



# Transnational Legal Pedagogy: Evolving Trends

February 29, 2024 | Rutgers Law School, Newark



# Overview

We practice, teach, and write at a time of global ferment. What is the role for law schools in our fluid geopolitical order? What visions will animate the lawyers whom we train for the world to come? This conference will tackle some evolving trends that heighten and shape the importance of transnational law in legal pedagogy, including newly emerging global power centers, the crucial impact of migration on our legal conversations and up-to-the minute global realities of contemporary legal practice.

Rutgers Law School's longstanding commitment to transnational legal education is reflected in the depth of our faculty, our robust travel-and-study curriculum, and the global reach of our alumni. However, our greatest strength lies in the students of Rutgers Law, many of whom are bi-cultural, sometimes first-generation, and give Rutgers its worldwide stamp. They not only receive but also help us deliver a legal education that meets the transnational conditions we collectively face. This symposium is part of our inaugural *Global Crossroads Week*, a showcase for our ongoing work in fostering the global legal community that is Rutgers Law.

# Schedule

9:30 – 10:00 am

## **Breakfast and Welcoming Remarks**

Jeffrey Robinson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor,  
Rutgers University–Newark

10:00 – 11:00 am

## **Innovations in Transnational Legal Pedagogy at Rutgers Law**

- Charles Auffant, Rutgers Law School
- Jorge Contesse, Rutgers Law School
- Christina Ho, Rutgers Law School
- Randi Mandelbaum, Rutgers Law School

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

## **Migration and Legal Conversations**

- Lea Mwambene and Bokamoso (Toekie) Lesufi, University of the Western Cape
- Salvador Brandon Pacay Mendoza, Colectivo Vida Digna
- Jorge Contesse, Rutgers Law School (moderator)

12:30 – 2:00 pm

## **Lunch and Keynote**

Eva–Maria Nag, Global Policy Journal

2:00 – 3:30 pm

## **Teaching and Researching Law in a Transnational Perspective**

- Alejandro Chehtman, University Torcuato Di Tella Law School
- Jorge Contesse, Rutgers Law School
- Gleider Hernández, Catholic University of Leuven
- Jean–Marc Coicaud, Rutgers Law School
- Christina Ho, Rutgers Law School (moderator)

4:00 – 5:00 pm

## **Transnational Law in Contemporary Legal Practice**

- Marcia Nordgren '87, Law Offices of Marcia L. Nordgren, PLLC
- Asia Norton '23
- Tim Peterson '85, Milbank LLP
- Emily Rathburn '23
- Charles Wu '10, Clyde & Co.
- Randi Mandelbaum (moderator)

5:30 – 7:00 pm

## **Reception at Clem's Place (15 Washington St.)**

Live music by Little Johnny Rivero



## Jeffrey Robinson

Jeffrey A. Robinson, Ph.D. is an award-winning business school professor, international speaker and entrepreneur. He serves Rutgers University-Newark as the Provost & Executive Vice-Chancellor. In this role, he implements strategic initiatives in the areas of innovation, economic development and faculty recruitment and retention.

Before this appointment, he has been a leading faculty member at Rutgers Business School where he is the Prudential Chair in Business. He has used his business acumen to launch new ventures, advise established businesses and consult to Fortune 1000 corporations. He is the author of books and articles on such topics as social entrepreneurship, African American women in entrepreneurship, urban entrepreneurship policy and patterns of Black employment.

Through his research, business leadership and community activities he makes direct impacts corporate workplaces, entrepreneurs and economic development policy in the state of New Jersey and beyond. Emerging from his pioneering research, the New Jersey Social Entrepreneurship Institute and the CUEED Pipeline to Inclusive Innovation are national and international models for economic development and social problem solving using entrepreneurial approaches. He leads research on four National Science Foundation funded research projects related to inclusive innovation including the GEM Inclusion in Innovation Initiative (GEM i4).

