

**JOTHIE RAJAH**

jrajah@abfn.org

**EDUCATION AND RELATED AWARDS**

Ph.D. in Law, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	<b>2010</b>
2011 Honorable Mention, Law & Society Association Dissertation of the Year Award	
2010 Harold Luntz Graduate Research Thesis Prize, Melbourne Law School	
2010 Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in the Ph.D. Thesis, University of Melbourne	
B.A. in English (Honors), National University of Singapore	<b>1993</b>
1991-92 ACBC Gold Medal, National University of Singapore	
1991-92 Harvard Club Book Prize, National University of Singapore	
1990-91 Special Book Prize in English Literature, National University of Singapore	
1989-90 Special Book Prize in English Literature, National University of Singapore	
Admitted as Advocate and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore	<b>1987</b>
LL.B, National University of Singapore	<b>1986</b>

**CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

Research Professor, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL	<b>2011 - present</b>
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**FELLOWSHIPS**

IFK Senior Fellowship, Vienna	<b>Spring 2020</b>
Fellow of the SIAS Summer Institute 2011/2012 Regulating the World Society: Law, Governance and the Quest for Global Justice (National Humanities Center/Institute of Advanced Studies, Berlin [Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin]).	<b>Summer 2011 &amp; Summer 2012</b>

**PUBLICATIONS****Monographs**

<i>Discounting Life: Necropolitical Law, Culture, and the Long War on Terror.</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press).	<b>Fall 2022</b>
<i>Authoritarian Rule of Law: Legislation, Discourse and Legitimacy in Singapore.</i> (New York, Cambridge University Press).	<b>2012</b>

Reviewed in Law & Society Review, Law and Politics Book Review, Perspectives in Politics, Postcolonial Studies, Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, Australian Journal of Asian Law, Cambridge Law Journal, Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal

Translated into Simplified Chinese for a China only market	2019
Translated into Traditional Chinese for a Taiwan, Hongkong, and Southeast Asian market, with a new Foreword	2021

### Articles and Book Chapters

“Normalising Authoritarianism: Authoritarian Rule of Law in Singapore and Hong Kong” in <i>The Palgrave Handbook of Political Norm Dynamics in Southeast Asia</i> , edited by Gabriel Facal, Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux and Astrid Norén-Nilsson. (forthcoming)	2022
“Revitalising Authoritarian Rule of Law: Singapore’s 2019 <i>Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act</i> ” in <i>Dual States: A Global History</i> , Jens Meierhenrich, (ed), Cambridge University Press, (forthcoming)	2022
"Authoritarian Rule of Law Deploys Political Gaslighting: Singapore Legislates Against Fake News” in <i>The Routledge Handbook on the Rule of Law</i> , Michael Sevel (ed.). (forthcoming)	2022
“Law’s Governing Centers: A Global Sociolegal Approach” in <i>(Dis)Order: Techniques, Power, and Legitimacy in Polycentric Governing</i> , Jan Aart Scholte and Frank Gadinger (eds.). (forthcoming)	2022
"Authoritarian Rule of Law’s Strategic Lexicon” in <i>Rule of Law: Cases, Strategies, and Interpretations</i> , Barbara Faedda (ed.), Ronzani S.r.l. 2021	2021
“Representing Transnational Law: Drone Warfare and Transnational Legal Text,” in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law</i> , Peer Zumbansen (ed), Oxford University Press, 1069-1089.	2021
“Imperialism and Law” in <i>The Routledge Handbook on Law and Society</i> (ed. Marianna Valverde, Prabha Kotiswaran, Eve Darian-Smith, and Kamari Clarke), 154-157.	2021
“Transnational Law as Drama,” in Peer Zumbansen (ed) <i>The Many Lives of Transnational Law</i> , Cambridge University Press, 348-363.	2020
“Law, Politics, and Populism in the USA PATRIOT Act”, 26:1 <i>Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies</i> , 2019. 61-86.	2019
“Rule of Law and Sovereignty outside the State”, Vol 11:2, <i>Hague Journal on the Rule of Law</i> , Oct 2019: 493-499.	2019

