

LIAM MCHUGH-RUSSELL

Schulich School of Law
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CURRENT POSITION

Since 2025 Associate Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
Innis Christie Chair in Labour and Employment Law

2020-25 Assistant Professor

PAST POSITIONS

2020 Visiting Researcher, Cr peau Centre for Private and Comparative Law, McGill University Faculty of Law

2019 Postdoctoral Researcher, Labour Law and Development Research Lab, McGill University Faculty of Law

EDUCATION

2019 PhD in Law—European University Institute
Dissertation: “The Limits of Legal Evolution: Knowledge and Normativity in Theories of Legal Change”
Examining Board: Stefan Grundmann (supervisor, EUI), Claire Kilpatrick (EUI), Simon Deakin (Cambridge), Peer Zumbansen (KCL / Osgoode Hall)

2013 LLM—Institute of Comparative Law, McGill University
Thesis: “Beyond Protection: An Informal Economy Perspective on Labour Law” (Supervisor: Adelle Blackett; External Reader: Gregor Murray)

2008 Juris Doctor—University of Toronto
Studied human rights and European law for one term at Central European University (Budapest)

2005 Honours Bachelor of Mathematics (Co-operative Program)—University of Waterloo
Graduated *With Distinction*; Double Major, Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics; Minor in Political Science

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Since 2024 Lawyer and Member of the Bar, Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society

2009–2024 Barrister and Solicitor—Law Society of Ontario

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2024 (with Anthony Piscitelli, CCITAL, Principal Applicant) Co-Applicant, SSHRC Insight Grant, “Cooperative Board Decision-Making” (\$87 900 over 3 years)

2020 (with Kelsey Jones and others) Dalhousie Special Initiatives Fund, “Integrating Racial Justice in the Transition to Online Learning” (\$13 000 CAD)

2014 Doctoral Award, Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (\$80 000 CAD over 4 years)

2013 Hans Kelsen Award, European University Institute ( 58 000 over 4 years)
Law department’s sole annual award for non-European candidates

- 2010 Inter-University Research Centre on Globalization and Work, Masters Scholarship (\$10 000 CAD)
- 2010 Faculty of Law Graduate Study Award (\$5 000 CAD)
- 2009 Sauvé Scholarship (valued at \$30 000 CAD)
Residential, leadership-focused action-research fellowship at McGill University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

(w/ Isabelle Ferraras, Miranda Richmond Mouillot, David Hackett and Team Endicott) [*Hé patron ! Pour une révolution dans l'entreprise*](#) (Paris: Seuil, 2023)

Edited Volumes

Editor, “Christie Symposium on Law and Labour Market Inequality,” (2025) 48:1 [Dalhousie Law Journal](#)
Special issue with five peer-reviewed contributions

Co-editor (with Genevieve Renard Painter), “Symposium: Thinking With and Against Pierre Schlag,” (2024) 47:1 [Dalhousie Law Journal](#)
Special issue with six peer-reviewed contributions

Peer Reviewed Publications

“What Can Legal Scholarship Do? On Desai’s *Expert Ignorance*,” (2026) *London Review of International Law* (forthcoming)

(with Anthony Piscitelli, Katharine McGowan and Sean Geobey), “The Best Interests of a Cooperative” (2025) 13 *Journal of Co-operative Organization and Management* 100257

“Show and Tell” (2024) 47:1 *Dalhousie Law Journal* 57 (special issue on “Thinking With and Against Pierre Schlag”)

“The Borders of Responsibility, the Democratic Intellect, and other Elephants in the Room” (2023) 46:1 *Dalhousie Law Journal* 145

“After ‘Subsistence Work:’ Labour Commodification and Social Justice in the Household Workplace” in Brian Langille and Anne Trebilcock, eds, *Social Justice and the World of Work: Possible Global Futures* (Hart, 2023)

“*Doing Business* Guidance, Legal Origins Theory, and the Politics of Governance by Knowledge” (2022) 43:1 *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 137

“International Labor Law and Its Others: Governance by Norm Versus Governance by Knowledge” (2019) 113 *AJIL Unbound* 402–6.

