

**CHRISTOPHER N. J. ROBERTS, JD, PhD**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

450 Walter Mondale Hall  
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Minneapolis, MN 55455  
(612) 624-2947; cnr@umn.edu

**EMPLOYMENT**

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University of Minnesota (2011 – Present)  
Associate Professor of Law, with Tenure

Affiliated Faculty, Department of Sociology  
(May 2012 – Present)

**EDUCATION**

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Ph.D., 2010  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Joint Doctoral Program in Sociology & Public Policy  
(Recipient of the Univ. of Michigan Distinguished Dissertation Award)

J.D., 2000  
University of Southern California Law School

B.A., Anthropology, 1997  
University of California, Los Angeles

**PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES IN PROGRESS**

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- 2019 “What’s Left of a Bright Future?” *Minnesota Journal of International Law*, Vol. 28(2).
- 2019 “The Struggle for an American Way,” in *Menschenrechte und ihre Kritiker. Ideologien, Argumente, Wirkungen*, Dieter Gosewinkel, Annette Weinke, eds., (Göttingen: Wallstein).
- 2018 “Commentary on William H. Fitzpatrick's Editorials on Human Rights (1949),” published online in, *Human Rights Commentaries*, Fritz Thyssen Institute.

- 2017 “Human Rights Lost: The (Re)making of an American Story,” *Minnesota Journal of International Law*, Vol. 26.
- 2017 “Developments in Monitoring and Measuring Human Rights Violations,” *American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section Newsletter*, Spring Issue.
- 2016 “Grasping at Origins: Shifting the Conversation in the Historical Study of Human Rights,” *Chicago Journal of International Law*, Vol. 17(2).
- 2016 “Human Rights & Sociological Duties,” *Sociological Forum*, Vol.32.
- 2015 *The Contentious History of the International Bill of Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press.

***Recipient of the American Sociological Association’s 2015 Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Section Book Award.***

- 2015 “Standing Our Legal Ground: Reclaiming The Duties Within Second Amendment Rights Cases,” *Arizona State Law Journal*, Vol. 47, 235-68.
- 2015 “The Status of Law in World Society,” invited book review, in *Perspectives on Politics*.
- 2013 “Convergence, Reaction, and Translation: Human Rights in History,” *Harvard International Law Journal Symposium*, Vol. 54(1) [text available at opiniojuris.org].
- 2013 “The Sociology of Law,” in *The Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*, edited by David L. Brunnsma, Keri E. Iyall Smith, and Brian K. Gran. Paradigm Publishers.

***Reprinted in Institutions Unbound: Social Worlds and Human Rights (2016), Edited by David L. Brunnsma, Keri E. Iyall Smith, Brian K. Gran. Routledge.***

- 2012 “The Dynamics of Health Care Reform: Bitter Pills Old and New,” 45 *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law* 1341 (Nov. 2012).
- 2008 “Toward a New Sociology of Rights: A Genealogy of ‘Buried Bodies’ of Citizenship and Human Rights.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 4:385–425 (with Margaret R. Somers).

***Reprinted in Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action (2016), Edited by Burns H. Weston & Anna Grear. University of Pennsylvania Press.***

*Draft* *Lost Duties: The Historical Origins of an Absence (Book Project, in progress).*

*Draft* “Human Rights Predecessors in Colonial Law,” *In preparation.*

*Draft* “The Fight to Name the ‘We’ in ‘We the People,’” *In preparation.*

*Draft* “The United States, Socioeconomic Rights, and Human Rights Formation,” *In preparation.*

## **PANELS, LECTURES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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2020 “A Preface to Rights,” *Invited Speaker, Public Law Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School (2/2020).*

2020 “Envisioning the Future of Human Rights,” *Invited Panelist, Arizona State University, Human Rights Visioning Event (2/2020).*

2019 “What’s Left of Our rights?” *Invited speaker, Freeman Center series on Global Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minn. (10/2019).*

2019 “Before Rights,” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY (8/2019).*

2019 “What Comes Before Rights?” *Panel Presentation, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (5/2019).*

2019 “Historical Methods in an Unprecedented Historical Moment?” *Invited Speaker, University of Michigan Department of Sociology, Symposium (5/2019).*

2019 “Teaching Politically Charged Topics,” *Invited Speaker, Teaching Workshop, Univ. of Minn. Law School.*

2018 “Human Rights: Past, Present & Future,” *Invited Speaker, Humphrey Fellows Seminar, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minnesota (11/2018).*

