

About the Ambedkar Law Lectures

The Ambedkar Law Lectures is an annual community-wide two-lecture series supported by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar endowment at Columbia Law School. Delivered by prominent scholars of public law and other students of politics, the lectures aim to further our understanding of justice, democracy, equality, development, and governance from historical, comparative, and philosophical perspectives. The Ambedkar Law Lectures are named in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, an influential Indian political thinker and anti-colonial activist who studied at Columbia University and played a central part in framing the Constitution of independent India.

The Ambedkar Law Lectures are chaired by Columbia Law School Professors Jamal Greene, Madhav Khosla, and Jedediah Purdy.

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 Columbia Law School

Historical Injustice, Agency, and Resentment

March 28 and 31, 2022

4:30–7 p.m.

Low Library Rotunda

Pratap Bhanu Mehta with commentary from
David Bromwich, Jamal Greene,
and **Katharina Pistor**

THE
DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR
LAW LECTURES

 Columbia Law School

Historical Injustice, Agency, and Resentment

In societies marked by deep and enduring structural inequality—often along lines of caste, race, gender, or other forms of identity—how is responsibility for such injustice assigned? How is the agency necessary to overcome historical injustice imagined? These lectures will use Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar’s writings as a starting point to explore the moral psychology of responding to historical injustice.

ABOUT THE LECTURER

Pratap Bhanu Mehta
Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University; Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Pratap Bhanu Mehta is Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University and a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi. Previously, he served as vice chancellor of Ashoka University and president of the CPR. He has taught at Harvard University and Jawaharlal Nehru University and has been a member of the Global Faculty at New York University School of Law.

Mehta has published widely on political theory, constitutional law, and the history of ideas, including his recently co-edited *Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*. His policy experience includes being convener of the prime minister of India’s Knowledge Commission and member of the Government of India’s National Security Advisory Board. He is a prolific contributor to many public debates in forums such as *The Financial Times* and *Foreign Affairs* magazine, and is editorial consultant to *The Indian Express*.

Mehta holds a B.A. (first class) in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University. He was awarded the 2010 Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Award and the 2011 Infosys Prize for Social Sciences. In 2021, he was elected as a fellow of The British Academy.

ABOUT THE COMMENTATORS

March 28, 2022
Jamal Greene
Dwight Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Jamal Greene is a constitutional law expert whose scholarship focuses on the structure of legal and constitutional argument. He teaches constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, the law of the political process, First Amendment, and federal courts. He is the author of the book *How Rights Went Wrong: Why Our Obsession With Rights Is Tearing America Apart* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021) as well as numerous law review articles. Greene has written in depth about the U.S. Supreme Court, constitutional rights adjudication, and the constitutional theory of originalism, and his commentary has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Slate*, the *New York Daily News*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Greene has served as senior visiting scholar at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. He currently co-chairs the Oversight Board, an independent body set up to review content moderation decisions on Facebook and Instagram. Greene earned an A.B. from Harvard University and a J.D. from Yale Law School. He also served as law clerk to Judge Guido Calabresi on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

March 28, 2022
Katharina Pistor
Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law, Columbia Law School

Katharina Pistor is a leading scholar and writer on corporate governance, money and finance, property rights, and comparative law and legal institutions. She has authored nine books, including, most recently, *The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality* (Princeton, 2019), which examines how assets such as land, private debt, business organizations, or knowledge are transformed into capital through contract law, property rights, collateral law, and trust, corporate, and bankruptcy law. Pistor also publishes widely in legal and social science journals, has testified before Congress, and serves on the editorial boards of several prestigious academic journals.

Pistor has held teaching and research positions at Harvard Law School, Harvard Kennedy School, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, New York University School of Law, Frankfurt University, London School of Economics, and Oxford University. Pistor holds graduate degrees from the University of London (LL.M.), Harvard Kennedy School (M.P.A.), and the University of Munich (J.S.D.).

March 31, 2022
David Bromwich
Sterling Professor of English, Yale University

David Bromwich is Sterling Professor of English at Yale University. He has taught and published widely on romanticism, modern poetry, and political thought after 1750. His books include *Skeptical Music: Essays on Modern Poetry* (Chicago, 2001), *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke* (Harvard, 2014), *Moral Imagination: Essays* (Princeton, 2014), *How Words Make Things Happen* (Oxford, 2019), and *American Breakdown: The Trump Years and How They Befell Us* (Verso, 2019).

Bromwich draws on a range of thinkers, from Shakespeare and Milton to Burke and Lincoln. His essays on contemporary politics—dealing with America’s wars, civil liberties, cultural identity, and higher education—have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, the *London Review of Books*, and *The Nation*. He wrote against the Iraq War and U.S. interventions in Libya and Syria, and he has been a critic of the security apparatus built up by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.