

Blazing Trails in Law and Social Policy

JSP Program's integrated approach to legal scholarship continues to earn major accolades and appointments

As the first Ph.D. enterprise among U.S. law schools, Berkeley Law's Jurisprudence and Social Policy (JSP) Program has a long track record of innovative scholarship. So the vast research net cast by its recent doctoral candidates—spanning LGBT rights, taxi drivers, surrogate mothers, and more—may come as no surprise. Nor should the growing list of faculty distinctions, distinguished appointments, and student accolades.

“Over nearly 40 years, we’ve shaped much of what it means to do law and social science,” says JSP Program Associate Dean Calvin Morrill.

Renowned legal historian Christopher Tomlins joined the faculty last fall after directing UC Irvine's Program in Law and Graduate Studies. Noted criminologist Jonathan Simon Ph.D. '90 J.D. '87, who directs the Center for the Study of Law and Society, has garnered widespread acclaim for his recent book *Mass Incarceration on Trial*.

“What differentiates us is our ability to integrate the study of law with humanities and social sciences,” Morrill says. “We don't silo Ph.D. training on the one hand and studying law on the other.”

The program's interdisciplinary bent regularly produces high-level placements and, frequently, dual appointments.

Last year, Kaaryn Gustafson Ph.D. '04 J.D. '97 moved from an endowed chair at the University of Connecticut Law School to UC

Irvine Law to co-direct its Center on Law, Equality and Race. Gwendolyn Leachman Ph.D. '14 J.D. '11, who recently examined how impact legislation has affected the LGBT movement, joined the University of Wisconsin's law school and top-ranked sociology department.

Veena Dubal Ph.D. '14 J.D. '06, whose dissertation examined shifting business models in the taxi industry, will join UC Hastings College of the Law this fall. JSP doctoral candidate Stephen Rushin, who has explored federal takeovers of U.S. police departments, will begin teaching at the University of Alabama, and Jamie Rowen Ph.D. '12 J.D. '09 will join UMass Amherst's legal studies program.

The Law and Society Association (LSA) routinely honors JSP students and alumni with national awards. In five of the past nine years, a JSP student has won the association's prize for best graduate student paper.

Hillary Berk Ph.D. '13, currently Berkeley Law's Legal Studies Postdoctoral Fellow, received the dissertation prize last spring for “The Legalization of Emotion: Risk, Gender, and the Management of Feeling in Contracts for Surrogate Labor.” Ayako Hirata '13 won LSA's 2nd Half Century Junior Scholars Essay