2018 “Let’s Look to the Left of Our Rights,” *Guest Lecturer, International Human Rights, Univ. of Minnesota Law School (9/2018).*

2018 “A Paradigm Shift for Rights,” *Panel Presentation, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada (5/2018).*

2018 “The Second Amendment in a New Context,” *Invited Speaker, 8<sup>th</sup> session of Thomson Reuters Civic Engagement CLE Seminar (5/2018).*

- 2018 “Rights Conflicts & Second Amendment,” *Invited Speaker, Town Hall on Gun Violence, Univ. of Minn.* (4/2018).
- 2018 “Before Rights,” *Invited Speaker, Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Wisconsin Law School* (3/2018).
- 2018 “Human Rights: Past, Present & Future,” *Invited Speaker, Humphrey Fellows Seminar, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minnesota* (2/2018).
- 2018 “Human Rights Lost,” *Invited Speaker, International Law Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School* (1/2018).
- 2017 “Legislative Committee,” *Invited Facilitator and Speaker, Civil Rights Summit, Univ. of Minnesota Law School* (11/2017).
- 2017 “What are Facts?: Thoughts on Orwell’s 2017,” *Invited Speaker, Ferguson Conference: A Case Study in Persuasion, Univ. of Minnesota Law School* (10/2017).
- 2017 “Rights without Duties?: The Sociological Origins of an Absence,” *Invited Panel Presentation, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada* (8/2017).
- 2017 Section Panel: “Human Rights and Law from Above and Below: Comparative Perspectives,” *Invited panel discussant, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada* (8/2017).
- 2017 “Rights and the Fight to Name the ‘We’ in ‘We the People,’” *Univ. of Minnesota, Human Rights Workshop* (3/2017).
- 2016 “Human Rights Lost: The (Re)making of an American Story,” *Univ. of Connecticut Law School, Faculty Workshop* (11/2016).
- 2016 “International Human Rights Treaties: Drafting and Creation,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Human Rights Course* (9/2016).
- 2016 “Lost Duties: The Historical Origins of an Absence,” *Univ. of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Studies Fellows Seminar* (10/2016).
- 2016 “Rights without Duties?: The Historical Origins of an Absence,” *Invited Panelist, Univ. of Michigan Human Rights Workshop* (10/2016).
- 2016 “International Human Rights Treaties: Drafting and Creation,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Human Rights Course* (9/2016).

- 2016 "The United States and Human Rights: The Historical Roots of a Contemporary Absence," *Paper presentation, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA* (8/2016).
- 2016 "Lost Duties: Searching for the Other Half of Our Rights," *Univ. of Minnesota, Faculty Squaetable* (8/2016).
- 2016 "Bitter Enemies & Foundational Ideas: The Development of the Modern Human Rights Concept," *Featured Speaker, Fritz Thyssen Institute, Cologne, Germany* (6/2016).
- 2016 "Human Rights, Origins, and Historical Studies," *Invited Talk, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, Germany* (6/2016).
- 2016 "The Contentious History of the International Bill of Human Rights," *Subject of Author Meets Reader Panel Session, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA* (5/2016).
- 2016 "Grasping at Origins: Shifting the Conversation in the Historical Study of Human Rights," *Paper presentation, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA* (5/2016).
- 2016 "The Other Half of Rights," *Univ. of Minnesota, Human Rights Workshop* (4/2016).
- 2016 "Teaching Difficult and Sensitive Topics," *Invited Speaker, UMN Law School, Teaching Workshop* (3/2016).
- 2015 "Human Rights Lost: The (Re)making of an American Story," *Faculty Works in Progress Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School*.
- 2015 "Human Rights Lost: The (Re)making of an American Story," *Legal History Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School*.
- 2015 "The Social History of International Law," *Invited Speaker, Humphrey Fellowship Program Seminar, Univ. of Minnesota Law School*.
- 2015 "International Human Rights and their Opponents," *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Human Rights Course*.
- 2015 "The Contentious History of the International Bill of Human Rights," *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Human Rights Faculty Salon*.
- 2015 "Grasping at Origins: Shifting the Conversation in the Historical Study of Human Rights," *Squaetable Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School*.

