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Author

George, Eric

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A Message from the Managing Editor

I. Introduction

Serving as the managing editor of the *Journal of Law and Political Economy* has been a rewarding journey, not only because of the vibrant thinkers and organizers who assembled to create the Journal, but because of the thriving intellectual community of which it forms a part. As we launch our first issue, we wish to thank our contributing authors, staff, organizational partners, and affiliates for their belief in the *JLPE* vision, and their dedication and support in carrying this project forward. Since the wider Law and Political Economy ecosystem has been an inspiration for the Journal, in this message I wish to give our readers a sense of the collective effort that culminated in the creation of *JLPE*.

JLPE is the product of years of organizing amongst a group of legal scholars who sought to galvanize research and debate on the relationship between law and power as they find expression through inequality, race, gender, and sexuality. The Journal was founded in December of 2016 by ClassCrits, Inc. organizers Rohan Grey, Angela Harris, Danielle Hart, Athena Mutua, and René Reich-Graefe, with the goal of creating a peer-reviewed, open-access journal promoting multidisciplinary scholarship on law and political economy. The principles of open-access publishing were adopted to make *JLPE* as widely available as possible and to eliminate unnecessary paywalls, all while retaining editorial autonomy over its content.

The *JLPE* team's knowledge, expertise, camaraderie, and seemingly unlimited levity made the work of managing a pleasure from the very outset. *JLPE* is led by co-editors-in-chief Angela Harris and Jay Varellas, whose unique insights, breadth of knowledge, and sense of curiosity have been invaluable in creating an alternative space for political-economic thought in the United States. The members of the Operations Committee and Strategic Planning Committees—Elizabeth Berenguer, Tonya Brito, Navjyot Gill, Jamee Moudud, and Lua Kamal Yuille—have pledged their time and energy to building the Journal's infrastructure and best practices, and they provided unwavering moral support along the way. Jed Kroncke has lent his considerable knowledge and experience with academic publishing to creating *JLPE*'s Book Review section. Members of the Advisory Board have generously lent their input at various stages of the Journal's development. Finally, we thank the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy for hosting a workshop for our Volume 1 authors in October 2019, as well as the LPE Project for generously supporting that event.

II. Setting

It is difficult to overstate the degree to which *JLPE* is indebted to the broader Law and Political Economy movement, which has been a long time in the making, and only shows signs of gaining momentum. This convergence of thinkers, hailing from different areas of academic specialty and theoretical influence, have created a rich and growing body of interdisciplinary scholarship from which *JLPE* draws inspiration. Indeed, because it comprised such a wide assortment of sociologists, legal scholars, economists, and political scientists, my colleague Jay Varellas quite aptly has referred to LPE

as an *invisible college*, in the sense that LPE had a vast network of representatives, albeit un-unified under a single title or banner. I am glad to report that over the last two years, this appellation seems to have outgrown its usage, as there are, at present, a number of very visible research institutions and organizing hubs promoting Law and Political Economy research. Martha McCluskey's immeasurable contributions to the study of Law and Political Economy through ClassCrits, Inc., the Association for the Promotion of Political Economy and Law (APPEAL), and the Rowboat Family Foundation have been indispensable to *JLPE's* development. Through publications, conferences, working groups, teaching, student mentorship, and online talks, Martha's organizing efforts and scholarship have created an alternative space in which LPE has been able to flourish. More recently, Amy Kapczynski, Jedediah Purdy, David Grewal, and Sabeel Rahman have invigorated the field by launching the Law and Political Economy Project, which promises to draw many more students and thinkers to the LPE movement. I also wish to thank the LPE Project's directors and editors, Corinne Blalock, Raúl Carrillo, Luke Herrine, and Kate Redburn, for their support and assistance.

Finally, I wish to thank some of the important fellow travellers I have met along the way. John Haskell's generosity of spirit has been instrumental in building LPE, particularly through the Institute for Global Law and Policy and the Manchester Law and Money Initiative. Peer Zumbansen's contributions to transnational legal theory through the Comparative Research in Law and Political Economy seminar at Osgoode Law School in Toronto, as well as the King's College Transnational Law Institute, have enabled Law and Political Economy research to grow. Last but not least, the contributors to the Law and Society Association's Law and Political Economy Collaborative Research Network have created an important forum in which the study of law, power, and economic inequality has gained traction.

III. The Submission Process

The first volume of *JLPE*, comprising four issues, will appear over the 2020-2021 academic year. Topics addressed in Volume 1 include the relationship between labor markets and the carceral state, the political economy of private law as it finds expression through global value chains, the evolving landscape of the US antitrust regime, and the disputed contractual practices of the digital technology firms, to name only a few. In subsequent volumes, we expect to publish themed issues curated by guest editors, as well as general issues. We also invite book reviews of recent works on law and political economy, as well as classics in the field, and we will provide additional support to junior scholars who are interested in submitting reviews.

We encourage interested academics from all disciplines to join us as we shape the *Journal of Law and Political Economy* as an intellectual forum for debate on the intersections of political economy, law, and power. Authors interested in submitting articles, essays, and book reviews to *JLPE* can do so through the e-scholarship online submission system by visiting <https://escholarship.org/uc/lawandpoliticaleconomy>, or they can direct inquiries to jlpmanningeditor@gmail.com.

We are proud to launch the *Journal of Law and Political Economy*, and to open this much-needed forum for debate and discussion of the contested institutional parameters of contemporary capitalism. We hope that you enjoy this first issue and many more to come.

Eric George, jpgmanagingeditor@gmail.com

JLPE Managing Editor