Dr. Robinson is the author of many articles and books on the topics of management, entrepreneurship and workforce diversity. He is the co-author along with Dr. Randal Pinkett of *Black Faces in High Places: 10 Strategic Actions for Black Professionals to Reach the Top and Stay There*. As a result of his work, Dr. Robinson is a sought after speaker and trainer in many Fortune 1000 Corporations, foundations and leading social sector organizations including Wells Fargo, Comcast, KIPP Schools, Raytheon, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Novartis, JPMC, The National Urban League and the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC). Dr. Robinson is a media commentator appearing on Dateline NBC and NBC Nightly News, PBS, NJN News, Marketplace on Public Radio International, Black Enterprise, NJ Biz, and The New York Times.

Dr. Robinson has completed five degrees in the areas of engineering, urban studies and business from Rutgers University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Columbia University.



## Charles Auffant

Professor Auffant received his J.D. from Rutgers School of Law–Newark in 1982. He joined Rutgers in 1998 as a Clinical Faculty Professor in the Urban Legal Clinic. Professor Auffant, a Newark resident, is deeply committed to and active in the Newark Community. Prior to his appointment, Professor Auffant worked as a Staff Attorney for Essex–Newark Legal Services, as Director of Housing for the Urban League of Essex County, as Associate Counsel for the Newark Board of Education, and as Counsel to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He has served as a Commissioner on the Newark Zoning Board of Adjustment since 1997. He has served as Chair of the Board of Essex Newark Legal Services since 2016. He was an initial Board member of Newark’s Civilian Complaint Review Board and served as a Trustee of the Newark Public Library. Professor Auffant served on the Executive Committee of the American Association of Law Schools’ Section on Clinical Legal Education from 2010 to 2016. As co-chair of the section (2014 to 2015), he helped to bring greater diversity to Clinical Section Leadership. Professor Auffant instituted a course entitled Cuban Legal Field Study in which Rutgers Law students travel to Cuba to engage in a course of study with faculty from the University of Havana to learn about the Cuban legal system and discuss comparisons with the U.S. legal system. In the Community and Transactional Lawyering Clinic, Professor Auffant specializes in real estate, urban land use, board governance, and adult guardianships.



## Alejandro Chehtman

Alejandro Chehtman is Dean and Professor of Law at the Law School of the University Torcuato Di Tella and a Fellow at the Argentine National Research Council (CONICET). Alejandro studied Law at the University of Buenos Aires, where he graduated with honors, and did his MSc in Political Theory and his PhD in Law at the LSE. He has published articles in leading peer-reviewed journals, such as the European Journal of International Law, Legal Theory, Journal of International Criminal Justice, Law & Philosophy and Journal of Law & Courts. His book, *The Philosophical Foundations of Extraterritorial Punishment*, was published by Oxford University Press. He is currently finishing a book project on a Theory of Asymmetrical Conflicts and co-editing a collection of essays on Latin American International Law, both to be published by Oxford University Press.



## Jean-Marc Coicaud

Jean-Marc Coicaud is a Distinguished Professor of Law and Global Affairs, Rutgers School of Law. He offers courses on international law, human rights, the United Nations, comparative law, comparative jurisprudence, and comparative international legal regimes.

Dr. Coicaud is a member to the European Academy of Sciences, Distinguished Chair Professor at Fudan Institute for Advanced Study in Social Sciences, Fudan University (Shanghai, China), and a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Centro Internacional de Globalización y Desarrollo (Santiago, Chile).

Dr. Coicaud holds a Doctorat d'État in Legal and Political Theory from the Institut d'Études Politiques of Paris and a Ph.D. in Political Science–Law from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon–Sorbonne. He was an Arthur Sachs Scholar and a Lavoisier Scholar at Harvard University. Dr. Coicaud also holds a Master degree in Law, undergraduate, and graduate degrees in philosophy, literature, and linguistics from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon–Sorbonne.

Prior to joining Rutgers, he served as the Director of the United Nations University (UNU) Office in New York City and Senior Academic Officer and Director of Studies at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo, leading international research projects. Prior to joining UNU, he served in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary–General as a speechwriter for Dr. Boutros Boutros–Ghali. He also served as an advisor in the Guatemalan Office of the UN Department of Political Affairs. Dr. Coicaud has held appointments such as Cultural Attaché with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Legislative Aide with the European Parliament (Financial Committee).

