Law & Interdisciplinarity: Law & Society and the Future of “Law in Context”

BY PROFESSOR EVE DARIAN-SMITH

DATE Wednesday, 8 July 2015
TIME 1.30 PM - 2.15 PM
LOCATION Nash Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, King’s Building, Strand Campus

ABOUT THE LECTURE

The lecture will reflect upon the increasing complexities involved in locating and articulating the contexts in which legalities operate. Drawing upon a global sociolegal perspective (as outlined in my book Laws and Societies in Global Contexts), I argue that a pressing challenge for scholars today is to adequately take into account the globalized dimensions of legal practices in which social relations are nested, nurtured, negotiated and negated. These dimensions underscore the historical and spatial limitations of mainstream legal analysis, and the need to rethink concepts such as sovereignty, justice, rights and citizenship in light of global inequalities and enduring forms of imperial and colonial violence.

ABOUT THE LECTURER

Professor Eve Darian-Smith is a Professor and Chair in Global Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and an Adjunct Professor at RegNet, Australian National University. Professor Darian-Smith was trained as a lawyer, historian and anthropologist. Her research focuses on postcolonialism, legal pluralism, and sociolegal theory and has been supported by five National Science Foundation grants. She has published widely, including four books and six edited volumes. Her first book Bridging Divides: The Channel Tunnel and English Legal Identity in the New Europe (2009) won the USA Law & Society Association Herbert Jacob Book Prize. Other books include Laws of the Postcolonial (with Peter Fitzpatrick, 2009); New Capitalists: Law, Politics and Identity Surrounding Casino Gaming on Native American Land (2004); Religion, Race, Rights: Landmarks in the History of Modern Anglo-American Law (2010), and most recently Laws and Societies in Global Contexts: Contemporary Approaches (2013). Her new book project is titled New Indian Wars: Indigenous Sovereignty in Global Perspective. She co-edits a book series titled “Global and Insurgent Legalities”, and is on various editorial boards including the Canadian Journal of Law and Society, Social & Legal Studies, and Contemporary Social Science (Journal of the UK Academy of Social Sciences). She is also a former Associate Editor of American Ethnologist and the Law & Society Review.