



Advanced Faculty Colloquium - Law in a Changing World
June 17 - 20, 2026 | Nicolaus Copernicus University | Toruń, Poland

Wednesday, June 17th

7:30pm **Welcome Dinner Reception - Hotel Mercure**

Thursday, June 18th

Breakfast at Hotels

8:00am Transport departs from hotels

8:30 - 9:00am **Opening Plenary - Darwin Hall**

Welcoming Remarks

Przemysław Żywicznyński, Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies
(Nicolaus Copernicus University)

Intriducing the Program

David Kennedy, Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law (Harvard Law School)
Marcin Kilanowski, Professor of Law (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

9:00 - 10:30am **Keynote Plenary 1 - *Global Architectures: Hierarchies Reshuffled? Order Unraveled?***

What now for the 'world system' of ordered inequality with which we have long been familiar? Some relations of political, military and economic dependence and inequality remain – where strengthened? Challenged? Multiplied? Lip service to liberalism has given way to unvarnished talk of conquest and regime change. The U.S. president may be the loudest, but the U.S. is hardly the only player in this new game. What do these changes in both language and practice mean for the utility of our terms and theories? Is this a new imperialism or just the latest expression of a very old one? Continuity with past modes of hierarchy or rupture with the past? Does the present moment fit within our analyses of colonial, postcolonial, or neocolonial orders?

Panelists: Dennis Davis (High Court of Cape Town), Vidya Kumar(SOAS, University of London) & Zinaida Miller (Northeastern University School of Law)

10:30 - 11:00am **Break - Institute for Advanced Studies - Main Hall**

11:00am - 12:00pm **Breakout Session 1 - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16**

Breakout 1A Conversation Starters: Horatia Muir Watt (Sciences Po Law School) & Lucie White (Harvard Law School)

Breakout 1B Conversation Starters: Yulia Ioffe (University College London) & Tor Krevier (University of Cambridge)

12:00 - 1:00pm **Lunch - University Restaurant**

1:15 - 1:30pm	<p>Welcoming Remarks from NCU - Darwin Hall Adam Kola, Vice-Rector for Research (Nicolaus Copernicus University) Agnieszka Szpak, Head of Centre of Global & Multi-level Governance (Nicolaus Copernicus University) Bartłomiej Michalak, Dean of the Faculty of Political and Security Studies (Nicolaus Copernicus University)</p>
1:30 - 3:00pm	<p>Plenary 2 - <i>The Political Economy of "Development" Today</i> - Darwin Hall</p> <p>The ubiquity of 'industrial policy' and nationalist economic management have shifted the relationship between global and national legal regimes – but how exactly? What of the developed/underdeveloped distinction or development as a vocabulary of policy today? Through the lens of "political economy," what now of "law and development"? What purchase for the critical tools of distributional analysis and ideology critique in analyzing law's significance in national and global patterns of resource allocation and economic transformation?</p> <p>Panelists: Jorge Esquirol (Florida International University), Jason Jackson (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) & Joanna Modrzyńska (Nicolaus Copernicus University)</p>
3:00 - 3:30pm	<p>Break - Main Hall</p>
3:30 - 4:30pm	<p>Breakout Session 2 - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16</p> <p>Breakout 2A Conversation Starters: Dennis Davis (High Court of Cape Town) & Dina Waked (Sciences Po Law School) Breakout 2B Conversation Starters: Love Rönnelid (Stockholm University) & Leo Specht (Specht & Partner)</p>
5:00 – 6:00pm	<p>Public Event: Keynote Lecture – <i>Subjects of Change: Technology, Law and Culture</i> Darwin Hall Sheila Jasanoff, Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies (Harvard Kennedy School of Government)</p> <p>Remarks Magdalena Barwiołek, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation (Nicolaus Copernicus University)</p>
6:00 - 7:30pm	<p>Free Time</p>
7:30pm	<p>Group Dinner - Spichrz Restaurant</p>

Friday, June 19th

Breakfast at Hotels

8:30am Transport departs from hotels

9:00 - 10:30am **Plenary 3 - Law (like Politics) Between Knowledge and Power - Darwin Hall**

The complex dance of law and politics is familiar: distinct, allied, opposed, related, entangled. It takes material and ideational work – institutions and ideologies – to manage their relationship. Although it is easy to think of law as ideas and politics as power, law as norms and politics as real, both are stretched between knowledge and power, the ideational and the material. That may be what it means to think of both as ‘performative’ modes of expertise or professional practice. That said, it is difficult to hold this thought while reflecting on issues like the role of law in war, the potential for international law in geopolitics. Indeed, both ideology critique and distributive analysis seem to lapse if law recedes before power. How can we improve our skill in addressing such issues with our “knowledge/power” framework front and center?

