LAW AND POLITICS (465) • Founded: 1963

Laws come and go, constantly shifting their meaning and significance to reflect the beliefs and traditions of the societies in which they are embedded, yet the law remains indispensable to the harmonious functioning of human relationships. Established at Columbia in 1963, the Law and Politics seminar focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, examining topics that remain relevant for our understanding of the law in the twenty-first century.

CHAIR/S: **Simon Baatz** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Hedwig Lieback**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 16	*Dred Scott's Daughter: Birthright Citizenship and the Meaning of 'American'* **Amanda Frost**, University of Virginia Law School
October 7	*Between Fact and Fiction: Evidence, Proof and Reasoning in Colonial Criminal Detection* **Uponita Mukjerhee**, Department of History, Fordham University
October 16	*Academic Freedom in the American University: From Professional Norm to Constitutional Right* **David Rabban**, University of Texas Law School
November 19	*Extrajudicial Violence and the Judicial Process in Mexico* **Pablo Piccato**, Department of History, Columbia University
February 10	*War in the Pacific: China and the Invasion of Taiwan* **Rorry Daniels**, Asia Society Policy Institute
March 3	*Donald Trump and the Return of the Spoils System* **Kate Shaw**, Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania
March 24	*Art Under the Nazi Regime: Legal and Ethical Dimensions of the Restitution of Stolen Art* **Nicholas O'Donnell**, Sullivan & Worcester LLP
April 14	*The New Conspiracism and the Destruction of Democracy* **Russell Muirhead**, Dartmouth College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Simon Baatz**, sbaatz@jjay.cuny.edu