



Berkeley

Center for the Study
of Law and Society

Annual Report 2020-2021



Catherine Albiston
Faculty Director



Pamela Erickson
Executive Director

This unprecedented year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of CSLS. Although the Center faced multiple challenges, we had an animated and intellectually engaging year. Innovative scholars from around the country shared empirical research on three major themes: criminal justice, inequality, and democracy and civil society. Center programming addressed current events, including voting rights and inequality, democracy and the 2020 election, and racial justice. Although the pandemic forced CSLS to postpone its highly anticipated 60th Anniversary Conference until spring 2022, planning for the conference is underway, and we look forward to sharing event details soon.

The CSLS scholarly community remained strong in its virtual form. We hosted an intrepid class of BELS fellows from around the world (literally); one participated from the Philippines at 3 a.m. her local time! Although many of our visiting scholars deferred their visits until after the pandemic, a small class of visiting scholars participated locally and from Australia, New York, and other points abroad. We look forward to more in person interactions soon, but the silver lining of the pandemic was that virtual programming strengthened our connections to scholars around the world.

CSLS completed a major transition in leadership this year and engaged in a strategic planning process for going forward. CSLS's beloved long-time Executive Director, Rosann Greenspan, retired and Pamela Erickson joined CSLS as its new Executive Director. Jonathan Simon passed the faculty director baton to KT Albiston; fortunately, Jonathan continues to be an active and vital presence at Center programs. CSLS is making progress on the goals identified in our strategic plan, including revitalizing CSLS's website, increasing attendance at CSLS events, improving diversity and inclusion among our speakers, and building a multi-faceted fundraising campaign to support the Center and our students. You can read more about what we have achieved below.

We are excited to share that CSLS received a major gift from Berkeley graduate Dr. Frances Coles to establish an initial endowment and to provide enhanced research and fellowship support for graduate students across campus. This gift will help CSLS build toward a sustainable, long-term plan for fostering multidisciplinary exchange among law and society scholars.

As CSLS looks toward the future of law and society, we seek your continued engagement and support. Read about our programs on our new web page [here](#), join in our activities, and tell us about your achievements and research. We hope to see many of you in the coming year at Berkeley, at the LSA meeting in Lisbon, or online. We'd love to see you at CSLS sometime soon, and we are grateful to count you as part of the CSLS community. Stay safe and be well!

Warmly,
KT Albiston & Pamela Erickson
Faculty Director & Executive Director

CSLS 2020-21 Speaker Series

In partnership with a myriad of Centers and Institutes from across UC Berkeley, CSLS provided robust programming related to the Center's three themes: criminal justice, inequality, and democracy and civil society. This year, CSLS also offered special programming that engaged with the challenges of our time, including programs on race and criminal justice, and programs on democracy, civil society, and free and fair elections leading up to the 2020 presidential election. CSLS also participated in the campus-wide celebration of 150 Years of Women at Berkeley with a special program entitled "Breaking into the Legal Ivory Tower: The First American Women Law Professors- a book by Herma Hill Kay." Our virtual programming reached a larger than usual audience averaging 50 to 60 people, and sometimes as many as 150 people, including scholars from institutions around the country. CSLS created an online archive of many of these talks, which you can access [here](#). See the full fall 2020 schedule [here](#) and the full spring 2021 schedule [here](#).



CSLS Community – BELS Fellows and Visiting Scholars



CSLS's BELS Fellows graduate program continued online during the 2020-21 academic year. The BELS program is open to UC Berkeley doctoral, JD, and JSD students engaged in theoretically informed, empirical research projects that investigate the origins, dynamics, and/or consequences of law and law-related social institutions. Over the past academic year, CSLS had ten BELS Fellows from a wide range of disciplines including Law, Public Policy, Social Welfare, Jurisprudence and Social Policy, History, Rhetoric, Political Science, and Ethnic Studies. Fellows present their work in progress during a year-long workshop and seminar led by faculty director, KT Albiston. In 2021-22 CSLS will have nine fellows; learn more about our current cohort of fellows [here](#).