“Labour Law, Development Discourse, and the Uses of Informality,” in Diamond Ashiagbor, ed, *Re-imagining Labour Law for Development: Informal Work in the Global North and South* (Hart, 2019)

“Getting the Constitutive Power of Law Wrong,” *Legal Form* <[legalform.blog](#)> March 31, 2018 (blog post)

“Fifteen Thoughts on Brexit for the Cosmopolitan Intellectual Elite,” *DELIBLOG* (Durham European Law Institute) <[deliblog.wordpress.com](#)> August 15, 2016 (blog post)

Additional Publications

- “Introduction: Christie Symposium on Law and Labour Market Inequality,” (2025) 48:1 [Dalhousie Law Journal](#) i-x
- (with Anthony Piscitelli) “Death of a mutual, and the drift away from ‘neighbours helping neighbours’” (August 5 2021) [Policy Options](#)
- “Reasons,” (2016) 27:2 [European Journal of International Law](#) 552 (poetry)
- “Whispers of Transnational Corporate Responsibility: Chevron,” *Critical Legal Thinking* <[criticallegalthinking.com](#)> 9 September 2015 (blog post)
- “Who’s Afraid of the Queen’s Head Honcho,” *New Matilda* <[newmatilda.com](#)> March 2, 2010 (op ed)
- “We’re Tired: Canada’s Government Calls in Sick,” *New Matilda* <[newmatilda.com](#)> February 2, 2010 (op ed)
- “The Limits of Judicial Review: Democracy vs. Reasonableness in *Blood Tribe* and *Shell*,” *The Court* <[thecourt.ca](#)> January 29, 2009 (blog post)
- “Surplus Must be Paid Out on Partial Plan Terminations Under PBSA,” 25(4) Canadian Benefits & Compensation Digest 8 (Wisconsin: International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, August 2007)

Policy Analysis & Advice to Government

- Submissions to the “National Roundtable on Corporate Social Responsibility in Canadian Extractive Industries” (with Umuchinshi Initiative, International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto Faculty of Law) December 2006
- [Police Services: Safe Access for All. Legal Arguments for a Complete “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy.](#) February 2008.
(with Immigration Legal Committee) Presented to the Toronto Police Services Board, May 2008

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

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| 2017 | Research Assistant, Claire Kilpatrick (European University Institute, Department of Law)
Synthesized and compared international and transnational labour law perspectives on the European debt crisis |
| 2016 | Research Assistant, Stefan Grundmann (European University Institute, Department of Law)
Provided editorial assistance, translation review and critical feedback for book project, <i>Grand Theories of Private Law</i> |
| 2009–14 | Various Contracts: Intern, External Contractor, Consultant (International Labour Organization, Geneva)
Collaborated with former ILO legal advisor Francis Maupain in preparation of legal scholarship on the ILO’s future; provided background research and critical commentary; redrafted, edited and translated texts (French to English) |

 TEACHING

Teaching at Schulich School of Law

- 2024–25 Law in Philosophical and Historical Context (LNIC 1)
- 2023–25 Law in International and Transnational Context (LNIC 3)
- Since 2020 Business Associations
- Labour Law I
- 2020–23 Labour Law Problems
- 2020–24 National Labour Arbitration Moot

Other Courses Taught

- 2017 [Perspectives on Law and Society](#) (Law Department, European University Institute)
In collaboration with Emma Nyhan, designed and delivered a ten-hour, six session survey course on socio-legal research approaches for EUI doctoral researchers and visitors

