

Law and Political Economy

10th march 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Jedediah Purdy (Duke), Amy Kapczynski (Yale) & David Singh Grewal (UC Berkeley)

**CYCLE 1 – FOUNDATIONAL
METHODOLOGICAL PREMISES**

I - Elements of the Anthropology
of Knowledge

14th march 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

Katharina Pistor (Columbia)

14th march 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

Frédéric Lebaron (ENS Cachan)

II - Rationality

5th may 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

Ruth Chang (Oxford)

26th may 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

*Shaun Gallagher (University of
Memphis) & Riccardo Viale
(Milan-Bicocca)*

III - Individualism

16th june 2026 - 18:00 (CET)

*Pierre Demeulenaere (Sorbonne
Université)*

Laure Albin-Guillot, *Micrographie Decorative*, Plate XVI, 1931



SEMINAR SERIES



Mandatory reservation
<https://tinyurl.com/LPEseminar>
Online and in-person meeting
Centre Sorbonne, 75005 Paris

*Each session is structured around a key scholarly work, whose author will provide a commentary to inform the discussions that will follow.
Sessions last 1 hour and 30 minutes. English only.*

Organized by Abraham Le Guen & Lilian Gondolo
With the help of the Ecole doctorale de droit de la Sorbonne (Paris 1) & the Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux (EHESS, CNRS, Inserm, Sorbonne Paris Nord)

Law and Political Economy

Abstract

Origin

The present seminar series is grounded in a twofold observation. First, recent years have witnessed a notable resurgence of scholarly inquiry integrating legal and economic perspectives throughout the world, crystallized in what is now commonly referred to as the “Law and Political Economy” movement. Within the past five years, numerous universities worldwide have established dedicated curricula and, in some cases, research centers expressly oriented toward such interdisciplinary engagement. Yale, Harvard, and Berkeley in the United States, as well as Oxford and Rotterdam in Europe, offer prominent examples of this institutional development. This trend is accompanied by a second observation: in France, the renewed interest in these questions has been driven primarily by sociologists – among them researchers affiliated with the Sorbonne and the EHESS – while French legal scholarship has experienced comparatively limited revitalization in this area. It remains largely framed by the perspectives – arguably partial and incomplete – advanced by Professor Supiot in his lectures at the Collège de France.

Objective

The present study seeks to contribute to addressing this gap. It forms part of a three-stage research initiative. First, a seminar series was convened with French scholars in order to establish a state-of-the-art overview of current research within the national landscape. From this initial inquiry emerged a set of questions that structure the second phase of the project. Finally, a conference will be planned for June 2027, bringing together various contributors to the seminar series with the aim of producing a holistic and original examination of the interaction between law and economics.

Desired method of achievement

Following an introductory session presenting the Law and Political Economy (LPE) projects in the United States, the initiative will unfold in three stages. The first stage will examine the foundational methodological premises that allow one to articulate a distinction – and, indeed, an entanglement – between law and economics (Cycle 1). This inquiry will begin with questions grounded in the anthropology of knowledge (Axis 1), before turning to two axioms common to both law and economics: rationality (Axis 2) and individualism (Axis 3). From this initial cycle, it will be necessary to derive the shared foundations of law and economics.

This will, in turn, make possible a second line of inquiry: the nature of normative production within the contemporary market economy (Cycle 2). By first examining the production of legal norms in the so-called “neoliberal” era (Axis 1), we may attempt to determine whether contemporary developments signal a transformation in the forms of normativity identifiable within law and economics (Axis 2), before assessing whether genuinely distinct normative instruments can be said to exist in each domain (Axis 3). A normativity-based analysis will thus help to relativize the boundaries between law and economics, as well as the asymmetric relationship that may arise between them.

This relationship will form the focus of the third stage of the project (Cycle 3). By analyzing structural issues at the intersection of law and economics – namely the struggle against inequality (Axis 1) and competition policy (Axis 2) – we will finally conclude this cycle by examining the axiological charge associated with the importation of economic discourse into legal discourse (Axis 3).

This project necessarily adopts an interdisciplinary and international approach. For this reason, all sessions will be held in English and conducted remotely. Each axis will give rise to a written report documenting the progress of the broader research agenda, in preparation for the concluding conference of this multi-year project.



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