The 2009 Second Biennial Willard H. Pedrick Speaker Series

Chimpanzee Economics: Evolution, Possession, and the Endowment Effect
Feb. 16
Owen Jones
Professor of Law, Professor of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University Law School

Owen Jones holds a joint appointment at Vanderbilt University as Professor of Law and Professor of Biological Sciences. He is a leading scholar on issues at the intersection of law and behavioral biology, on which he has published more than two dozen articles across both law and science journals. His recent empirical projects have spanned from testing trading behavior in chimpanzees to brain-scanning human subjects as they make legal decisions (such as whether and how much to punish). Professor Jones previously held a joint appointment as Professor of Law and Professor of Biology, and also was Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar at ASU. He serves as Director and former President of the Society for Evolutionary Analysis in Law (SEAL) and in 2007 was appointed Co-Director of a Research Network of the MacArthur Foundation Law and Neuroscience Project.

Intuitive Lawmaking: The Example of Child Support
Feb. 23
Sanford Braver
Professor of Psychology, Arizona State University

Sanford Braver, a member of the ASU Psychology Department for nearly 30 years, teaches and researches in the areas of research methods and statistics. He is attempting to expand the methodological and statistical approaches within the social sciences, particularly in the field of prevention science. His primary research, in connection with Prevention Research Center, explores the dynamics of divorcing families, studying approaches to improve the well-being of family members after divorce. A special emphasis is dealing with the issues facing divorced fathers as they struggle to maintain their parenting roles after divorce. Professor Braver’s book, Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths, reports on his groundbreaking work leading the largest federally supported research project ever conducted on divorced fathers.

Ira Ellman
Professor of Law, Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Ira Ellman was law clerk to Justice William O. Douglas before joining the ASU law faculty, where he is also a member of the Graduate Program Faculty of the Psychology Department. His research interests include family law, health law, and the application of social science findings to legal policy. He was Chief Reporter for the ALI’s Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution, and is an affiliate faculty member of the Center for Child and Youth Policy at Berkeley. His work has been used by public agencies ranging from local family courts to the Canadian Supreme Court and the English Lord Chancellor’s Office. He is currently collaborating with social psychologists Sanford Braver and Robert MacCoun to examine the factors, both substantive and methodological, that influence people’s judgments about appropriate legal rules.
Apologies and Litigation
March 2
Jennifer Robbennolt
Professor of Law and Psychology, Guy Raymond Jones Faculty Scholar,
University of Illinois College of Law


Attribution and Blame Among Trial Judges
March 16
Jeffrey Rachlinski
Professor of Law, Cornell University Law School

Jeffrey Rachlinski has taught at Cornell since 1994, and has also been a visiting professor at the law schools at the University of Chicago, the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, and Harvard University. His primary research interest is the application of cognitive and social psychology to law, but he has also written on aspects of environmental law. He is currently collaborating with Chris Guthrie and Andrew Wistrich on a book for Harvard University Press, The Psychology of Judging.

Do Juries Apply the Law? Yes and No
March 23
Shari Seidman Diamond
Howard J. Trienens Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
Research Professor, American Bar Foundation

Shari Seidman Diamond’s research on legal decisionmaking focuses on understanding how institutions, procedures, and policies can enhance citizen participation, control bias, and guide discretion. She has examined sentencing disparity, lay magistrates (Great Britain), the death penalty, jury selection, scientific evidence, and influence in the jury room (on real juries in Arizona), and her writings have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court. She has served as Editor of the Law and Society Review and has taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Citizens’ Punishment Decisions Are Just Deserts Intuitions.
Does This Have Implications for the Criminal Justice System?
March 30
John Darley
Warren Professor of Psychology, Princeton University

John Darley’s research examines decisions and actions that have moral components or implications, especially decisions to punish. He has also examined how interpersonal power plays out in social interactions, how people try to manage others with incentive systems, and (with law professor Paul Robinson) the relationship between citizens’ moral perceptions and the moral principles reflected in legal codes. Darley is currently director of the Fellowship of the Woodrow Wilson Society, a society of social science scholars interested in mutual exploration of the policy implications of their research.

These seminars are intended for faculty of the Law School and the Psychology Department. Others are also welcome, but due to space limitations, please inquire first by writing to judy.karls@asu.edu.