

Can Law Be Emancipatory? 20 Years Later

BY PROFESSOR BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS

DATE Monday, 29 June 2015

TIME 11.45 AM - 12.45 PM

LOCATION Nash Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, King's Building, Strand Campus

ABOUT THE LECTURE Professor Santos will engage last chapter of his book *Toward a New Legal Common Sense* (1995, 2002)--“Can Law be Emancipatory?”--, which proposed a normative theory for the articulation between law and progressive, transformative social action. To counter the use of modern state law by dominant social groups to secure their social, political, and economic power, Professor Santos called for a political mobilization of the law through a counter-hegemonic use of the law, a “subaltern legal cosmopolitanism”. Now, after observing the social and political processes across the globe over the past fifteen years through an active participation in the World Social Forum, the time has come to revisit the idea, the possibilities, as well as the limits of a counter-hegemonic use of law.

On the one hand, many new forms and conditions of political mobilization that emerge as social movements across the global south have started to use the legal systems to advance their causes and to change the very state structures through which law was deployed. On the other hand, the hope for law's facilitation of real social transformation and more social justice through such involvement have often been disappointed, leading to deep frustration and political backlash. As a result, the prospects for law's emancipatory potential today appear dim, which is

why we need to investigate incremental, progressive and social transformation through law even more urgently.

ABOUT THE LECTURER Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos is a Professor of Sociology, University of Coimbra (Portugal), and Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Professor Santos earned an LL.M and J.S.D. from Yale University and holds the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, by McGill University. He is director of the Center for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra and has written and published widely on the issues of globalization, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, social movements and the World Social Forum. He has been awarded several prizes, most recently the Science and Technology Prize of Mexico, 2010, and the Kalven Jr. Prize of the Law and Society Association, 2011. His most recent project, ALICE: Leading Europe to a New Way of Sharing the World Experiences, is funded by an Advanced Grant of the European Research Council.

Professor Santos has published widely on globalization, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, democracy, and human rights in Portuguese, Spanish, English, Italian, French, German, and Chinese. Recent books in English include: *If God Were a Human Rights Activist* (Stanford University Press 2015), *Epistemologies of the South. Justice against Epistemicide* (Paradigm 2014), *The Rise of the Global Left. The World Social Forum and Beyond* (Zed Books 2006), and *Toward a New Legal Common Sense. Law, globalization, and emancipation* (Butterworths 2002).

OTHER LECTURES IN THE TLSI DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Justice Deferred: Transnational Lawyering and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 30 Years On

LECTURER Professor Emeritus Upendra Baxi

DATE Monday, 6 July 2015

TIME 5.00 PM - 7.00 PM

LOCATION Nash Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, King's Building, Strand Campus

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

LECTURER 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

INAUGURAL KEYNOTE, TRANSNATIONAL LAW SUMMER INSTITUTE 2015

Transnational Law as Sociocultural Process

LECTURER Professor Sally Merry

DATE Sunday, 28 June 2015

TIME 3.30 PM - 5.00 PM

LOCATION Nash Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, King's Building, Strand Campus

TLI DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN TRANSNATIONAL LABOUR LAW

Labour Law and Transnational Law: The Fate of Legal Fields & the Trajectory of Legal Scholarship

LECTURER Professor Emeritus Harry W. Arthurs

DATE Tuesday, 30 June 2015

TIME 10.00 AM - 11.00 AM

LOCATION Nash Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, King's Building, Strand Campus



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