- “Governing Authoritarian Law: Law as Security” in Lily Rahim & Michael Barr (eds), *The Limits of Authoritarian Governance in Singapore’s Developmental State* . Palgrave MacMillan, 277-303. **2019**
- "Legal Discourse" in John Flowerdew & John E. Richardson (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Discourse Studies* , Routledge, 480-496. **2018**
- “A Minor Jurisprudence of Spectacular War: Law as Eye in the Sky,” 21 *Law Text Culture* , 252-275. **2017**
- “Law as Record: the Death of Osama bin Laden” in 13 *No Foundations: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Law and Justice* , 45-69. **2016**
- “Rule of Law Lineages: Heroes, Coffins, and Custom” in 2015 *Law, Culture, and the Humanities*, 1-14. **2015**
- “Rule of Law as Transnational Legal Order” in *Transnational Legal Orders*, Terence Halliday & Gregory Shaffer (eds.) New York: Cambridge University Press, 340-373. **2015**
- “Sinister Translations: Law’s Authority in a Post-9/11 World.” 21 *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 107-143. **2014**
- "Flogging Gum: Cultural Imaginaries and Postcoloniality in Singapore's Rule of Law" in 18 *Law Text Culture*, 135-165. **2014**
- "Language-and-Law Scholarship: An Interdisciplinary Conversation and a Post-9/11 Example” in 10 *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* , 169-183 (with Elizabeth Mertz). **2014**
- “Of Masks and Absences: Cause Lawyering in Singapore.” 31 *Wisconsin International Law Journal* , 646-671 (with Arun K. Thiruvengadam). **2014**
- “The Gulf between Promise and Claim: Understanding International Law’s Failure to Decolonise.” 3 *Transnational Legal Theory* , 285-296. **2012**
- “Lawyers, Politics, and Publics: State Management of Lawyers and Legitimacy in Singapore.” *Political Liberalism and the Legal Complex in the Post-Colony* , Terence Halliday, Lucien Karpik & Malcolm Feeley, eds. (New York: Cambridge University Press) 149-192. **2012**
- “Punishing Bodies, Securing the Nation: How Rule of Law Can Legitimate the Urbane Authoritarian State.” 36 (4) *Law & Social Inquiry* , 945-970. **2011**

“Muddling through Methodology” in 3:2 *Sortuz: Oñati Journal of Emergent Sociolegal Studies*, 111-135. **2009**

“Policing Religion: Discursive Excursions into Singapore’s Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act” in *Examining Practice, Interrogating Theory: Comparative Legal Studies in Asia*, Pip Nicholson & Sarah Biddulph (eds.) (Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers), 267-305. **2008**

“From Second Tongue to Mother Tongue: A Look at the Use of English in Singapore English Drama” in *Perceiving Other Worlds*, Edwin Thumboo (ed.). Singapore: Times Academic Press, 400-412 (with Simon Tay). **1991**

### Reviews/Online Essays/Encyclopedia Entry

“Social Drama, Universalisms’ Political Violence, and Transnational Law”, a contribution to a forum on Darryl Li’s *The Universal Enemy*, edited by Mona Oraby and Iza Hussin in *The Immanent Frame*, 10 June 2020, <https://tif.ssrc.org/category/book-blog/book-forums/universal-enemy/> **2020**

“The Necropolitical Law of Assassination” in *The Immanent Frame*, 31 Oct 2019 <https://tif.ssrc.org/2019/10/31/the-necropolitical-law-of-assassination/> **2019**

“Targeted Killing and Spectacular War”, Gunneflo Book Symposium (5), *Völkerrechtsblog*, April 2017, doi: 12345678. **2017**

