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LATCRIT INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW COLLOQUIUM

Paris, France: July 27, 2010

Call for Papers: Due Date – April 12, 2010

Globalizing Equality Theory, Constructing Material Justice: The Next Critical Project

Background: The LatCrit Colloquium on International and Comparative Law (ICC) has met eight times since 1995 in locations ranging from Miami to Malaga to Santiago de Chile to Buenos Aires and Cape Town. This rotating Colloquium aims to foster transnational and interdisciplinary interaction among LatCrit theorists in the United States and elsewhere with scholars, activists and policymakers at the sites where the Colloquium meets. This Colloquium next meets in Paris, France, in July 2010. This colloquium is planned in collaboration with Tulane Law School's Paris Study Abroad program directed by LatCrit Board member, Robert Westley. For more information about the Tulane Paris program visit <http://www.law.tulane.edu/tlsabroad/France.aspx>.

Like LatCrit's South-North Exchange and Study Space, the ICC is conceptualized and organized as part of a broader effort to provide a venue for scholarly exploration and exchange of critical knowledge among LatCrits and scholars from various disciplines and/or regions of the globe. ICC's aim transcends a one-time encounter: the concept behind the Colloquium is to establish a means for sustained and sustainable collaboration between LatCrit scholars and similarly minded scholars, activists, practitioners, students and others throughout the world. Another and related key purpose is to build a substantive record of critical analysis and theory to design concrete policy interventions both at the national and international levels. As with the Annual Conferences, the 2010 ICC Call for Papers and Participation is posted on this website and the program proceedings usually are published in the form of law review symposia.

Substantive Submission Guidelines and Deadline: We invite proposals for papers from academics and activists interested in fostering and sustaining a trans-national, cross-disciplinary and inter-cultural critical dialogue on current issues in law, theory and culture. ***Please submit no***

later than April 12, 2010, the form below and a paper abstract including your title and thesis of no more than 250 words. All proposals shall engage the overarching colloquium theme as well as at least one of the following sub-themes below. Be sure to identify which sub-theme(s) your paper will be engaging on the form provided. The LatCrit ICC organizing committee will notify all those submitting proposals of acceptances no later than April 26, 2010.

Theme and Sub-themes: The theme of LatCrit's ninth International and Comparative Law Colloquium ("ICC") is "***Globalizing Equality Theory, Constructing Material Justice: The Next Critical Project.***" There are three sub-themes around which papers will be organized:

SUB-THEME ONE: *Comparative Conceptions of Equality*

After hundreds of years of market-based economies and constitutional democracies, we have developed an historical set of comparative conceptions of equality and the corresponding possibilities for material justice. Papers in this session will consider the trajectories of the fictional-formal-substantive equality debates and assess how existing constructions of constitutional equality compare and contrast with those in other societies.

- How have societies addressed the tension between "liberty" and "equality" --expressed in U.S. constitutional terms as the tension between the Bill of Rights and the later Amendments?
- Based on global experience in recent decades with "dignity" as a constitutional value, how does this concept complement or interact with equality, liberty and other fundamental constructs?
- Are there global patterns to the homologous development of nationhood and sovereignty alongside the disestablishment of indigeneity?
- How are societies confronting the challenges of globalization and the current economic crisis, especially with respect to the questions of immigration and citizenship?
- To what extent have societies conceptualized and enacted "positive rights" or affirmative action to address structural discrimination?
- What are the remedial "limiting principles" imposed upon governments, NGOs, and activists seeking redress for structural discrimination within a constitutional democracy?

SUB-THEME TWO: *International Law and the Legal Construction of Equality & Justice*

This session will explore the international legal construction of "equality," and how it compares to theories and regimes of social and material equality that arise from within different societies.

- To what extent do international "human rights" and the "human rights movement" find their proper analogs or developmental roots in "civil rights" and "civil rights movement"?
- Are current (and future) struggles for social justice and political freedom best understood through human rights or some other type of law and social movement lens?
- How does equality or rights discourse function within various sub-fields of international law: development, war, trade, property, environment, democracy? And what are the prospects for such discourses in the future?

