You are known as a productive and creative scholar and, as of July 4 of this year, a new father. What made you decide to accept the directorship of LAPA?

First of all, I’m delighted to have been asked! And secondly, I’m humbled by the massive shadow left by an incredibly dynamic and productive term under the leadership of Kim Scheppele. I have been involved with LAPA off and on for over a decade. I was a fellow for the 2004-05 year when I was an assistant professor at University of California Santa Cruz. A year after joining the Princeton faculty, I served as Acting Director in 2009-2010; I agreed to a second stint as Acting Director two years ago. During this time, I’ve come to appreciate LAPA’s devotion to interdisciplinary legal scholarship and the pursuit of legal inquiry outside of the traditional law school. I also enjoy engaging with my friends in the LAPA community and hope to continue the extreme intellectual vibrancy and collegiality that the program has long offered.

Are you prepared to say what changes you see in LAPA’s future?

Not yet, and I’m not sure there will be major changes. LAPA is a dynamic program that is now 15 years old. It runs quite well and has a wonderful community that appreciates what it currently offers. I plan to reach out to and hear from the many scholars and numerous constituencies at Princeton working on or interested in issues of Princeton to explore how law informs and is informed by other disciplines, and I hope that it evolves somewhat organically through its community’s interests.

Who do you see as LAPA’s primary constituencies or stakeholders?

Anyone interested in participating in LAPA. There is no discipline that does not have some law focus or application, and I am hopeful that we can cast a wide interdisciplinary net in engaging faculty, visitors, and students in LAPA seminars and programs.

Finally, since this inaugural issue is focused on LAPA’s scholarly pursuits and academic offerings, will you say something about your own scholarly interests?

I have a book forthcoming on the politics of American expansion in the ‘long’ antebellum era (meaning that the book’s timeline doesn’t end until the first decade of the twentieth century). All of my work is at the intersection of politics and law, whereby I attempt to think institutionally about different spheres of governance, and the consequence that these dynamics have for democratic representation in the United States. In this regard, my interest in the law is less focused on jurisprudence, doctrine, and judicial activism, than thinking about the broader network of legal institutions and the consequence they have in a democratic society.
STÉPHANIE HENNETTE VAUCHEZ
PROFESSEUR, UNIVERSITY PARIS OUEST NANTERRE LA DÉFENSE
Martin and Kathleen Crane/LAPA Fellow, 2013-14

My stay allowed me to complete the edition of an important volume on gender and the law, and a second one on that topic is in press. I completed a small book, co-authored with a colleague, on 10 years of Laïcité (secularism) in France. I also wrote articles on women judges, including one presenting new data on the women nominees to the European Court of Human Rights, 1959-2012, and another on the normative stakes of gender balanced judiciaries. I am working on a study of reproductive rights using a comparative perspective, intra-European and transatlantic, with the intent of pursuing a wider project on this subject. I am confident that my meetings and readings during my stay as a LAPA fellow will remain significant memories for many years to come.

DANIEL LACHANCE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, EMORY UNIVERSITY
LAPA/Perkins Humanities Fellow, 2013-14

I spent the first half of the year completing the revisions on my book manuscript, Condemned to Be Free, a cultural history of capital punishment in the United States from 1945 to the present. [Editor’s note: the book was accepted for publication by the University of Chicago Press in the final months of his fellowship.] I also began work on two new projects at LAPA. The first project, presented at my LAPA seminar, was on melodramatic representations of executions in journalistic and cinematic accounts of capital punishment from 1915-1940. The paper won a national competition for junior law and humanities, which allowed me to present it at a workshop at UCLA Law School. Four Princeton undergraduates provided exceptional research assistance on the project. The second project was a cultural and legal history of the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill in America. Princeton allowed me easy access to the University’s collection of the ACLU papers, where I found fascinating material on that organization’s response to a rising fear, in the late 1940s, that many Americans were being unjustly detained in state mental hospitals.

DAVID S. LAW
PROFESSOR OF LAW AND PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Martin and Kathleen Crane/LAPA Fellow, 2014-15

During my fellowship year, I published a monograph-length article on judicial usage of foreign law in Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, and a shorter article on the plausibility of constitutional convergence; I completed a book chapter on proportionality review of administrative action in China and other countries, a book chapter on constitutional drafting in Latin America, and a draft of an article entitled “Constitutional Archetypes;” and I performed the empirical analyses that will form the basis of a book on the structure of global constitutionalism. Perhaps the greatest benefit of being a LAPA Fellow, however, was entirely
LAPA FELLOWS - cont’d from pg 2

unexpected. Early in the year, I attended a workshop on Digital Methods in Political Science held directly downstairs from my office. Over the course of that afternoon, it became apparent to me how far the state of the art in methodology had moved beyond my own graduate training, and how relevant some of these new methods are to the analysis of legal texts. Thanks to LAPA, I had the perfect environment in which to learn about these methods. A number of the scholars who are pioneering automated content analysis techniques are affiliated with Princeton, and I spent the latter part of the year learning from them and incorporating these techniques into my own research. My exposure to these techniques has transformed the book project on global constitutionalism that was the focus of my fellowship year.