“Enlivening Rule of Law through Law and Order: Commentary on *Opposing the Rule of Law: How Myanmar’s Courts Make Law and Order* by Nick Cheesman” *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, 15-18. **2017**

Review of *Opposing the Rule of Law: How Myanmar’s Courts Make Law and Order* by Nick Cheesman, 50: 4 *Law & Society Review*, 1046-1048. **2016**

Review of Eve Darian-Smith’s *Laws and Societies in Global Contexts*, 48:2 *Law & Society Review*, 479-481. **2014**

Entry titled “Southeast Asian Hindu law,” commissioned by area editor, Dr. Werner Menski for *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*, Stanley Katz (editor) (Oxford University Press). **2009**

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

(Keynote, forthcoming) “Rule of Law and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals”, Thailand Institute of Justice (with Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School) International Virtual Forum on the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development, 17 June 2022

**Forthcoming,  
June 2022**

- “Legislating Religion’s Borders: Singapore’s Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act and the US’s International Religious Freedom Act”, at a workshop entitled, “Global ‘Religion’: Invention, Translation, Critique,” on June 3, 2022 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. **2022**
- Keynote (with Elizabeth Mertz), “New Directions for Law and Language”, Law and Language Colloquium, North-West University (South Africa: Vanderbijlpark Campus), 22 March 2022 **2022**
- Panelist, “Rule of Law in Singapore” in Defining and Defending the Rule of Law in Asia, Webinar Series on Asian Perspectives on Human Rights, Public Law and Human Rights Forum, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, Monday 14 March 2022, via Zoom **2022**
- “Law’s Governing Centers: A Global Socio-Legal Approach”, as part of a panel entitled, Polycentrism: How Governance Works Today, at the virtual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), 4 July 2021 **2021**
- “The USA PATRIOT Act and the Rule of Law”, in ABF National Fellows Event on Rule of Law and National Security, 18 May 2021 **2021**
- "Necropolitical Law and Targeted Killing", paper presented at Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 2021. **2021**
- "Necropolitical Law and the Killing of al-Baghdadi", paper presented at the Van Vollenhoven Institute Research Meeting, Leiden University, the Netherlands, 23 March 2021. **2021**
- “The Assassination of al-Baghdadi: Translating from Liberal Legality to Necropolitical Law”, IFK Fellows Lecture, (by Zoom) 6 May 2020. **2020**
- “Discounting Life: Law, Media, and the Long War on Terror”, ABF Seminar Series, 12 Feb 2020. **2020**
- “Legislating Truth, Weaponizing Fact: Singapore’s Prevention of Online Falsehoods Act”, at a workshop entitled, *Tackling the Authoritarian Rule of Law*, London School of Economics, June 2019 **2019**
- “Lawyers in a Post-9/11 World”, Law & Society Annual Meeting, Washington DC, May 2019. **2019**

- “Singapore’s Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act”, at a workshop entitled, *The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad*, Bloomington, Indiana, May 2019. **2019**
- “Law’s Governing Centers: A Global Sociolegal Approach” presented at Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research in Duisburg, Germany, March 2019. **2019**
- “Law as Spectacular War”, Annie Macdonald Langstaff workshop series at McGill Faculty of Law (invited presenter) Nov 2018. **2018**
- “Planetary Jurisdiction and Ordinary Laws: the U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act,” presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, June. **2018**
- “Reading the U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act: Frames, Visibility, Subjectivity,” presented at the Institute for Global Law & Policy Conference, Harvard Law School, June. **2018**
- “Law, Populism, Patriotism: The U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act” presented at Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies Conference, April 2018. **2018**
- “The Rule of Law in Singapore”, presented at Thailand Institute of Justice Conference on The Rule of Law, Bangkok, January. **2018**
- “Order and Law: Amos Yee and Singapore’s Rule of Law Refractions”, presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Conference, Mexico City, June. **2017**
- "A Jurisprudence of Spectacular War", presented at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities Annual Conference, Stanford Law School, 31 March-1 April. **2017**
- “Measuring Rule of Law: The World Justice Project and its Index” presented at a conference, The Rule of Law in Europe, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, September. **2015**
- “Images Mediating Indicators: The Military and the Rule of Law Index” presented at the Institute for Global Law & Policy Conference, Harvard Law School, June. **2015**
- “Law and the Visual in a Post-9/11 World” presented at Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Conference, Georgetown University Law Center, March. **2015**
- Invited Panelist, ‘Global Rule of Law’, Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Minneapolis, March, <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/2014-2/> **2014**