Additional Teaching Experience

- 2024 Guest Lecture, “Current Issues in Corporate Law” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University)
Presented and discussed work on cooperative governance for ~15 students
- 2020–25 Co-Instructor, “Business Law Specialization Intensive” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University)
One hour lecture on histories of corporate governance
- 2022 & (with Genevieve Painter) Guest Instructor, “Graduate Seminar on Legal Education and Legal
2023 Scholarship” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University)
Lecture on legal history
- 2021 Guest Instructor, “Ethics, Economics & Business” (Baruch College, City University of New York)
Lecture on “Smith, Marx and the Socio-legal Lives of Capital”
- 2020 Guest Instructor, International Labour Law (Faculty of Law, McGill University)
Taught session on “Development, Labour Law and the Informal Economy”
- 2019 Guest Instructor, Theoretical Approaches to Law (Faculty of Law, McGill University)
Taught session on international law and governance in compulsory theory course for graduate students
- 2019 Guest Instructor, Business Associations (Faculty of Law, McGill University)
Taught three sessions of core undergraduate law course
- 2017 Guest Instructor, “Socio Legal Methodologies in Legal Scholarship” (Law Department, Bocconi University)
Addressed questions of methodology in socio-legal research; provided commentary and feedback on doctoral student research proposals
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Qualitative Methodologies for Socio-Legal Research” (European University Institute)
- 2016 Course Assistant, Qualitative Methodologies for Socio-Legal Research (European University Institute)
Authored an [annotated bibliography](#) on choice of methodology, research design, ethics, and standards of evidence in law and social science

- 2014 Course Assistant, Global Governance of Development (Law Department, European University Institute)
- 2010, 2011 Guest Lecturer, *Introduction to Development* (McGill University Institute for Development Studies)
- 2009 Course Assistant, Introduction to International Development (McGill Institute for Development Studies)
- Led weekly tutorials for two groups of 15 students each, marked exams, provided individual feedback and assistance

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Events Organized

- Co-Convenor (*with* Halifax Workers Action Centre), Public Conference on “From Broken to Better: Fighting for Workplace Justice” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, September 27, 2024)
- Convenor, Colloquium on “Cooperatives and the Good Director” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, September 27-28, 2024)
- Convenor, Christie Symposium on “Law and Labour Market Inequality” (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, September 21-22, 2023)
- Co-convenor (*with* Genevieve Painter), Panel on “Law and the Uses of History: Ideology, Jurisdiction and Agendas” (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, San Juan Puerto Rico, June 2023)
- Chair and Convenor, Roundtable on “Constitutive Functions of Law” (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Lisbon, July 2022)
- Chair and Convenor, Workshop with Genevieve Painter, “Choosing Context, Speaking Law: History and Jurisdiction at the League of Nations” (International Law Working Group, European University Institute, June 2018)
- Chair and Convenor, Workshop with Heidi Matthews, “A Political Theory of Sex Post-#MeToo” (European University Institute Gender Project, June 2018)
- Co-Convenor (*with* Ola Innset & Julia Rone), [Neoliberalism Working Group](#)
- Selected readings and facilitated four meetings examining diverse perspectives on neoliberalism; Conceived, fundraised and coordinated interdisciplinary workshop, “[Why Neoliberalism? On Critique and Method](#)” with keynote by Philip Mirowski, March 2016
- Co-chair (*with* Uros Zver), [Global and Transnational Perspectives Working Group](#)
- Organized interdisciplinary workshops on questions transcending European and nation-state frames; Conceived, fundraised, and coordinated logistics for one-day workshop, “The Transnational University and its Possible Futures” with keynotes by Joseph Weiler and Zygmunt Bauman, October 2014
- (*with* Emily Kettel) Co-Chair, Student Public Interest Network Legal Action Workshop
- Coordinated guest speakers, panelists and logistics for two national student conferences; Authored a successful \$10 000 grant application for funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario

Research Presentations

Towards Comparative Cooperative Governance (Panel on “Legal Regulation of Coop Governance,” International Cooperative Alliance Global Research Conference, Montreal, July 2025)

Law and the Institutional Foundations of Reliable Knowledge (Panel on “How Does Law Know,” Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Chicago, June 2025)

Citation as Affordance and Performance: The Case of Legal Scholarship (Droit de cite | Lawful Citings conference, University of Ottawa, May 2025)

What Does Legal Scholarship Do? (Panel on “Critical Research—Methods and Madness,” Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver Colorado, June 2024)

Four Logics of Legal Worldmaking (Invited contribution to workshop on “Revisiting the ‘Constitutive Idea’: Limitations, Genealogies, Scholarship,” Cambridge, UK, July 2023)

Legal Evolution and its Agendas (Panel on “Law and the Uses of History: Ideology, Jurisdiction and Agendas,” Law and Society Association Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2023)