MICHELLE A. MCKINLEY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW
AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LAW SCHOOL.
LAPA Fellow 2013-14

I came with the intention of finishing my monograph, “Fractional Freedoms,” which I had been working on for almost a decade. Princeton’s superb library holdings far exceeded my expectations. Indeed, I ended up working with special collections of legal treatises from the fourteenth century on Iberian ecclesiastical procedure that led to an entire chapter of my manuscript. The feedback I got during my own seminar challenged me to rethink some of the assumptions—in the most productive and collegial fashion. [Editor’s note: Professor McKinley completed her book project, which was accepted for publication. During her fellowship year, she was also named a 2015 Fulbright Scholar to expand her work on Hispanic urban slavery to Cartagena, Colombia and the viceroyalty of Nueva Granada (today’s Bogota.) The Fulbright, which began after the conclusion of her year at Princeton, allowed her to continue her LAPA Project.]

LAPA’S CURRENT FELLOWS CONTINUE THE SCHOLARLY TRADITION

ZAID AL-ALI
Senior Adviser on Constitution-Building for the Arab Region at International IDEA

Drawing upon his experience as a UN legal adviser in Iraq, a practitioner in international arbitration and his work in constitutional development following the uprisings in the Middle East, Al Ali will focus his book project on the future of Arab constitutional reform. Al-Ali arrived in Princeton from Cairo, Egypt and will be relocating to Tunisia.

DANIEL R. ERNST *89
Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center

With his Ph.D. in history (from Princeton) as well as his law degree, Ernst will be writing a book on the history of New Deal lawyers. Among his many extensive publications, he is author of Lawyers Against Labor, which won the Littleton Griswold Award of the American Historical Association.

DIMITRY KOCHENOV
Chair, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen (The Netherlands).

As the Martin and Kathleen Crane/LAPA Fellow, Kochenov will be teaching an undergraduate seminar in citizenship with emphasis on justice, democracy and the rule of law, having written several books on these topics. His project will focus on the place of European Union citizenship in European constitutionalism.

H. TIMOTHY LOVELACE, JR.
Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Combining his doctorate in history and his degree in law, Lovelace has entitled his book project The World is on Our Side: The U.S. Origins of the U.N. Race Convention. He is examining how the U.S. civil rights movement shaped the development of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

MARK FATHI MASSOUD
Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies, University of California Santa Cruz

Having conducted extensive fieldwork in Sudan, Massoud’s first book traced how colonial administrators, post-colonial governments, and the international aid community have promoted the rule of law to build stability amid political violence and civil war. He will continue his focus on law in conflict settings and authoritarian states with his new project on Somalia. He is also the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2015.

SHERALLY MUNSHI
Research Fellow, Georgetown University Law Center 2014-20

Having been designated the LAPA/Perkins & Humanities Fellow, Munshi is a promising interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of law and humanistic inquiry who recently completed a Ph.D. in comparative literature. She is combining her legal background with her humanities study to research and write on the legacies of immigrant exclusion, in particular the history of Indian immigration and exclusion from the United States in the early 20th Century.
Vinay is a journalist, lawyer and political scientist who studied at the national Law School in Bangalore and Harvard University.

My dissertation is titled: “After Judgment Day: Under What Conditions Are Court Decisions Implemented?” It studies the circumstances when courts, working alongside grassroots movements, bring about political change. I examine judgments of a particularly activist judiciary in a non-Western democracy: the Indian Supreme Court, and have conducted four field visits spanning 17 months, in cities and villages in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. I have presented my dissertation ideas thrice at the LAPA LEGS seminar for law-engaged graduate students. The seminars have been before those who research on the law. But since they come from diverse disciplines at Princeton, the range of comments have broadened the dissertation, while at the same time sharpening the emphasis on the law. LAPA attracts scholars who are creative and interested in diverse topics, filling the room with people and comments. Thank you LAPA.

Yael received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Princeton in 2014. Before coming to Princeton, she was a human rights lawyer in Israel. Following graduation, Yael was an Academy Scholar at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. Her dissertation, entitled “Colonial Legacy and administrative memory: the legal construction of citizenship in Israel, India and Cyprus” focuses on the role of emergency laws and bureaucratic routines and practices in shaping political conflicts and persisting legacies of discrimination in new regimes.