- Participant, Harvard Law School, Institute for Global Law and Policy, workshop, Doha, January 2013. **2013**
- ‘Rule of Law Discourses as Transnational Legal Order’, Law & Society Association Meeting, Hawaii, June 2012. **2012**
- ‘Of Masks and Absences: Cause Lawyering in Singapore’, with Arun K. Thiruvengadam, Law & Society Association Meeting, Hawaii, June 2012. **2012**
- Participant, Workshops on the United Nations Security Council and the Rule of Law, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, 29-30 May 2012. **2012**
- ‘Rule in Law’ as Meta-Transnational Legal Order’, Conference on Transnational Legal Orders, Jamaica, February 2012. **2012**
- ‘Rule of Law’: A Singapore Story, Asia Research Institute Seminar Series, National University of Singapore, August 2011. **2011**
- ‘Figuring ‘the people’; Bordering ‘the nation’: APEC and Territories of Temporary Emergency, presented to the Melbourne Doctoral Forum on Legal Theory, Melbourne Law School, December 2010. **2010**
- ‘Narrating the Lawful Nation: History, Hegemony and Law in Singapore’, presented to the Australia New Zealand Legal History Society conference, La Trobe University, Melbourne, December 2010. **2010**
- ‘Colonial Continuities, National Inventions: ‘Race’, ‘Religion’ and ‘Law’ in Singapore, presented to Malaysia and Singapore Association conference, Australian National University, Canberra, December 2010. **2010**
- ‘A(nother) Great Leap Forward: Authoritarian Rule-of-Law’, American Bar Foundation Research Seminar series, October 2010. **2010**
- ‘Splitting: How the Dual State Fragments the Legal Complex’, presented to the Working Group on Comparative Studies of the Legal Professions, France, July 2010. **2010**
- ‘Can the Foreign Lawyer Speak? Singapore Encounters Foreign Bar Associations’, paper presented at the Law & Society Association Meeting, Chicago, May 2010. **2010**

- 'Hindu Law Contortions: Legal Spaces for Colonial Subjects', paper presented at Law & Society Association Meeting, Chicago, May 2010. **2010**
- 'Legislating Illiberalism: Law, Discourse and Legitimacy in Singapore', paper presented at the American Bar Foundation Research Seminar, May 2010. **2010**
- 'Punishing Bodies, Securing the Nation', paper presented at the UC Berkeley Centre for the Studies of Law and Society Visiting Scholars Roundtable, April 2010. **2010**
- 'Policing Lawyers, Constraining Citizenship: State Management of Legitimacy in Singapore', paper presented at workshop on legal research methodology entitled, In Search of Authority, Rebellion and Action, Melbourne Law School; Dec 2008. **2008**
- 'Press Regulation, State Surveillance and the Discourse of National Vulnerability: Singapore's Newspaper and Printing Presses Act', paper presented at the Centre for Media and Communications Law Annual Conference, Melbourne Law School; Nov 2008. **2008**
- 'Scouring Slogans, Securing the Nation: Sovereignty, Law and Singapore's Vandalism Act', paper presented at seminar entitled Space, Politics and Postcolonial Representations, Institute of Postcolonial Studies, Melbourne; September 2008. **2008**
- 'Lawyers, Politics, Publics', paper presented at workshop on The Legal Complex in Postcolonial Struggles for Political Liberalism, organized by Terence Halliday, Lucien Karpik and Malcolm Feeley, Berder, France; June 2008. **2008**
- 'Punishing Bodies, Securing the Nation: Singapore's Vandalism Act', paper presented at an interdisciplinary conference entitled New Worlds, New Sovereignties, Melbourne University; June 2008. **2008**
- 'Citizen Lawyer: Lawyers, Civil Society and the Rule of Law in Singapore', paper presented at the Asian Law Institute Conference, National University of Singapore; May 2008. **2008**
- 'A Jurisprudence of Vandalism in the Singapore Legal System', paper presented at Research Higher Degree Colloquium, Melbourne Law School; May 2008. **2008**
- 'Constantly Colonised: Hindu Legal Identities in the Modern Nation-State of Singapore', paper presented at the Law & Society Association Meeting; Berlin, June 2007. **2007**



