Legal Studies (Professor Mark Leinauer)
Spring 2022 Graduate Student Instructor, Human Rights Research & Practice (Professors Rohini Haar, Alexa Koenig & Eric Stover)
Fall 2021 Graduate Student Instructor, Theories of Law and Society (Professor Mark Leinauer)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Fall 2022 Graduate Student Instructor, History of Political Theory: Renaissance and Early Modern (Professor Kinch Hoekstra)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Fall 2014 Teaching Assistant, Advanced International Law (Professor Benedict Kingsbury)
Fall 2013 Teaching Assistant, Art Law (Professor Amy Adler)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTER/PANELIST

Criminal Jurisdiction as Sovereignty and Atrocity: The Path to Castro-Huerta

Jun. 2024 “Hidden American Atrocities” Roundtable, Law and Society Association Meeting

Peculiar Sovereignty: The Use and Abuse of a Commercial–Sovereign Dichotomy in Foreign Sovereign Immunity

Jan. 2024 Junior International Law Scholars Association Annual Meeting

Procedural Sovereign Distinction

- May 2023 Civil Procedure Workshop, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Jan. 2023 Junior International Law Scholars Association Annual Meeting
Nov. 2021 American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting

The Atrocity Aesthetic in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

- Nov. 2022 American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting

Citizens in Chains: State Violence and the Right of Resistance in Hobbes's Political Philosophy

- Apr. 2021 UCLA Graduate Conference in Political Theory

An Introduction to United States Sanctions

- Jan. 2016 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP, New York, NY

INVITED SPEAKER

Procedural Sovereign Distinction

- Oct. 2023 International Litigation Course, Professor Zachary Clopton, Northwestern Law School

Economic Responses to the Ukraine War

- Mar. 2022 "The Law and Ethics of Putin's War on Ukraine," coordinated by Professor Christopher Kutz, University of California Berkeley

Art, Cultural Property, and Atrocity Crimes

- Mar. 2018 Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic, Professors Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum and Diana Kearney, Cardozo School of Law

INVITED DISCUSSANT/COMMENTATOR

Thomas Hobbes on Sex Difference and Gender Equality by Susanne Sreedhar

- Oct. 2023 Kadish Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory, University of California Berkeley School of Law

Invisible Atrocities by Randle DeFalco

- Nov. 2022 *Invisible Atrocities* Book Panel and Workshop, University of Miami School of Law

The Long Arc of Legality: Hobbes, Kelsen, Hart by David Dyzenhaus

- Nov. 2022 *The Long Arc of Legality* Book Launch, N.Y.U. School of Law

When Does Abuse of Power Justify Impeachment? by Keith Whittington

- Feb. 2022 Kadish Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory, University of California Berkeley School of Law

From Ending War to Endless War: Louis Henkin and the Interpretive Modification of the Jus Ad Bellum by Aaron Gavin

- Apr. 2017 Institute of International Law & Justice Scholarship Conference, N.Y.U. School of Law

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- May 2023 Daniel E. Koshland Jr. Fellowship in the Art of Teaching Writing, University of California Berkeley
2020–present Postgraduate Fellow, *Just Security*
2020–present Selznick Graduate Fellowship, University of California Berkeley
May 2014 John Bruce Moore Award for Excellence in Law & Philosophy, N.Y.U. School of Law

2011–2014 Dean’s Award, N.Y.U. School of Law
2011–2014 Walter Herzfeld Memorial Scholarship, N.Y.U. School of Law

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2022–present Member, American Society of International Law
2020–present Coordinator, *Just Security* print series with Oxford University Press
2017–present Mentor, Virginia Alumni Mentoring
2022–2023 Co-Organizer, “Hidden Curriculum Series” in Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program
2022 Organizer and Moderator, PhD Workshop in Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program
2021–2022 Co-Organizer, Berkeley Law and Society Graduate Association Gateway Conference
2021 Co-Organizer, Berkeley Graduate Reading Group in Legal Theory
2020–2021 Organizer and Moderator, Berkeley Law and Society Graduate Association Law Teaching Market Series
2018–2019 Co-President, Oxford University Press USA Diversity and Inclusion Committee
2012–2013 Co-President, N.Y.U. School of Law International Law Society