Dr. Coicaud has lectured extensively throughout the world, including Chile, China, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Jean–Marc Coicaud has published extensive works in the fields of legal and political theory, international law, international relations, and comparative politics. He serves on the advisory board of Global Policy Journal.



## **Jorge Contesse**

Jorge Contesse is a scholar of international human rights and comparative constitutional law, focusing on the judicialization of international law and on the interaction between domestic constitutional actors and international human rights regimes, in particular, the inter–American human rights system. He teaches international law, human rights law, transnational law, and U.S. criminal law. He is the founding Director of the Rutgers Center for Transnational Law and a current member of the UN Committee Against Torture.

Professor Contesse's scholarship has appeared in the American Journal of International Law, the Harvard International Law Journal, the International Journal of Constitutional Law, the Virginia Journal of International Law, and the Yale Journal of International Law, among others. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Doctoral Program of Diego Portales Law School, in Santiago, and has held visiting positions at the University of Miami School of Law, the University of Texas, Sorbonne Law School, and more recently at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He holds an LL.M. and a J.S.D. from Yale Law School, where he was a Fulbright Scholar, and an LL.B. from Diego Portales Law School, in Chile.



## **Gleider Hernández**

Gleider Hernández is Professor of Public International Law at the Catholic University of Leuven. Previously, he was also Professor of Public International Law at Open Universiteit in the Netherlands and Associate Professor (Reader) in Public International Law at Durham University in the United Kingdom, where he was also Deputy Director of the Durham Global Policy Institute. Professor Hernández took a D.Phil from Wadham College, Oxford, read for an LL.M in Public International Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands, and for BCL (civil law) and LL.B (common law) degrees at McGill University in Canada.

Professor Hernández is the current President of the European Society of International Law. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Global Policy* and the *European Journal of International Law*, and on the Academic Review Board of the *Cambridge International Law Journal*. He is also General Editor of the *Oxford Reports on International Courts of General Jurisdiction*.



## Christina Ho

Professor Christina S. Ho joined the Rutgers faculty in 2010 from the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a Senior Fellow and Project Director of the China Health Law Initiative. She was previously Country Director and senior policy advisor for the Clinton Foundation's China program. During the Clinton Administration, she worked on the Domestic Policy Council at the White House and later led Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's health legislative staff. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She served as Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development and New Programs at Rutgers Law from 2019–2021. Her book, *Normalizing an American Right to Health*, was published in 2023 by Oxford University Press and proposes a fresh playbook for realizing the right to health in the U.S.



## Bokamoso (Toekie) Lesufi

Accompanying Professor Mwambene is Toekie Lesufi, a fourth-year LLB student from the University of the Western Cape. Toekie is a member of their school's Moot Court Society, and Member of UWC Moot Court Societt, the Membership and Recruitment Officer of Federation of African Law Students (Falas) at UWC, Scriber of the Branch Inter-Disciplinary Team of Falas, a Legal YouTuber: <https://www.youtube.com/@ToekieLesufi/videos>, and on the UWC Swim Team.



## Randi Mandelbaum

Professor Randi Mandelbaum is a Professor of Law, the Annamay Sheppard Scholar, and the Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic. Professor Mandelbaum earned a B.S. from Brandeis University, a J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. She has devoted her career to working with children and families and has extensive experience in clinical legal education. Professor Mandelbaum began her legal career as a staff attorney at the Child Advocacy Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore, representing children in matters involving child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, custody, visitation, public benefits, special education, and foster care placement. She then went to the Georgetown University Law Center where, with another professor, she created a clinical program addressing the legal needs of families living in poverty. Prior to coming to Rutgers, she was an associate clinical professor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she taught in the Civil Justice Clinic, Hastings' clinical program.

As founding director of the Rutgers Child Advocacy Clinic (CAC), Professor Mandelbaum designed and developed this unique clinical program, which is aimed at comprehensively addressing the needs of low-income children and their families. The CAC provides representation to foster children, undocumented immigrant children, and low income children with disabilities. The CAC also sponsors a statewide community education project (the “Aging Out Project”) aimed at educating older foster youth about their rights and entitlements. Professor Mandelbaum’s scholarship focuses on the legal representation of children, the rights of siblings to maintain their relationships, issues concerning undocumented immigrant children, and child welfare law and law and policy.

