

**Stanford Program in Law and Society**  
Fourth Conference for Junior Researchers  
Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA  
May 12-13, 2017

LAW, INNOVATION AND DISRUPTION

**Call for Papers**

**Introduction**

The Stanford Program in Law and Society (SPLS) at Stanford Law School is pleased to announce its Fourth Conference for Junior Researchers. This two-day conference seeks to provide a stimulating platform where junior researchers from around the world can present their current research projects on law and society and receive input from faculty and other participants. It also seeks to build a community and network of young scholars in law and society. The conference will also feature a keynote address by an internationally renowned scholar, and an optional research methods workshop for conference participants.

**Conference Theme**

The Fourth Conference for Junior Researchers invites submission of papers that delve into the relationship between law, innovation and disruption. Much legal research focuses on how parts of the legal system relate to each other, but in a static way. Law, however, can be a dynamic phenomenon. Changes in law – legal innovations – can be powerful tools that have a strong impact on society. This impact can be positive or negative. They can improve the rule of law; or interfere with it. They can achieve good goals, or prevent society from reaching these goals. Some practices or regulations can disrupt the status quo – for better or for worse. Some legal interventions codify existing custom; others disturb or interfere with customary behavior. This conference aims to bring together researchers who look at the dynamics of innovative laws and legal practices, as well as the legal challenges posed by moving social landscapes.

Some examples of research papers that fits the theme of the conference might be those that (a) analyze the intended or actual, gradual or disruptive, effects of innovative statutes, rules, decisions, and practices of legal actors; (b) explore how the legal system interacts with changing social realities, for instance by focusing on how governmental branches and institutions react to these changes or on the role of informal norms in new realities; (c) describe how technological innovations affect the regulation of markets or social structures, as well as how the law can spur innovative products, processes and ideas. Papers related to other interpretations of the theme are welcome.

We strongly encourage papers that employ empirical methods of investigation (quantitative and/or qualitative).

## **Eligibility**

Graduate students, post-graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, teaching fellows as well as recent graduates who are not faculty members are eligible to apply. As this is an interdisciplinary conference, we welcome applicants from law schools as well as other social science departments.

## **Submissions and Selection**

Junior researchers are invited to submit an abstract of up to 400 words, together with their CV. All abstracts and CVs should be submitted to [stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com) by January 30, 2017. Proposals will be selected based on their quality and connection with the conference theme. All applicants will be informed of the decision by February 20, 2017. All selected participants must submit their final paper by April 10, 2017, so that it can be shared with the other members of their panel and their discussant for feedback. The final paper should be no longer than 15,000 words (including footnotes). Each paper should be an unpublished work. We will consider papers that have been accepted for publication, so long as they have not been published and the author may still have an opportunity to incorporate feedback from the conference.

## **Financial aid**

A small amount of money is available to help some participants with travel expenses. Only participants from outside the San Francisco Bay Area are eligible to receive such assistance, and only in those cases where they do not receive funding from their own institutions. Unfortunately, in no case will financial aid cover all the travel and lodging expenses and so we strongly encourage participants to seek financial support to attend the conference in their home countries and institutions. Together with the notification of acceptance, selected participants will receive a financial aid request form. Participants will have to submit such form in order to be considered for the limited financial assistance.

## **Contact**

Please feel free to direct any question or comment to: [stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordlawandsociety@gmail.com)  
For further information on the Conference and on the Stanford Program in Law and Society visit: <https://law.stanford.edu/stanford-program-in-law-and-society>

## **Stanford Program in Law and Society**

Stanford Law School  
Crown Quadrangle  
559 Nathan Abbott Way  
Stanford, CA 94305  
United States