- 2015 “Overcoming our Predetermined Past,” *Panel Presentation, Revisiting Remaking Modernity Workshop, Northwestern University.*
- 2015 “Rights and Human Rights Perspectives and Institutions,” *Panel Presentation Discussant, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.*
- 2015 “Human Rights in History,” *Paper presentation, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.*
- 2014 “Human Rights in History: Letting the Bad Men and Women Have Their Say,” *Invited speaker, Freeman Center series on Global Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minn.*
- 2014 “International Human Rights,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Human Rights Course.*
- 2014 “History, Human Rights, and Global Institutions: Establishing an Analytic Framework for Empirical Study,” *Paper presented at the American Society of International Law, Midwest Workshop.*
- 2014 *Invited Discussant, Author Meets Readers Roundtable, for Capitalism v. Democracy, by Timothy Kuhner, at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.*
- 2014 “Human Rights Predecessors in Colonial Law: From Duties to Rights,” *Paper presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.*
- 2014 “The Influence of a Global Political Institution that Never Was: Establishing an Analytic Framework,” *Panel Presentation, Regional Colloquium on Globalization of Law, International Organizations and International Law.*
- 2013 “International Human Rights Opponents,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Human Rights Course.*
- 2013 “Moral Principles, Rights, and Colonial Agreements,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, Faculty Affiliates Luncheon.*
- 2013 “Building Sovereign Walls,” *Invited Panel Speaker, International Law Weekend, American Branch of the International Law Association, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute at Washington University School of Law.*
- 2013 “Human Rights and Social Struggle,” *Invited Speaker, Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Dept. of Sociology.*
- 2012 “Modern International Human Rights: Recovering a Concept / Uncovering a Buried History,” *Invited Speaker, Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Illinois College of Law.*

- 2012 “The Dynamics of Healthcare Reform,” *Invited Speaker, Faculty Seminar, Univ. of Arizona Law School.*
- 2012 “The History of Human Rights Formation (or How to Study a Concept that Does Not Yet Exist),” *Invited Panelist, Conference on Rights and Their Translation, Univ. of Arizona Law School.*
- 2012 “International Human Rights Lecture,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, LLM Program.*
- 2012 Subject of author-meets-critics roundtable, for “The Sociology of Law,” in *The Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights, at the American Sociological Association Meeting, Denver, CO.*
- 2012 Panel on “The Politics of Global Human Rights,” *Session Discussant, Presider, and Organizer at the American Sociological Association Meeting, Denver, CO.*
- 2012 “Socioeconomic Rights and Global Politics” *Paper Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting, Denver, CO.*
- 2012 History on Repeat: Human Rights Creation and the Opposition to National Healthcare,” *Paper presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii.*
- 2012 Panel on “Thinking about Law & Norms,” *Chair/Discussant at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii.*
- 2012 Panel on “Genocide and Transitional Justice,” *Chair/Discussant at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii.*
- 2012 “Panel on Sanction, Criminal Law, and Gendered Accountability,” *Session Chair at the Conference on Gendering Conflict and Post-Conflict Terrains, Univ. of Minnesota.*
- 2012 Subject of video interview on Human Rights, *Institute for Advanced Study, Univ. of Minnesota.*
- 2011 “An Empirical Approach to Studying Rights: Reuniting Rights and Duties,” *Paper presented at the Twin Cities Law & Society/Empirical Legal Studies Conference.*
- 2011 “Saving Empire: The Attempt to Create (non)-Universal Human Rights,” *Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.*
- 2011 “Sociology of Law Paper Session. Legalization and the Global Economy,” *Discussant- American Sociological Association Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.*

- 2011 “International Human Rights Lecture,” *Invited Speaker, Univ. of Minnesota Law School, LLM Program.*
- 2011 “Faculty Workshop,” *Invited Participant, Duke Univ. School of Law.*
- 2010 “International Human Rights,” *Invited Guest Speaker, Undergraduate Course – Introduction to Public Policy, Brown University, Providence, RI.*
- 2010 “Healthcare Reform and Rights,” *Invited Guest Speaker, Masters Course – Ethics & Public Policy, Brown University, Providence, RI.*
- 2010 “Unequivocal Ambivalence: Opposition and the Hope of (non)Universal Human Rights,” *Paper presented at the Center for the Study of Law & Society, Boalt Hall, Berkeley, CA.*
- 2009 “Unequivocal Ambivalence: Opposition and the Hope of (non)Universal Human Rights,” *Paper presented at the University of Michigan, Sociology Department Colloquium Series.*
- 2009 “Exploring Fractures within Human Rights: An Empirical Study of Resistance,” *Paper presented at the Center for the Study of Law & Society, Boalt Hall, Berkeley, CA.*
- 2008 “Lineages of Human Rights Opposition: Uncovering a Forgotten History.” *Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting, Boston, MA.*
- 2008 First Annual Gramlich Showcase, School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, *Invited poster presentation.*
- 2007 Graduate Student Workshop, Dept. of Sociology, University of Michigan, *Invited Discussant.*
- 2007 “Exploring Fractures within Human Rights: A Study of Empirical Resistance,” *Paper presented at the American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*
- 2007 “From Citizenship to Human Rights: A Theoretical Framework,” *Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting, New York, NY.*
- 2007 “The Missing Sociology of Rights,” *Paper presented at the Law and Society Summer Institute, Amherst, MA.*
- 2006 “Rights and Foundationalism: Toward a Sociology of Rights.” *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Baltimore, MD.*