LAPA was my intellectual home at Princeton, and gradually became a major resource for me. I presented my work in LEGS meetings (four or five times) and received invaluable feedback, met mentors from around the world, who eventually became my scholarly network that helped me access archives, find institutional affiliations (in India, Cyprus and the UK), and form collaborative research networks that shape the way I learn, write and exchange ideas today. LEGS, the graduate student seminar, was the event I learned from most, since it brought together incredible scholars and graduate students from many backgrounds, who were passionate and engaged with public life. They created a diverse and interdisciplinary environment, internationally and institutionally, which kept me on my intellectual toes and prepared me to work with multiple audiences and to impact scholars as well as policy makers.

Ben is a fourth year student in politics. He came to Princeton after earning his law degree at Yale and practicing law in Dallas.

My work in political science deals with judicial decision-making. The risk is always that focusing on the actors removes the focus from the law. LAPA is where I go to be with people who remember that law matters. I’ve presented once in LEGS: a paper on contract-writing. It’s something that I’m interested in, but it’s something that could only be presented to a room full of lawyers. I got great feedback, and the paper is better for it. LEGS has also been a place where I’ve been able to see how different methodological tools (from anthropology, psychology, etc.) can provide real insights into pressing legal questions. It’s a wonderful place to expand the mind and cleanse the legal-academic palate.
DONALD S. BERNSTEIN ’75 LECTURE EXPLORES TRANSLATING SCHOLARSHIP INTO LAW AND POLICY MAKING

2012 Bernstein Lecture:
L-R: Acting LAPA Director Paul Frymer, WWS Dean Cecilia Rouse, Bernstein Lecturer and President-Elect Christopher Eisgruber ’83, Donald Bernstein ’75, LAPA Associate Director Leslie Gerwin.

A generous gift from Princeton alum and noted attorney Donald Bernstein enables LAPA to host a distinguished law scholar or public intellectual for an annual program examining how legal thinking informs the search for solutions to current public problems. Most recently, Trevor Potter, former Chair of the Federal Elections Commission, asked whether American democracy can survive the Supreme Court as he took listeners through the jurisprudential development of a campaign finance system that “increasingly threatens core democratic values.” Since its inception in 2005, LAPA has hosted distinguished lecturers on a wide range of topics, including the future of higher education (President-elect Christopher Eisgruber); applying constitutional principles to modern controversies (Yale Law Professor Jack Balkin); upholding human rights while confronting terrorism (Israeli Supreme Court President Dorit Beinisch); and the challenges to law posed by the internet (Harvard Law Professor Yochai Benkler). Other Bernstein Lecturers have included Judge Richard Posner (U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals); Kenneth Roth (Human Rights Watch Executive Director); Robert C. Post (currently Dean of Yale Law School); Cass R. Sunstein (Professor at Harvard Law School).

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 13, 2016
DONALD S. BERNSTIN LECTURE
EMILY BAZELON
Senior Research Scholar, Truman Capote Fellow for Creative Writing, Yale Law School

A conference convened by LAPA and the Israel Democracy Institute is the basis for a book accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber, LAPA’s first Director, conceived of the conference idea with Hanoch Dagan, a professor of legal theory and innovation at Tel Aviv University and co-director of the project on Human Rights and Judaism at the Israel Democracy Institute. Professor Dagan subsequently partnered with then LAPA Director Kim Lane Scheppele to map out the conference program and details. They invited scholars from the United States and Israel, and a few from Europe, to examine how institutional design of both religions and political regimes affects the relationship between religious practice and activity and human rights. Professor Leora Batnitsky, Chair of Princeton’s Department of Religion, then partnered with Professor Dagan to develop the book proposal. Drawing on the abstracts, revised by participants based upon their conference papers, they identified the common themes of the contributors and conceived of a book to be entitled Institutionalizing Rights and Religion: Competing Supremacies. According to Professor Batnitsky, “The book will move past the usual focus on the personal free expression of religion to study how religions are structured as normative institutions and how state law regulates the way religious organizations are constituted and how they are able to function in a pluralistic society.” For more on the conference and its participants, see http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/religions-rights-and-institutions

LAPA SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON RELIGIONS, RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONS LEADS TO BOOK PUBLICATION

Donald S. Bernstein ’75 Lecture Explores Translating Scholarship into Law and Policy Making

Leora Batnitsky, Chair Princeton Department of Religion, book co-editor

Conference organizers former LAPA Director Kim Scheppel and Hanoch Dagan, Israel Democracy Institute with Princeton President and commentator Christopher Eisgruber (center)
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE PROGRAM IN LAW AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY VISIT THE LAPA WEBSITE AT
HTTP://LAPA.PRINCETON.EDU/

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