



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY  
BERKELEY LAW

## CSLS SPEAKER SERIES

Cosponsored with the [Social Science Matrix](#)

Monday, April 19, 2021

### ARMANDO LARA-MILLÁN

Assistant Professor of Sociology, UC Berkeley

### *Redistributing the Poor: Jails, Hospitals, and the Crisis of Law and Fiscal Austerity*

([Oxford University Press](#), April 2021)

It is widely believed that because we as a society have disinvested from public health, the sick and poor now find themselves within the purview of criminal justice institutions. In *Redistributing the Poor*, ethnographer and historical sociologist Armando Lara-Millán takes us into the day-to-day operations of running the largest hospital and jail system in the world and argues that such received wisdom is a drastic mischaracterization of the way that states govern urban poverty at the turn of the 21st century. Rather than focus on our underinvestment of health and overinvestment of criminal justice, his idea of “redistributing the poor” draws attention to how state agencies circulate people between different institutional spaces in such a way that generates revenue for some agencies, cuts costs for others, and projects illusions that services have been legally rendered. By centering the state’s use of redistribution, Lara-Millán shows how certain forms of social suffering — the premature death of mainly poor, people of color — are not a result of the state’s failure to act, but instead the necessary outcome of so-called successful policy.

#### PANELISTS

- **ANGÈLE CHRISTIN**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication; Affiliated Faculty, Sociology Department and Program in Science, Technology, and Society, Stanford University
- **JONATHAN SIMON**, Lance Robbins Professor of Criminal Justice Law, UC Berkeley

**PLACE** Zoom – [Register here for zoom link.](#)  
**TIME** 12:45 – 2:00pm.  
**INFO** [csls.berkeley.edu](https://csls.berkeley.edu)

If you require an accommodation for effective communication (ASL interpreting/CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc.) to fully participate in this event, please contact [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu) with as much advance notice as possible and at least 7-10 days in advance of the event.

PAMELA ERICKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | CATHERINE ALBISTON, FACULTY DIRECTOR