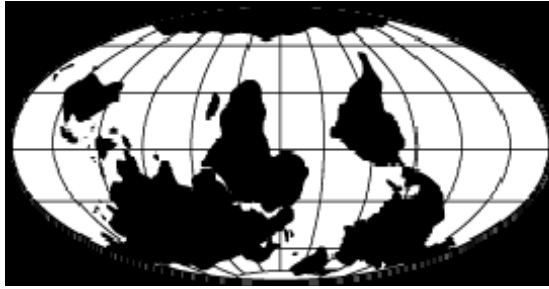


## LATCRIT XV: FIFTEENTH ANNUAL LATCRIT CONFERENCE



[www.latcrit.org](http://www.latcrit.org)

### CALL FOR PAPERS & PANELS

## **THE COLOR OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS: EXPLORING THE DOWNTURN FROM THE BOTTOM UP**

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO

SALT Junior Faculty Development Workshop- October 7-8, LatCrit Conference 8-10, 2010

#### **JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

**As usual, we also will hold our Eighth Annual Junior Faculty Development Workshop, sponsored jointly with the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 7 (the day before the conference program kicks off).**

#### **SUNDAY EVENTS**

**Our Annual Board Meeting will take place Sunday, October 10. All LatCrit community members are invited to attend the open session starting at 1:00 p.m. after the board meeting and hear about our exciting portfolio of projects, followed by a community luncheon with the board from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

#### **LATCRIT XV THEME**

**The Color of the Economic Crisis: Exploring the Downturn from the Bottom Up**

The Global Financial Crisis reached its peak in September of 2008 when stock markets crashed and numerous banks, mortgage lenders and insurance companies failed. The crisis at home quickly sent shockwaves around the world. Japan and the EU likewise entered a recession. Iceland saw its entire banking system collapse. Grippled by the specter of global economic disintegration, U.S., China, Britain and others all responded with stimulus plans and bailouts for the banking industry.

More than a year later, although government bailouts have assured that financial players such as Goldman Sachs now enjoy "one of the richest periods in the bank's 140-year history" (NYT, Dec 16, 2009), relief for the hardest hit - people of color, low-income communities, and women - has yet to materialize. Volunteerism and individual choice, not structural reform and redistribution, inform the so-called reform efforts, and even modest adjustments, such as a temporary moratorium on foreclosures (one of the steps taken during the Great Depression), are precluded by the neoclassical economic focus on market

solutions. As mainstream media proclaim that the worst is over, the United States continues to battle the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, with rising unemployment and falling housing markets.

This fifteenth LatCrit annual conference, returning to Denver ten years after the LatCrit V conference in Breckenridge, Colorado, allows us to revisit the issues of economic inequality featured at that earlier event on *LatCrit Theory and Praxis in a World of Economic Inequality*. A decade later, the flaws of unfettered capitalism and the failures of the U.S. regulatory apparatus are painfully evident, while the fraud perpetrated on the most economically vulnerable by the most economically privileged continues unaddressed.

This conference will explore the disparate impact of the Great Recession on the powerless and the marginalized. What is the nature of the impact of the economic crash? What accounts for its disparate effects? How did regulatory failures increase the likelihood and effects of the crisis, and what legal reforms are needed to address the harm it has wrought and prevent future collapses? Many communities of color were still feeling the effects of the last “downturn” when this recession hit. In September 2008, the unemployment rate among African Americans was already 11.4% (compared to 5.4% for whites). A year later, the unemployment rate among African Americans is at 15.9%, a 23 year high. Communities of color have moved beyond recession and are now experiencing a depression, yet the media has paid little attention to the effects of this crisis on the most vulnerable. Both the declaration of the crisis, and the current pronouncement of a recovery, reveal painfully the societal disenfranchisement of the economically disempowered.

In examining the workings of subordinated identities -- race, gender, sexual orientation and class -- class (economic status) stands alone as a putative indicator of merit. Net worth and social worth are equated in a capitalism that holds itself out as a tool of anti-subordination. But such an account of capitalism ignores its historical and societal underpinnings, and the ways in which capitalism functions to entrench the status quo.

This entrenchment operates both domestically and internationally. The overlooked consequences of the economic crisis do not stop with the disadvantaged constituencies in the industrialized West. While developed economies have been affected, many developing economies, and people in them (mostly people of color), have been devastated in a new brand of colonialism through commerce.

Like all crises, this one too presents us with an opportunity. We invite LatCrit scholars to take this opportunity to fully explore the causes, conditions and ramifications of the economic crisis. Some questions participants may wish to consider include:

What repercussions does the crisis hold for democracy?

What does the creation of the crisis reveal about the underpinnings of capitalism?

