

JAMES A. MACLEOD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Brooklyn Law School,

Director, Center for Law, Language, and Cognition, 2023 – present
Professor of Law, 2024 – present
Associate Professor of Law, 2022 – 2024
Assistant Professor of Law, 2019 – 2022

Columbia Law School,

Visiting Professor of Law, Spring 2025
Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Spring 2024
Associate-in-Law, 2017 – 2019

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago Law School, J.D. with high honors, 2012

Kirkland & Ellis Scholar (top 5% of class)
The University of Chicago Law Review
Order of the Coif

University of Michigan, B.A. with high distinction, Philosophy and Political Science, 2007

James B. Angell Scholar
Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

[Standard Textualism](#), 124 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2025)

Featured as a “[download of the week](#)” and “[highly recommended](#)” on Legal Theory Blog (2025)
Reviewed in Daniel Deacon, “[Ad Law Reading Room](#),” YALE J. ON REG. Notice & Comment Blog (2025)

[Evidence Law’s Blind Spots](#), 109 IOWA LAW REVIEW 189 (2023)

Featured on [Excited Utterance](#) podcast (2024)
Selected through peer review for annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2022)

[Surveys and Experiments in Statutory Interpretation](#), in CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF EXPERIMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE (Kevin Tobia, ed., Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2025)

[Finding Original Public Meaning](#), 56 GEORGIA LAW REVIEW 1 (2022)

Winner of Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Call-for-Papers Award (2021)

[Ordinary Causation: A Study in Experimental Statutory Interpretation](#), 94 INDIANA LAW JOURNAL 957 (2019)

Reviewed in Marcia L. McCormick, [Crowdsourcing Plain Meaning](#), JOTWELL (2019)
Discussed in [United States v. Johnson](#), 114 F.4th 148 (3d Cir. 2024)
Cited in [State v. Goins](#), 187 N.E.3d 42 (Ohio Ct. App. 2022)

[Reporting Certainty](#), 2019 BYU LAW REVIEW 473 (2019)

[Belief States in Criminal Law](#), 68 OKLAHOMA LAW REVIEW 497 (2016)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Thinking Fast About Tort Liability (invited contribution, Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy: “Social Science and Civil Justice”)

Blurring the Tort/Crime Distinction (preliminary data collected)

Empirical Corporate Crime (with Will Thomas; preliminary data collected)

Is Originalism Common Sense? (preliminary data collected)

Constitutionalism Survey (with Victoria Nourse & Kevin Tobia; preliminary data collected)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Criminal Law, Evidence, Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, Torts

Additional: Corporate and White-Collar Crime, Criminal Procedure, Experimental Jurisprudence

EXPERIENCE

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Associate, White Collar Criminal Defense, Products Liability, Appellate, New York, NY, 2015 – 2017

Williams & Connolly, Associate, White Collar Criminal Defense, Mass Torts, Products Liability, Washington, DC, 2012 – 2013, 2014 – 2015; Summer Associate, 2011

Judge Raymond J. Lohier, Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Law Clerk, New York, NY, 2013 – 2014

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Empirical Corporate Crime

The Chicago / Michigan Psychology and Law Studies Group (forthcoming 2025)

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2024

Crimfest, Cardozo School of Law, 2024

What Do Criminal and Tort Liability Express? Blurring the Tort / Crime Distinction

Clifford Symposium on Civil Justice, DePaul Law School (invited, forthcoming 2025)

Georgetown Lab for the Empirical Study of Law & Language, 2021

Expert Histories

Columbia Science & Technology Law Review symposium, *Judging Science* (invited commentary on piece by Edward Cheng, 2024)

Reimagining the Federal Rules of Evidence

Roundtable, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2024

Is Originalism Common Sense?

Legislation Roundtable, Georgetown University Law Center, 2024

Symposium on Legal Interpretation and Data, Georgetown University Law Center (invited, forthcoming 2025)

Surveys and Experiments in Statutory Interpretation

Yale Law School Seminar on Statutory Interpretation, 2024

Experimental Jurisprudence Conference, Institute for Advanced Study, Toulouse, France, 2023

Philosophy of Law Seminar, Georgetown University Law Center, 2022

Standard Textualism

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, panel on “Methodological Realignment in Statutory Interpretation,” 2025
Faculty Workshop, Cardozo School of Law, 2025
Faculty Workshop, University of Georgia School of Law, 2024
Faculty Workshop, University of Illinois College of Law, 2024
Legislation Roundtable, Georgetown University Law Center, 2023

Evidence Law’s Blind Spots

Law and Social Science Colloquium, University of Virginia School of Law, 2023
Faculty Colloquium, Seton Hall Law School, 2023
Law and Psychology Seminar, University of Michigan Law School, 2023
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Virginia School of Law, 2022
University of Richmond Law School Junior Faculty Forum, 2022
Evidence Summer Workshop, Vanderbilt Law School, 2022
Crimfest, Cardozo Law School, 2022

Blurring the Linguistic/Substantive Distinction in Canons of Interpretation: The Rule of Lenity

Yale Law School Workshop in Experimental Jurisprudence, 2022

Finding Original Public Meaning

University of Richmond Law School Junior Faculty Forum, 2021
Call-for-Papers Winners Panel, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, 2021
University of Michigan Law School Junior Scholars Conference, 2020
Legislation Works-in-Progress Roundtable, Yale Law School, 2020
New Voices in Legislation, American Association of Law Schools, 2020
Iowa Law School Seminar on Experimental Jurisprudence, 2019
New Frontiers in Experimental Jurisprudence, University of Chicago Law School, 2019

Data-Driven Approaches to Legal Interpretation

Plenary Panel, *Brooklyn Law Review* Symposium, Brooklyn Law School, 2020

Experimental Jurisprudence

Jurisprudence Panel, American Association of Law Schools, 2020 (moderator)

Ordinary Causation: A Study in Experimental Statutory Interpretation

Experimental and Naturalistic Perspectives on the Philosophy of Law, Center for Law, Behavior, and Cognition, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany, 2018
Experimental Jurisprudence Workshop, Yale Law School, 2017

Reporting Certainty

Associates and Fellows Workshop, Columbia Law School, 2018

Belief States in Criminal Law

Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Chicago, 2015
Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference, University of Buffalo, 2015

SERVICE

Chair, Appointments Committee, 2024 – present

Member, Appointments Committee, 2020 – 2023

Chair, AALS Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process, 2024

Executive Board Member, AALS Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process, 2025

Member, Workshops Committee, 2019 – 2023

Member, Sparer Public Interest Fellowship Committee, 2020 – 2021

Conference Co-Organizer, New Frontiers of Experimental Jurisprudence, 2019

Ad Hoc Reviewer,

BLOOMSBURY ADVANCES IN EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

COGNITIVE SCIENCE

COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW

National Science Center, Poland (grant proposal reviews)

OXFORD STUDIES IN EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

ROUTLEDGE ADVANCES IN EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

STANFORD LAW REVIEW

SYNTHESE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW

YALE LAW JOURNAL