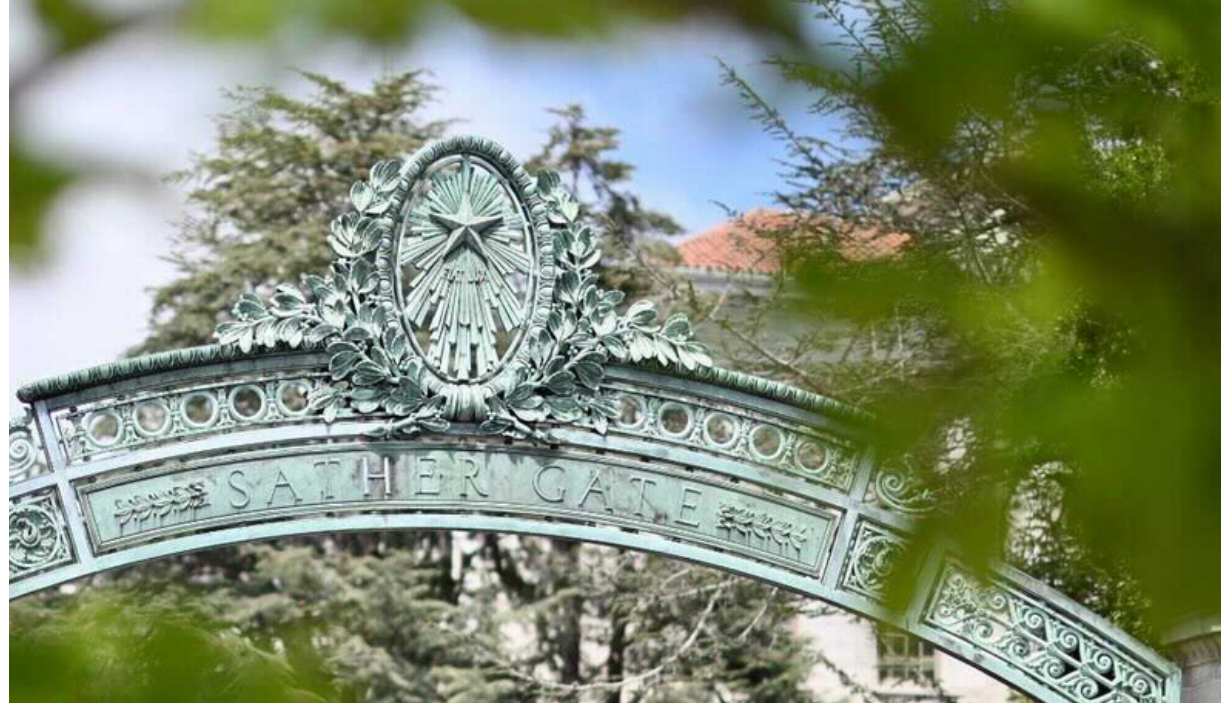
During the 2020-21 academic year, CSLS hosted nine Visiting Scholars who participated remotely in the CSLS speaker series and presented their work and received feedback through organized visiting scholar presentations. Unfortunately, as the result of COVID-related travel restrictions, several scholars who had planned to come this year postponed their visits. We anticipate hosting five scholars in the fall of 2021 and eight visiting scholars in the spring of 2022, public health conditions permitting.

Frances S. Coles Endowment

CSLS is excited to announce that a generous gift from Dr. Frances S. Coles enabled the Center to start an initial endowment this year. A 1974 graduate of UC Berkeley's former criminology program, Coles spent 28 years as a professor at Cal State-San Bernardino, where she was the first chair of its criminal justice department. She currently serves on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission in San Bernardino. Dr. Coles also made a second substantial gift over five years to expand CSLS's fellowship and research support for graduate students across the Berkeley campus. Professor Coles chose to support CSLS because we are a hub for graduate students working on criminal justice and law and society issues. As Dr. Coles stated, "I received my education without amassing large debts...and this gift, on my part, is paying it forward so that students can complete their studies without having so many financial concerns." Dr. Coles' own story and generous gift epitomizes the spirit of the civically engaged and public minded Berkeley graduate, and we are grateful for her support. You can read more about Professor Coles and her contribution to CSLS [here](#).



Honors and Awards for CSLS Scholars



CSLS continues to have much to celebrate.



Former CSLS director **Malcolm Feeley** was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Rosann Greenspan, JSP alum and recently retired Executive Director of CSLS, received a Legacy Award from the Law & Society Association for her "sustained contributions and commitment to the mission and legacy of the Law & Society Association and field of law and society."



CSLS Affiliate **Christopher Tomlins** received the Francis Parkman Prize from the Society of American Historians for, "*In the Matter of Nat Turner: A Speculative History*" (Princeton University Press).



CSLS Affiliate **Rachel Stern** and JSP student **Lawrence Liu** received the Article Prize from the Law & Society Association for their paper, "The Good Lawyer: State Led Professional Socialization in Contemporary China," which was published in *Law & Social Inquiry*.

A nighttime aerial photograph of a city, likely Berkeley, California. The image shows a dense urban landscape with numerous lit-up buildings. In the foreground, a large, multi-story building with a prominent tower is visible. In the background, a large bridge spans across a body of water, and the city skyline is illuminated against the dark sky.

CSLS Advisory Board

- Catherine Albiston, Law/JSP/Sociology
- Khiara Bridges, Law
- Marianne Constable, Rhetoric
- Lauren Edelman, Law/JSP/Sociology
- Pamela Erickson, Current Executive Director
- Malcolm Feeley, Law/JSP
- Becca Goldstein, Law/JSP/Political Science
- Rosann Greenspan, Former Executive Director
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- Jonathan Simon, Law/JSP
- Rachel Stern, Law/JSP/Political Science
- Chris Tomlins, Law/JSP/History
- Leti Volpp, Law



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Please consider supporting CSLS. Donate \$100 dollars or more and you will receive a CSLS t-shirt! Funds will support BELS Fellows, JSP Students, the 60th anniversary conference, and crucial and timely programming focused on our three pillars of Criminal Justice, Inequality, and Democracy and Civil Society.

Give to CSLS