Are there connections between the impacts that the economic downturn has had on different subordinated groups? Does the crisis pose opportunities for collaborative work and critical, intersectional discourses?

What are the implications for immigration, legal and otherwise?

How will this crisis affect the stature of the United States in the global community?

What are the particular implications of this crisis, and the responses to it, now, during the administration for the first African-American President?

What does this crisis mean for the North-South power imbalance?

**Please submit your panel and paper proposals through the online process at the LatCrit website ([www.law.du.edu/latcrit/index.htm](http://www.law.du.edu/latcrit/index.htm)) no later than MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010.**

**Please note that although paper proposals for work-in-progress sessions may be submitted now, we will continue to accept those proposals through mid-July (please refer to LatCrit website for forthcoming additional details).**

### **Standing LatCrit Conference Themes**

Every year, LatCrit conferences also seek to feature and balance four basic perspectives in organizing the substantive program. These four perspectives are listed as themes below. They have, thus far, served as useful lenses of LatCritical inquiry, enabling LatCrit scholars to develop an impressive body of work that is increasingly linking issues of identity to the substantive analysis of law, policy and process. This effort to link identity issues to substantive analyses has been particularly fruitful in revealing the way race and ethnicity are implicated precisely in those areas of law and policy that are ordinarily thought not to be about race and ethnicity: for example, in the operations and assumptions of international law and legal process, foreign affairs, liberal democracy, religion and sexuality, to name just a few areas of recent LatCrit attention.

To build on these accomplishments, everyone is encouraged to develop their proposals with a view to: (1) expanding our understanding of the impact of race and ethnicity in substantive areas of law and policy ordinarily thought to be about "something other than race" (e.g. issues of sovereignty, labor rights, globalization, intellectual property, antitrust law); and (2) deepening our analysis of the various ways in which identity issues intersect, conflate and conflict in our self-understandings and coalitional efforts. The following four themes are offered, therefore, as possible points of reference for thinking in new ways about familiar issues (like affirmative action and bilingual education), as well as for encouraging critical forays into new substantive areas (like communications or antitrust laws):

1) Papers or panels that focus on the multidimensionality of Latina/o identity and its relationship to current legal, political and cultural regimes or practices. The ideal is to explicate aspects of the Latina/o experience in legal discourse, both domestically and internationally. Nonetheless, you are free to address identity issues that do not specifically touch upon Latina/o identity or the law.

2) Papers or panels especially salient to this region (the\*\*\* Midwest). Regional emphasis ensures that the Conference's geographic rotation will illuminate local issues, helping us understand how local particularities produce (inter)national patterns of privilege and subordination.

3) Papers or panels that elucidate cross-group histories or experiences with law and power, such as those based on the intersections of class, gender, race, sexuality and religion. In this way, each Conference aims to both elucidate intra-Latina/o diversities and contextualize Latina/o experience within inter-group frameworks and Euro-Heteropatriarchy. Accordingly, we constantly ask how we can create progressive movements, communities and coalitions that meaningfully recognize difference.

4) Papers or and panels that connect or contrast LatCrit theory to other genres of scholarship, both within and beyond law and legal theory, including but not limited to the various strands of critical outsider jurisprudence (critical race theory, feminist legal theory, queer legal theory) that critique class, gender, race, sexuality and other categories of social-legal identities and relations.

#### **THE SPONSORING INSTITUTION**

University of Denver Sturm College of Law is a top 100 law school situated on a gorgeous 125 acre campus with the majestic Rockies as its backdrop. Our curriculum is innovative and global in its perspective, and our diverse faculty is one of the finest in the nation. We offer nationally ranked programs in environmental and natural resources law, legal writing, clinical training, international law and tax law. We have a long history of commitment to public service, in practice and in our scholarship. We boast a strong contingent of LatCrit, CRT and Law & Society scholars. It is apt that the annual LatCrit conference will return a decade later to Denver (host of LatCrit V) for LatCrit XV.

#### **THE CONFERENCE SITE**

As in past years, the conference site is designed to be accessible, comfortable, self-contained and affordable in order to promote both formal and informal interaction, and to foster a relaxed community ambiance even as we engage in our serious work. This year, we will be staying at the Doubletree Hotel in the Denver Tech Centre, located just a short Light Rail ride from Denver University and easily accessible from the Denver Airport. The hotel is a 305-room modern facility with a fitness center and complimentary wireless high speed internet in the guest rooms, a business centre, fitness centre and full service restaurant. We will send the hotel contact information to you, together with the conference registration materials, in the spring, so that everyone can make their hotel reservations directly at the same time you register for the conference. As usual, child care services will be facilitated, and partners and family members are warmly welcome to join us.

**See you there!**