



Call for Papers: Law, Culture, and Humanities 29th Annual Conference, University of California, Berkeley, May 27-28, 2027

Discipline

As both noun and a verb, “discipline” is one of many provocative cognates across law and humanistic fields of study. The word simultaneously suggests punishment, intellectual tradition, ritual, practice, refinement, and improvement. Each of these meanings of “discipline,” while varying widely in their applications, maintains a shared command of subordination: subordination of knowledge traditions to their larger structures; subordination of the criminal to the state; subordination of the individual to a higher purpose.

Is discipline, then, a problem, or a solution (or something else altogether)? Is discipline too mired in logics of authority and punishment to be redeemed? Is it a useful point of friction that can be leveraged, innovated, and adapted to expand both legal and humanistic frameworks? What does it mean to produce knowledge from within structures that use discipline as their organizing logic, and who or what is erased, illegible, or silent as a result? What logics and structures of discipline underwrite specific areas of law and legal history, whether in criminal or civil law? How is law in the process of defining or redefining punishment and carcerality? How do works of art and literature take up these questions or theorize discipline themselves?

By treating discipline as a starting point for inquiry, this conference invites submissions that explore discipline from any angle. In addition to the concepts and questions outlined above, papers and panelists might consider how scholars in recent years have applied pressure to the concepts of discipline and disciplinarity. On one hand, scholars are tasked with developing projects that are “interdisciplinary,” a feature thought to produce innovation, but one that often poses challenges of institutional legibility and support. How does disciplinarity promote or inhibit the future of the humanities, particularly in relation to law and legal studies? What are the future possibilities for interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinarity, and antidisciplinarity? As a community of scholars and practitioners

working across and between disciplines, LCH is uniquely poised to think about these problems and potentials of discipline.

Submission Guidelines

We encourage the submission of fully constituted panels, as well as panels that reimagine or experiment with models for academic presentation, including for example roundtables, “author meets reader” sessions (which may include multiple books and their authors in conversation), works-in-progress sessions, workshop-format sessions that engage participants in shared thinking or other productive co-creation, multi-panel streams, etc. Panels should include at least three, ideally four, papers/presenters. Please specify a title and designate a chair for all panel proposals (the panel chair may also be a panel presenter). It is not necessary to write an abstract or proposal for the panel itself. However, all individual proposals should include a title and abstract of no more than 250 words.

For pre-constituted panels, roundtables, or streams, all participants must complete an individual submission on the registration site. Please ensure that each individual participant includes the name of the panel and the chair in their individual submission. We also ask that registrants identify two to three keywords to help us align sessions with each other.

Mode

The twenty-ninth annual conference will emphasize the LCH tradition of in-person conversation. While we encourage participants to join us in Berkeley, we recognize that in-person attendance may be prohibitive for some. To that end, we will also accept the submission of virtual panels and papers.

We will not be providing technical support for virtual participants; panel chairs will be responsible for providing Zoom links that will be listed in the program. All plenary sessions will be available streaming online as well as in person.

How to Submit?

Submissions may be made through the following website link:

[Click here to submit a proposal.](#)

[Click here to view the official conference website.](#)

Creating a Panel: Our Program Archive and Program Coordinators

While participants may submit individual paper proposals that the Program Committee will later combine into full panels, we strongly encourage applicants to create full panels prior to submission. Pre-formed panels may cohere better, and allow collaborators to craft focused scholarly exchanges. Panels comprising a diversity of institutions, academic ranks, disciplines, and identities are often the most rewarding.

If you would like support in finding others who might be interested in forming a panel, have a look at our archive of past conference programs, which can be found [here](#). Our recent programs may contain the names of scholars working in fields related to your research. Reaching out to scholars who have previously presented at LCH about creating a panel can be a good place to start. For additional assistance, please feel free to contact our Program Coordinators, Aditya Banerjee (adityabanerjee@g.harvard.edu) and Jack Quirk (john_quirk@brown.edu) with “LCH panel” in the subject line. The Program Coordinators will act as intermediaries, and may be able to put you in contact with others working on related topics. Please contact them well before the submission deadline, to allow time for follow-up.

We especially encourage graduate students and those new to LCH to consider reaching out to the Program Coordinators if they’re struggling to identify potential co-panelists.

Submission Deadline

- Submission Deadline: **January 31, 2027**
- Dates of Conference: **May 27-28, 2027**

Contact Information: Please email lch@lawculturehumanities.com with any queries.

Law, Culture, and Humanities Graduate Student Workshop University of California, Berkeley, May 26, 2027

The annual Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Graduate Student Workshop will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2027** (the day before the annual meeting begins).

The workshop is designed for graduate students who are undertaking research that cuts across law, cultural studies, literature, philosophy, legal studies, anthropology, political science, and history, among others. The workshop is designed to afford graduate students the opportunity to experience the LCH community in a smaller venue with more

sustained contact with one another and some faculty. The workshop also provides graduate students with an opportunity to discuss their research projects in a small group setting in anticipation of such things as job talks and publication.

Applications to the workshop should consist of a current curriculum vitae (2-3 page maximum), an abstract of a current project not exceeding 700 words that explicitly addresses how it relates to law, culture and the humanities, as well as a short (5 page maximum) text relating to that project. This “text” could be a case, literary work, a timeline, a photo, a sound or video file, or some other relevant text. The text you choose should be something that helps you reflect on the subject of your work and your methods of analysis. Please use your judgment and best guess in deciding how audio, visual, or audio-visual materials “translate” into pages of text.

While it is possible to participate in both the workshop and the LCH annual conference, the two events are separate and require separate applications. Should workshop participants wish to present at the conference as well, they will need to submit a proposal [here](#) (in addition to their workshop application). Should workshop participants wish to attend the conference but not present a paper, they will need to register (once registration for the conference becomes available).

Applicants whose workshop proposals are accepted will receive some support towards an extra night’s accommodation from LCH as well as some support (varying, depending on distance traveled) towards the cost of transportation to the conference site. While those who participated in a previous workshop may re-apply and participate again, should space and/or funds be limited, we will prioritize new participants. Please email your applications to lch@lawculturehumanities.com by **January 31, 2027**.

[Click here to view the official workshop website.](#)