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Monday, January 31, 2022

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“Legal Phantoms: The Haunting Power of Failed Law Reform”

In late 2014, the Obama Administration announced plans to roll out an expansion of its 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program (DACA+), and to add a Deferred Action for Parents of Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. Due to intervening litigation, those things never happened. Drawing on interviews, observations, and legal and policy texts, this presentation explores the interstitial spaces connecting the political and legal rise and fall of DACA+ and DAPA. The story we tell in our forthcoming book is a story about the limits of a political imagination sharply restricted by the central logic of U.S. immigration law and policy as it has developed in the past century – one of discretionary, racialized enforcement. But we also tell a story about how those directly affected by the legal uncertainty withstood the violence of state action (and inaction), drawing on deep reserves of material, spiritual, and intellectual resources. Not only did these individuals and collectives argue for programs like the Dream Act, and other deferred action programs, they also argued against immigration and criminal law enforcement programs and practices that imperiled large swaths of society irrespective of immigration status. Their transformative vision, rooted in an expansive political imagination, still has the potential to transform immigration law and policy in the wake of the devastation wrought by the Trump era.

PLACE Zoom - [Registration link here and on our website.](#)
TIME 12:45 - 2:00pm.
INFO <https://www.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 with as much advance notice as possible and at least 7-10 days in advance of the event.

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