- ‘Hindu Law in Singapore’, paper presented at workshop entitled Religion and the State in Asia, Asia Research Institute, Singapore; May 2007. **2007**
- “Policing Religion: Singapore and the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act” paper presented at the Early Career Researcher workshop attached to Law, Religion and Social Change, a conference hosted by the Australian National University, Canberra; May 2006. An earlier version of this paper was presented at a Melbourne Law School, Asian Law Centre seminar. **2006**
- “Tradition and Law: CEDAW and Singapore,” paper presented at Enculturing Law: New Agendas for Legal Pedagogy , a conference supported by the Indo-Dutch Program on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD) and organised in collaboration with the National Law School, Bangalore and the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore (www.altlawforum.org) at the National Law School, Bangalore, India; Aug 2005. **2005**
- “Negotiating Legal Identities: Hindu Law in Singapore,” paper presented at the Asian Law Institute conference, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; May 2005. **2005**
- “Embracing Complexity: Contexts, Constructs and Michael Fay,” paper presented to Asian Law Institute conference, National University of Singapore; May 2004. **2004**
- ‘Partial Order, Partial Control: Negotiating the Category ‘Hindu’ in the Courts of Singapore’, paper presented at National University of Singapore Faculty of Law Staff Seminar, October 2003. **2003**
- “Censorship and Cultural Policy in Singapore Drama,” paper presented at Liminality and States of Transition in Singapore Theatre, National University of Singapore; May 1995. **1995**

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Faculty, Law and Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop **May 2022**
- Faculty, Law & Society Association Early Career Workshop **July 2022**
- Faculty, Law & Society Association Graduate Student/Early Career Workshop for 2022 Annual Meeting **2022**
- Member, Law & Society Association Program Committee for 2021 Annual Meeting **2021**

Co-Chair, ABF Doctoral Fellows Committee	<b>2017 - Present</b>
External Examiner for PhD Dissertations	
Michael C. Leach, “A Kaleidoscope of Meaning Fragments: Understanding the Rule of Law’s Paradoxes in International Development” Doctoral Jury, Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University, the Netherlands.	<b>September 2021</b>
Safiya Rochelle, “Capturing the Void(ed): Muslims Detainees, Practices of Violence, and the Politics of Seeing in Guantanamo Bay”, Law and Legal Studies PhD dissertation examination, Carleton University, Canada.	<b>January 2020</b>
Co-Chair, ABF Appointments Committee	<b>2018 - 2019</b>
Member International Prize Committee, Law & Society Association	<b>2019</b>
Program Support, Law, Culture and the Humanities Early Career Workshop	<b>March 2019</b>
Member, Governance Committee, Law & Society Association	<b>2018</b>
Member, Board of Trustees, Law & Society Association	<b>2015 - 2018</b>
Chair, ABF Visitors Committee	<b>2015 - 2018</b>
Faculty, Law, Culture and the Humanities Early Career Workshop, Georgetown Law School	<b>March 2018</b>
Member, Editorial Board, <i>Hague Journal on the Rule of Law</i>	<b>2016 - Present</b>
Member, Advisory Board, Working Group on International Organizations and International Law, Northwestern University	<b>2016 - Present</b>
Member, Editorial Board, <i>Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies</i>	<b>2014 - Present</b>
Member, Rule of Law Research Consortium	<b>2014 - Present</b>
Co-Founder and Co-Convener (with Wesley Pue and Binyamin Blum) Collaborative Research Network 15, British Colonial Legalities, Law & Society Association	<b>2011 - 2014</b>
Associate Editor, Law & Social Inquiry (September 2011-Aug 2012).	<b>2011 - 2012</b>