Contested Concepts as Technologies of Governance: Meaning and Significance as Strategic Outcomes in Official Definitions of Economic Informality (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Lisbon, July 2022)

‘In practice but not in theory’: How Flawed Technicalities Helped Doing Business Succeed (Sociological Perspectives on International Economic Law and Human Rights, Law European University Institute, Florence, May 2022)

The Uses of Corporate Governance in Canadian Legislation and Regulation (Schulich School of Law Research Hour, March 2022)

The Borders of Responsibility, the Democratic Intellect, and other Elephants in the Room (Dalhousie Law Journal “Big Ideas” Symposium, October 2021)

Should Countries Follow Doing Business Guidance on Business Regulation? (Purdy Crawford Annual Workshop, Dalhousie University, September 25-26, 2020)

Show and Tell: On Schlag, Le Guin and the Anxieties of Genre (“A Day with Pierre Schlag” Workshop, Crépeau Centre for Private and Comparative Law, McGill University, September 2019) (invited)

International Labor Law and its Others: Governance by Norm versus Governance by Knowledge (Canadian Council on International Law Annual Conference, October 2019)

‘It works in practice but not in theory’: Flawed Technicalities and the Success of Law and Finance at the World Bank (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, June 2019 & Canadian Law and Society Association Annual Conference, June 2019)

Elephants in the Room: The Democratic Intellect at the End of Globalization (“Brexit and the Democratic Intellect,” Durham University English Department, January 2017) (invited)

No Elephant: On Strategies for Thinking Informality at Work (“Re-imagining Labour Law for Development: Informal Work in the Global North and South,” Society of Legal Scholars Annual Seminar, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, September 2016) (invited)

On the Border between Legal and Non-Legal Ideas: The Case of ‘Law and Finance’ (European University Institute—Bocconi University—Humboldt University Legal Studies Doctoral Workshop, Florence, March 2016)

'It works in practice but not in theory': Law & Finance as Project and Perspective (Harvard Institute for Global Law and Policy Conference, Harvard University, June 2015)

Rereading Informality: Labour Law, Techniques of Governance and Development Common Sense (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Seattle, May 2015)

The Robot Problem and the Potentials of Labour Law (or, 'I for one welcome our new robot overlords') ("Institutional Change and Experimentation: Shaping the Future of Work and Employment?" Annual Conference, Interuniversity Research Centre on Globalization and Work, Montreal, June 2015)

Cause and Effect in Law & Finance (European University Institute Private Law Doctoral Forum, February 2015)

Thomas Piketty, Law and the Many Faces of Capital (Harvard Institute for Global Law and Policy Writing Workshop, Doha, Qatar, January 2015)

The One and Many Faces of Capital ("Creative Constraints: Post-graduate and Early Career Conference," University College London, November 2014) [Awarded prize for *Most Creative Contribution*]

Beyond the Capital Turn (Critical Legal Conference, University of Sussex, September 2014)

Beyond Protection: An Informal Economy Perspective on Labour Law ("New Frontiers for Citizenship at Work", Centre de recherche interuniversitaire sur la mondialisation et le travail, Université de Montréal, May 2014)

Regulating Human Rights: Cultural Tensions? (McGill Graduate Law Students Association Annual Conference, June 2011)

Legal Education: The Role of Ignorance (McGill Graduate Law Students Association "Tertulia" Workshop, March 2011)

(with Larry Steinberg and Michael Lynk) *Age-Old Problems: Older Workers, Age Discrimination and the Leaky Umbrella of Workplace Law*, presented by Steinberg ("Charter and Human Rights at Work: 25 Years Later" Conference, University of Western Ontario, October 2007)

Additional Conferences and Workshops

Respondent for papers by Jasper P. Sluijs, Jay Varellas and Matias Guilloff, Workshop on "Law and Political Economy Between Authoritarianism and Freedom" (McGill University Faculty of Law, July 2025)

Panelist, Roundtable on Co-operative Law Training in Law Schools (International Cooperative Alliance Global Research Conference, Montreal, July 2025)

Chair and Discussant, Panel on "Capital's Legal Architecture: Corporate Form and Economic Power" Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Chicago, June 2025)

