



Yale Law School



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW



Columbia Law School

Call for Papers – Yale-Toronto-Columbia Private Law Theory Discussion Group

The Yale-Toronto-Columbia Private Law Theory Discussion Group (“Discussion Group”) invites submissions for its sixth annual conference, which will be held on **Thursday March 26, 2026**, from **12:15-4:00pm EST** in a hybrid format.

The Discussion Group brings together scholars interested in theoretical and foundational questions in private law, broadly understood to include (but not limited to) contract, tort, property, unjust enrichment, equity, and remedies. Papers engaging with normative, analytical, comparative, economic, or historical perspectives on private law are all welcome.

This year’s iteration will feature a newfound emphasis on the work of junior scholars and students working in private law theory, with an eye to providing them a platform and feedback from leading experts in the field. The 2026 keynote speaker will be announced closer to the date of the event.

About the Discussion Group

The Discussion Group is a collaboration between faculty, researchers, and students interested in private law at Yale Law School, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and Columbia Law School. It provides a forum for rigorous, constructive, and informal discussion of works in progress in private law theory. The Discussion Group is supported by Professors Daniel Markovits (Yale), Larissa Katz (Toronto), and Shyam Baganesh (Columbia).

Previous Discussion Group speakers have included faculty from the law schools at Cambridge, Columbia, Harvard, Fordham, Notre Dame, Oxford, Texas, Toronto, Western, and Yale. As noted above, this year, the emphasis will be on providing a forum for junior scholars—including fellows and J.D. and graduate students—to present their work.

Selected authors will give a short presentation, followed by a formal comment from a senior scholar, and then Q&A with the audience.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions of unpublished papers or works in progress. In keeping with the Discussion Group’s aim of providing valuable feedback to authors, preference will be given to drafts that are works in progress, rather than accepted pieces undergoing late-stage edits. Submissions should be suitable for pre-circulation and discussion among scholars with interests in private law and legal theory.

To Apply

Please submit an abstract (up to 300 words) and a current draft to privatelawtheory@yale.edu by **December 19, 2025 at 11:59pm EST**. Draft papers should be between 8,000 and 20,000 words, including footnotes. In your email, please provide your name, institutional affiliation, email, phone number, and details of your current employment or degree status.

Draft papers will be reviewed by the Discussion Group's faculty advisors and co-convenors. Authors can expect to receive decisions on their submissions by late January 2026.

In keeping with the Discussion Group's recent pivot towards showcasing the work of the next generation of private law scholars and providing opportunities for academic engagement with that work, we strongly encourage submissions from students, fellows, early-career scholars, and those from underrepresented groups in the legal academy. Submissions from J.D./LL.B. students, fellows, and graduate students in law, philosophy, economics, history, political science, and other cognate disciplines are particularly welcome (e.g., candidates for B.C.L., MJur., MPhil., M.S.L., LL.M., S.J.D./J.S.D., PhD, and DPhil. degrees). While special consideration will be given to applicants affiliated with Yale, Toronto, and Columbia, submissions from individuals affiliated with any institution are welcome and encouraged.

Format and Logistics

This year's event will be held in a hybrid format, with Zoom and in-person options for both attendance and presentations. Attendees and presenters who are in New Haven, Toronto, and New York City are welcome to join us at designated rooms at Yale Law School, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, or Columbia Law School, respectively. Lunch will be served, and coffee and snacks will be available during short breaks throughout the event. We welcome those unable to join us in person to do so by Zoom. More information on room locations and Zoom details will be forthcoming.

For further information, please contact co-convenors Amit Singh (Yale), Stanley Zhang (Toronto), and Sania Anwar (Columbia) at privatelawtheory@yale.edu. If you simply wish to attend and/or be added to the Discussion Group's mailing list, please send an email to the same email inbox.