Panelists: Michał Balcerzak (Nicolaus Copernicus University), Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard Kennedy School of Government), David Kennedy Harvard Law School)

10:30 - 11:00am **Break - Main Hall**

11:00am - 12:00pm **Breakout Session3 - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16**

Breakout 3A Conversation Starters: Roberto Foa (University of Cambridge) & Vasuki Nesiah (New York University)

Breakout 3B Conversation Starters: Andrea Leiter (University of Amsterdam) & Mikołaj Szafranski (Independent Researcher)

12:00 - 1:00pm **Lunch - University Restaurant**

1:00 – 2:30pm **Writing Workshops 1 - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16**

Group 1 Chair: Vidya Kumar (SOAS, University of London)

Group 2 Chair: Dina Waked (Sciences Po Law School)

2:30 – 3:00pm **Break - Main Hall**

3:00 – 4:30pm **Writing Workshops 2 - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16**

Group 1 Chair: Vidya Kumar (SOAS, University of London)

Group 2 Chair: Dina Waked (Sciences Po Law School)

4:45pm **Visit to the House of Nicolaus Copernicus**

7:30pm **Group Dinner - Jan Olbracht Restaurant**

Saturday, June 20th

Breakfast at Hotels

8:30am Transport departs from hotels

9:00 – 10:30am **Plenary 4 - Navigating Post-Soviet Spaces in Today's World Systems** - Darwin Hall

Post-soviet spaces are scattered between European, Russian and Asian realities. Russia's long relations with Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and more have been shaken. How might we better imagine and understand center/periphery dynamics today among these spaces. What of law's role in constituting, regulating, shaping them? European law, local law, trade law, international law – how have dependence and independence, whether economic, political or social, been facilitated? What now of Ukraine along the fault line of worlds? Might we link these different 'semi-peripheries' together? In what sense are these legal and economic relations "colonial?"

Panelists: Scott Newton (SOAS, University of London), Leo Specht (Specht & Partner) & Svitlana Starosvit (American Society of International Law)

10:30 – 11:00am **Break** - Main Hall

11:00am – 12:00pm **Breakout Session 4** - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16

Breakout 4A Conversation Starters: Nicole Stybnarova (University of Oxford) & Pål Wrangé (Stockholm University)

Breakout 4B Conversation Starters: Marcin Kilanowski (Nicolaus Copernicus University) & Jorge Esquirol (Florida International University)

12:00 – 1:00pm **Lunch** - Main Hall

1:00 – 2:30pm **Plenary 5: After Identity in an Authoritarian World** - Darwin Hall

How analytically useful are race, gender, class, ethnicity and nation today for understanding global patterns of economic, social or political life. In critical work, critiques of 'identity' often focus on structural relations of domination as well as the unequal distribution of resources and power marked by these identity categories. Authoritarianism and authoritarian leaders routinely reframe the 'demos' in civilizational terms: the state represents not the people who happen to constitute it, but a larger (and narrower) civilizational identity. What is their political economy? Is 'liberalism' the only, the best, response to today's authoritarianism?

Panelists: Helena Alviar (Sciences Po Law School), Karen Engle (University of Texas at Austin) & Ratna Kapur (Queen Mary University of London)

2:30 – 3:00pm **Break** - Main Hall

3:00 – 4:00pm **Breakout Session 5** - Room B1.9 and Room A3.16

Breakout 5A Conversation Starters: Libby Adler (Northeastern University School of Law) & Lucie White (Harvard Law School)

Breakout 5B Conversation Starters: Günter Frankenberg (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main) & Vasuki Nesiah (New York University)

4:00 – 4:30pm

Closing Plenary - Darwin Hall

Zinaida Miller (Northeastern University School of Law)
David Kennedy (Harvard Law School)

5:00 – 6:30pm

Public Event: Panel Discussion – Law, Power and Politics in a Rapidly Shifting Global Architecture - Collegium Maximum

Panelists: Günter Frankenberg, Professor Emeritus (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main)
David Kennedy, Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law (Harvard Law School)
Marcin Kilanowski, Professor of Law (Nicolaus Copernicus University)
Vasuki Nesiah, Professor of Practice (New York University)
Moderator: Michał Balcerzak Associate Professor of Law (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

Closing Remarks

Magdalena Barwiołek, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation (Nicolaus Copernicus University)
Joanna Piechowiak, Deputy Head of Centre of Global & Multi-level Governance (Nicolaus Copernicus University)
Marcin Kilanowski, Professor of Law (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

6:30 – 8:00pm

Free Time/Excursion “Torun Old Town”

8:00pm

Closing Group Dinner - Bulwar Restaurant



**NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ**