## **Lea Mwambene**



Lea Mwambene is a Professor of Law in the Department of Private Law, the Deputy Dean for Teaching and Learning (DD:TL) in the Faculty of Law at University of the Western Cape, South Africa, and founding Member of Centre for Legal Integration in Africa. Her research interests are in the areas of African customary family laws and human rights. As part of advancing knowledge and scholarship, Lea has presented papers at various conferences nationally and internationally. Furthermore, and in recognition of her expertise, she is a member of the Advisory Committee on Matrimonial Property of the South African Law Reform Commission (April 2021). The Committee is tasked with the review of the Matrimonial Property Act of 1984 with the intention of bringing it up to date with recent developments affecting property relations of spouses, intimate partners, and family members. In addition to research responsibilities, she has also been involved at both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and supervision, and have successfully supervised students to completion at both masters and doctorate levels. More importantly, as DD: TL, Lea played a key part in the redesign of the new LLB curriculum (Curriculum 2020) in the UWC’s Law Faculty.

## **Eva-Maria Nag**



Dr. Eva-Maria Nag is the Senior Executive Editor of Global Policy Journal, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, U.K. Eva-Maria received her PhD on Indian political thought from the LSE where she co-founded Global Policy with David Held and Patrick Dunleavy. An expert in comparative political theory, her research interests include theories of democracy and violence in South Asia, ideational implications of multipolarity in the international system, climate governance in the developing world, and critical interpretations of the Anthropocene.

## **Marcia Nordgren ‘87**



Ms. Nordgren received her J.D. from Rutgers Law School Newark in 1987, where she was Managing Editor of the Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal. For the past 25 years, Ms. Nordgren has practiced exclusively in the field of emerging markets finance and development, advising clients with respect to complex cross-border finance transactions in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, India, Latin America, and the Middle East. Ms. Nordgren is also an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Law International Transactions Clinic.



Prior to starting her firm in 2010, Ms. Nordgren was a legal consultant to FINCA International and the first General Counsel of Global Communities. Ms. Nordgren was also in-house counsel at the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the U.S. government's Development Finance Institution. Prior to joining DFC, Ms. Nordgren was in-house counsel at Rolls-Royce North America and a corporate finance attorney in New York. Ms. Nordgren is a graduate of Middlebury College and studied at Dartmouth College and l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. In 1994, Ms. Nordgren joined the United Nations as an International Elections Observer for Mozambique's first democratic elections.

## **Asia Norton '23**



Asia J. Norton, Esq. was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. She clerks for the Honorable Sheila A. Venable, A.J.S.C., in the New Jersey Superior Court, Essex Vicinage. Asia graduated from Rutgers Law - Newark in May 2023 and received the G.A. Moore, Jr. Prize for Employment Discrimination Law. Asia was a graduate fellow for the Eagleton Institute of Politics. She clerked for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("D.E.P."), where she worked on implementing Environmental Justice legislation by researching lawsuits brought by the Attorney General's Office and the D.E.P. to protect overburdened communities. Asia was a Rutgers Housing Justice & Tenant Solidarity Clinic student attorney, where she worked on a Fair Housing lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals (Third Circuit). Asia traveled to South Africa with Rutgers' South African Constitutional Law course and met with Constitutional Court Justices and Human Rights Attorneys. Asia wrote a comparative law paper comparing how South Africa and the U.S. judicial systems interpret their national and state constitutions to determine the resources their governments are obligated to provide in order to fulfill their constitutional obligations for school aged children. Asia also interned at the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice, where she assessed fair housing practices and homeownership amongst marginalized communities in New Jersey.

Before law school, Asia was a Newark Public School teacher. She also served two terms as a Newark Board of Education member and ended her tenure as Board President.

Asia received her Master's from Columbia University Teachers College in Sociology and Education and her Bachelor's from Simmons College, where she majored in Africana Studies.