- 2005 “Assembling Legitimacy: Perceptions and Realities of the United Nations during the Suez Crisis.” *Paper presented at the Meeting of the Society for Comparative Research, Budapest, Hungary.*

## **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS**

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- 2016-17 Vance Opperman Research Scholar, *Law School*  
2016 Institute for Advanced Study Faculty Fellowship (Fall 2016)  
2015 Recipient of the American Sociological Association’s 2015 Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Section Book Award  
2015-16 Joseph & Edith Wargo Research Scholar, *Law School*  
2014-15 The John K. and Elsie Lampert Fesler Fellowship in Law, *Law School*  
2011 Univ. of Michigan ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award  
2008-10 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Law & Society, *UC Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall*  
2002-08 Rackham Merit Fellowship for Underrepresented Groups, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2008 Doctoral Research Grant, Nonprofit & Public Management Center, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2007 Shapiro/Malik Award, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2007 Invited Participant, *Law and Society Summer Institute, Amherst, MA.*  
2007 Rackham Debt Management Award, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2006 Department of Sociology Block Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2006 Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Travel Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2005 Invited Participant, *Society for Comparative Research, Budapest, Hungary*  
2005 Rackham Graduate School Research Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2005 Rackham International Travel Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2005 Department of Sociology Block Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2005 Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Conference Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2005-07 Office of the Vice President for Research- Research Grant (with Professor Margaret Somers), *Univ. of Michigan*  
2004 Department of Sociology Block Grant, *Univ. of Michigan*  
2002-03 Department of Sociology, One-Year Fellowship, *Univ. of Michigan*  
1997-00 Joseph M. Shaw Memorial Scholarship, *Univ. of Southern California Law School*

## **COURSES**

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Torts (4 units); Civil Rights: Citizenship & Human Rights (3 units); Administrative Law (3 Units); Advanced Administrative Law (3 Units)

## **AREAS OF RESEARCH, TEACHING INTERESTS & METHODS**

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Human Rights, International Law, Citizenship, Social Policy, Torts, Administrative Law, Social Theory, Legal History, Law & Society, Civil Rights, Qualitative Research Methods, Sociology of Concept Formation, Jurisprudence

## **SERVICE, COMMITTEES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

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2020 Chair Elect, American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section  
2019-20 Clinical Continuous Appointments Committee  
2015-19 Parliamentarian, *University & Faculty Senate, University of Minnesota*  
2014-20 Faculty Works in Progress Committee, *Law School*  
2018-19 Chair, Human Rights Section, Book Award Committee, *Am. Sociological Assoc.*  
2017-19 Chair, Human Rights Concentration, *Law School*  
2018-19 Chair, Employment Committee, *Law School*  
2017-18 Technology Committee, *Law School*  
2017 Hiring Committee, Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, *Law School*  
2017 Hiring Committee, Detainee Rights Clinic, *Law School*  
2017 Best Article Committee, Human Rights Section, *American Soc. Assoc.*  
2015-16 Hiring Committee, Human Rights Center, *Law School*  
2015 Clerk of the Faculty, *Law School*  
2015-17 Editorial Board, *Law & Social Inquiry*  
2014-16 Editorial Board, *Law & Society Review*  
2014-16 Law & Society Assoc. Local Organizing Committee  
2012-16 Interdisciplinary and Joint Degree Committee, *Law School*  
2012-13 Faculty Search Committee, *Dept. of Sociology (Outside Member)*  
2011-12 Admissions Committee, *Law School*  
2011-12 Clerk of the Faculty, *Law School*

## **PEER REVIEWER**

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*Law & Social Inquiry; Law & Society Review; Routledge; Cambridge University Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; American Academy in Berlin; Perspectives on Politics; Center for Engaged Scholarship; Journal of the History of International Law; Edward Elgar Publishing.*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Society of International Law  
American Sociological Association  
American Political Science Association  
Law & Society Association  
Advisory Board, *University of Minnesota Human Rights Center*