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Member, Rule of Law Research Consortium, World Justice Project Rule of Law Research Consortium | World Justice Project

Participant, Institute for Global Law & Policy Colloquium, Harvard Law School **June 2018**

Discussant, World Justice Project Research Consortium Conference on the Rule of Law, Stanford Law School, 6-7 May 2016 **May 2016**

Participant, Advanced Writing Workshop, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School **June 2015**

Discussant, World Justice Project Research Consortium Conference on the Rule of Law, University of Chicago Law School, 31 October – 1 November, 2014 **Oct - Nov 2014**

Participant, Early Career Workshop, Law & Society Association Annual Conference, Minnesota **May 2014**

Participant, Institute for Global Law & Policy Colloquium, Harvard Law School **June 2016**

Co-Chair, American Bar Foundation Seminar Series (July 2012-August 2013). **2012 - 2013**

Conference steering committee, First International Conference on the Legal Histories of the British Empire, July 2012. **2012**

Chair, Policy Committee, American Bar Foundation (September 2011 – October 2012). **2011 - 2012**

Visiting Scholar, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore **2011**

Visiting Scholar, Jurisprudence and Social Policy, UC Berkeley **2010**

Rapporteur, World Justice Project Asia Pacific Conference, Kuala Lumpur, January 2011. **2011**

Co-organizer, LSA Roundtable, Subversive Legalities: British Colonial Subjects and the Rule of Law, Law & Society Annual Meeting, Chicago May 2010. **2010**

Guest lecture on “Singapore Lawyers in Civil Society” for Citizens, Groups and State in Asia, Melbourne Law School Graduate Programme, May 2007 and 2009. **May 2007 & May 2009**

Guest Lecture on “Singapore’s Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act” for Constitutionalism in Asian Societies, Melbourne Law School Graduate Programme, September 2006. **2006**

### **OTHER EMPLOYMENT AND VISITING POSITIONS**

Visiting Affiliate, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Feb – July 2011. **2011**

Visiting Researcher, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Jan – August 2011. **2011**

Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California, Berkeley, Jan – Dec 2010. **2010**

Sessional Lecturer, University of Melbourne, Law School, Sep 2006 – 2009: Law & Society in Southeast Asia. **2006 - 2009**

Tutor, University of Melbourne – Department of Management, School of Economics and Commerce, Jan – May 2006: Southeast Asian Business and Economy. **2006**

Consultant, United Nations Development Program, Mar 2005 – Dec 2006. **2005 - 2006**

Guest Lecturer on Hindu Legal Traditions for Comparative Legal Traditions course, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, 2003-2005. **2003 - 2005**

Legal Writing Instructor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Jun 2002 – May 2005. **2002 - 2005**

Legal Officer, Development Bank of Singapore, 1987 – 1989. **1987 - 1989**

### **MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS**

*Review for Law & Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop*

*Law & Society Review*

*Oxford University Press (monograph)*

*Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law*

*Asian Journal of Law & Society*

*Australian Journal of Asian Law*

Cambridge University Press

*Critical Discourse Studies*

*Democratization*

*Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*

*Law, Culture, and the Humanities*

*Law & Social Inquiry*

*Transnational Legal Theory*

University of Michigan Press