## **Salvador Brandon Pacay Mendoza**



Salvador Pacay, CPA is Financial Coordinator at Colectivo Vida Digna. He is Maya Tz'utujil, originally from Santiago Atitlan. He completed his postgraduate studies in Tax Consulting from the University of San Carlos of Guatemala and is currently finishing a Master's in Finance at University Rafael Landivar, having graduated in 2019 with Magna Cum Laude honors and a degree in Public Accounting and Auditing from the University Rafael Landivar. Vida Digna works together with communities affected by migration, particularly with unaccompanied indigenous youth and children returning to the Guatemalan countryside. Salvador coordinates financial strategies and guides the use of resources at the nonprofit, especially around initiatives for community economic growth, social remittances, agricultural projects with a conservation and climate justice focus. He also conducts trainings and consultancies with Maya youth and women focusing on Complementary Community and Social Justice



## **Tim Peterson '85**

Tim Peterson is a Partner in the London office of Milbank LLP and a member of the firm's Corporate Finance and Securities Group. Tim's practice is centered on representing corporations, financial institutions and institutional investors in financing, capital markets and corporate transactions. He has particular expertise in international debt and equity securities offerings, leveraged finance, including mezzanine financings, leveraged acquisitions and debt restructurings.

He represents numerous issuers, borrowers and leading financial institutions and institutional investors in high-yield debt financings and leveraged loans and other finance transactions. Tim has worked on numerous Yankee bond offerings, debt private placements and Eurobond issues and as well as both Rule 144A and US Securities and Exchange Commission registered IPOs and other equity offerings.

Tim has also structured one of the first amend and extend leveraged finance transactions; worked on creating one of the templates for senior secured bond transactions in Europe; worked on the largest sterling denominated high yield debt transaction; and structured many of the leading mezzanine finance transactions in Europe.

He has notable experience in mergers and acquisitions and has worked extensively with private equity funds and their portfolio companies in acquisitions and dispositions in Europe and the United States. Tim also worked on numerous debt restructurings.



## **Emily Rathburn '23**

Emily Rathburn is an attorney licensed in the State of New Jersey. She is currently a judicial law clerk for Judge Francis J. Vernoia, J.A.D. in the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court and she has accepted subsequent judicial clerkship positions at the Constitutional Court of South Africa and the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Her experience includes assistance representing asylum seekers in removal proceedings, drafting legislation, and petitioning for relief from wrongful conviction. Ms. Rathburn is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Rutgers International Law and Human Rights Journal.

Ms. Rathburn holds a J.D. with honors and a certificate in immigration law from Rutgers Law School-Newark; a M.A. in political science with a concentration in human rights, international law, and gender equality from Rutgers University; and a B.A. in political science and Russian language and literature, also from Rutgers University.



## Charles Wu '10

Charles is a corporate, M&A, PE, VC, and U.S. regulatory lawyer. Charles has unique, “in the trenches” hands-on practical experience representing top international private equity firms and multinationals in their business activities in the PRC, including controlling and non-controlling investments, due diligence, documentation preparation, divestitures, negotiations, and practical solutions to their most complex PRC regulatory issues. He has developed a deep understanding of PRC business culture and practical implementation of PRC rules and regulations. Charles is also experienced representing PRC clients in a range of activities outside of the PRC, including outbound controlling and non-controlling investments in SE Asia and the U.S., and U.S. compliance matters around investment controls, export controls, sanctions, and relevant political developments.

Charles leverages his diverse background, having been born in Beijing, raised in Mississippi and New Jersey, and practicing in Asia for over 10 years, to earn the trust of clients. His clients, whether based in the PRC, Hong Kong, Asia, or Western jurisdictions, value his ability to understand different standards, mentalities, and legal application from both a PRC and Western perspective, the combination of which leads to unique, practical, and forward-thinking advice.

Charles has been awarded a “Rising Star” status by China Business Law Journal. He writes for China Law & Practice and is frequently quoted by legal publications and newspapers such as Law.com International, the Wall Street Journal, Reuters, and Nikkei. He has lectured on the differences between venture capital legal practice in the PRC and the U.S. to Stanford Law School.



## Little Johnny Rivero

Little Johnny Rivero is a legendary congero, percussionist, producer, song writer and band leader. He has toured the world and recorded music prolifically. You can learn more about Little Johnny Rivero at <https://www.uprisingmusicnyc.com/little-johnny-rivero>

We are honored to have him perform.



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