- How have the waves of recent financial calamities and political challenges to neoliberal globalization more generally affected social and material equality as element of international law nomos and narrative?
- How does the equality or rights discourse aid or impede material justice?

SUB-THEME THREE: *Difference and Universality--Between Status and Standards*

This session will measure the effectiveness of theorizing global equality and achieving material justice by “looking to the bottom.” Much of the remedial challenge lies both in social constructions of super-ordinate and subordinate statuses and the development of allegedly “universal” standards for equality and justice that fail to capture the intersectional differences that interact to compound multiple sources of discrimination.

- How have western feminisms and critical race theories interacted with the struggle for material justice globally?
- How has organizing around existing identity categories—race, gender, sexuality, religion, ability—challenged or reproduced social injustices and hierarchies?
- To what extent have the “mainstreaming” of gender and the “feminization of poverty” analysis been a positive development in international human rights?
- In light of the critique of “imperial humanitarianism,” how are local and international activists addressing harmful in-group practices that injure the most vulnerable within a community?
- How have universal norms and standards at a national (liberté, égalité, fraternité in France) or at an international level (CEDAW, CERD) operated to alleviate or instantiate subordination of multiply subordinated people?

Colloquium Logistics: Participants are responsible for their travel expenses to the Colloquium, but LatCrit does have access to reduced-rate weekly housing through the Tulane Law School Paris Program at Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (C.I.U.P), located in the 14th arrondissement of Paris. The C.I.U.P. is a foundation renowned for its goal of promoting exchanges between students of all nationalities in the spirit of tolerance and mutual respect. It welcomes more than 5,000 students, researchers, artists and athletes each year. Participants have the option of reserving a single room with a private shower, and a common hallway and kitchen with cookware, dishes and utensils provided (\$450 per week) or a studio which includes both a private shower and private kitchenette (\$600 per week). All rooms include an internet connection, telephone, at least a small refrigerator for personal food items, and housekeeping services. Deposits must be paid in advance (by May 1st) to ensure your reservation. There may be a nominal registration fee (\$100 or less) to cover reproduction of colloquium materials and meals and refreshments. Final colloquium details will be available on the latcrit.org website (under “Portfolio of Projects” tab, then “Academic Community,” then “Colloquium on International and Comparative Law,” then Paris 2010 tab on sidebar) by April 26, 2010.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Tulane Paris Program Director and LatCrit board member, Professor Robert Westley at: rwestley@tulane.edu or for more information on logistics, visit <http://www.law.tulane.edu/tlsabroad/France.aspx>. Please accept this advance invitation to submit a paper proposal. We look forward to engaging you in Paris on July 27, 2010 at this exciting event!

Program Proposal Form

Ninth LatCrit Colloquium on International & Comparative Law
Globalizing Equality Theory, Constructing Material Justice: The Next Critical Project

RESPONSE DUE DATE: April 12, 2010

Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris
Paris, FRANCE: July 27, 2010

Name/Title:

School/Organization:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Other Contact Info:

Sub-theme(s) Addressed: Check one sub-theme below. If your paper truly addresses more than one sub-theme, identify priority of theme resonance with “1” (most resonant sub-theme), “2”, and “3” (least resonant sub-theme) as appropriate.

___ **Sub-theme One:** *Comparative Conceptions of Equality*

___ **Sub-theme Two:** *International Law and Legal Constructions of Equality & Justice*

___ **Sub-theme Three:** *Difference and Universality: Between Status and Standards*

Abstract: In 250 words or less, please state the title and briefly describe the topic and thesis of your proposed paper. Please use additional pages if necessary.

Please return your completed Program Proposal Form to Prof. Robert Westley via email (rwestley@tulane.edu) as soon as possible, **no later than April 12, 2010**. Proposal submitters will be notified by April 26, 2010. Muchas Gracias! Many Thanks!