Panelist, Roundtable on Deval Desai's *Expert Ignorance: The Law and Politics of Rule of Law Reform* (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver Colorado, June 2024)

Chair, Panel on "Truth and Legal Judgment: History Through the Lens" (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver Colorado, June 2024)

Chair, Panel on "The Legal Construction of Markets: Gender, Race and Class" (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver Colorado, June 2024)

Chair and Discussant, Panel on “New Horizons in Economic Regulation” (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver Colorado, June 2024)

Chair, Panel on “Egalitarian AI” (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, San Juan Puerto Rico, July 2023)

Chair and Discussant, "Who's In and Whose Out: Testing the Walls of the State" (Law and Society Association Annual Conference, San Juan Puerto Rico, July 2023)

Respondent on Monica Gymah, “The *Malta Declaration* and the Applicability of the Principle of *Non-Refoulement*: The EU-Libya Policy of Cooperation on External Border Governance and Irregular Migrant Control” (Dalhousie Law Graduate Society, “Research Transition Conference,” May 2022)

Faculty respondent for ~11 paper presentations (Dalhousie Law Graduate Society “Research Transition Conference”, Dalhousie University, May 2021)

Roundtable on The ILO Supervisory Bodies at a Crossroads, part of the Transnational Futures of International Labour Law lecture series (Labour Law and Development Research Lab, McGill University, January 2019)

Respondent for Felipe Figueroa Zimmermann, “The province of jurisprudence (and economics)” ([9th Annual MetaLawEcon workshop](#), European University Institute, December 2018)

Respondent for “The Opportunities, Practicalities and Constraints of Socio-Legal Scholarship” (Early Career Workshop on Socio-Legal Methodologies, European University Institute, September 2016)

Respondent for Chapter 8 of Y. Vanderborght and P. Van Parijs, *The Instrument of Freedom*, at [“Future of Basic Income Research” Conference](#) (European University Institute, June 2015)

Respondent for Edward Nik-Khah, “George Stigler and the Marketplace of Ideas,” at “200 Years of Dialogue Between Knowledge and Power Historicizing the Challenges of Higher Education in the 21st Century” Conference (European University Institute, December 2014)

SERVICE

Social Science and Humanities Research Council

2025 Law and Criminology merit review committee, SSHRC Insight Grant competition

EUTOPIA

2024 [EUTOPIA Science and Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) competition, external reviewer

Dalhousie University

2024-26 Senate

Schulich School of Law

2025-26 Moots Committee (chair); Admissions Committee

2024-25 Moots Committee (chair); Academic Committee

2023-24 Committee on Committees; Moots Committee (chair); Academic Committee

2022-23 Moots Committee; Graduate Studies Committee

2021-22 Tenure and Promotions Committee

2020-21 Admissions Committee

Peer Review

2025 Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal; Dalhousie Law Journal;

2024 McGill Law Journal; Canadian Journal of Law and Society; Industrial Law Journal; Ottawa Law Review

2023 Transnational Legal Theory; Dalhousie Law Journal

2022 London Review of International Law; European Law Open; Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice;
Desautels Review—Manitoba Law Journal; Canadian Journal of Law and Technology;

2021 International Labour Review; Journal of Law and Political Economy; Dalhousie Journal of Legal Studies

2020 Melbourne Journal of International Law; Ottawa Law Review; Dalhousie Journal of Legal Studies;
Journal of Law and Political Economy

Previously European Journal of Legal Studies; McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law &
Policy; Journal of International Law and International Relations

Research Tools

2010–12 Principal Author, “McGill Guide, 7th ed.csl” (Zotero citation style)

Additional Governance

2011–13 Board of Directors, Sauvé Scholars Foundation

Provided hands-on support for legal and financial decisions; developed the alumni program;
participated in the strategic planning process for a foundation hosting uniquely-placed fellowships
at McGill University: sauvescholars.org

2011–13 Bargaining Team Representative, Association of McGill University Research Employees

2004–05 Member, University of Waterloo Board of Governors

2002–04 Board Member, University of Waterloo Federation of Students

AFFILIATIONS

- [Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory](#)
- [Law and Society Association \(US\)](#)

- [Association for the Promotion of Political Economy and the Law](#)