

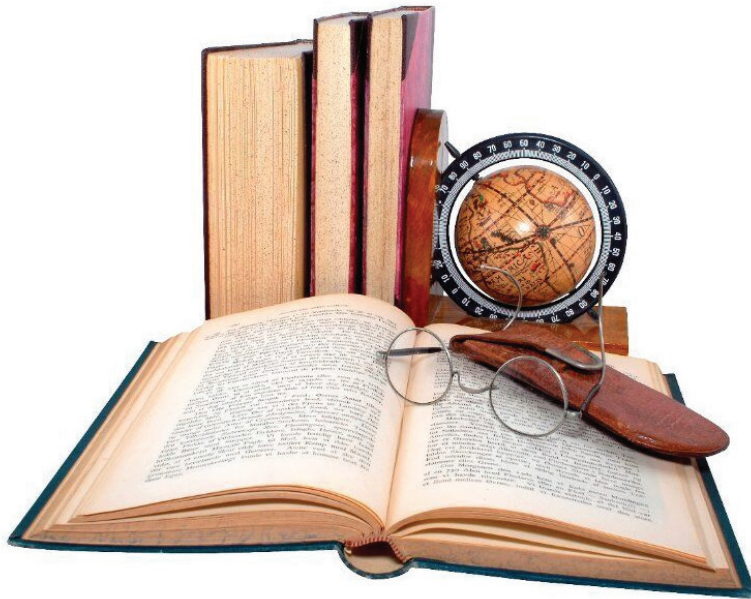
# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
in cooperation with the Departments of History, Philosophy, and Political Science,  
presents*

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## Wolfe Fellows Symposium



### **Anna Law, Department of Political Science**

#### **The 19th century in U.S. History: When Slavery Policy Determined Immigration Policy**

The antebellum period in U.S. history, slavery was inextricably intertwined with what we know today as immigration policy. The presentation will also explain why the states had control over this policy area and not the national government before the Civil War.

### **Michael Menser, Department of Philosophy**

#### **We Decide! Participatory Democracy in Theory and Practice**

Democracy is viewed as a procedure to aggregate preferences. It's about political parties and voting, representation and rights protection. An alternate tradition is participatory democracy which harks back to the more intimate poleis of Aristotle and Rousseau but fused with radical egalitarian and associationist views so as to be able to negotiate the rise of the state, economic globalization, cultural cosmopolitanism, the ecological crisis, and relentless technological advances. Democracy is not reducible to a specific political form but cultivates a capability-enhancing, solidarity-producing cultural production.

### **Michael Rawson, Department of History**

#### **The Nature of Tomorrow: Past Visions of the Environmental Future**

For the past two centuries, the dominant visions of tomorrow in the West have tended toward one of two extremes: dreams of unlimited growth or forecasts of environmental catastrophe. This predilection for extreme visions has contributed to our environmental problems and reflects a long-term failure of imagination, a failure to envision a future society capable of recognizing environmental limits and living within them.

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**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

**12:30 to 2 p.m.**

**Maroon Room, 6th Floor**

**Brooklyn College Student Center**

**Campus Road and East 27th Street**

**For information:** 718.951.5847 [wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu) **Twitter:** [twitter.com/Wolfe\\_Institute](https://twitter.com/Wolfe_Institute)

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## Recipient Bios

**Anna Law** holds the Herbert Kurz Chair in Constitutional Rights. Her publications appear in both social science journals and law journals and investigate the interaction between law, legal institutions and politics. Her first book, *The Immigration Battle in American Courts* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), examined the role of the federal judiciary in U.S. immigration policy, and the institutional evolution of the Supreme Court and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Law is a former program analyst at the bipartisan, blue-ribbon United States Commission on Immigration Reform. She has shared her expertise with the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Department of Homeland Security, and National Science Foundation. In 2007, she appeared as a recurring narrator with other academic experts and two Supreme Court justices in the PBS award-winning documentary. Her current projects include a second book on immigration federalism and slavery, and a National Science Foundation funded project on gender-based asylum claims before immigration judges.

**Michael Menser** is an assistant professor of philosophy and urban sustainability studies at Brooklyn College, and earth & environmental science and environmental psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is also co-founder and chair of the Board of the Participatory Budgeting Project. His current research focuses on participatory democracy, socio-ecological sustainability and resilience, and economic democracy. His articles have been published in *Environmental Ethics*, *Clarion*, *Environmental Philosophy*, and the *Journal of Social Philosophy*.

**Michael Rawson** is an associate professor of history at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center. Prior to working at CUNY, he received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied with William Cronon, and was a member of the Stanford Society of Fellows at Stanford University. Professor Rawson specializes in environmental history. His work has been supported by a number of institutions, including the Mellon Foundation, the Whiting Foundation, and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. His book, *Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston*, was published in 2010 by Harvard University Press. It won a number of honors and awards and was a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in History. His most recent article encouraged environmental historians to extend the boundaries of their field beyond the earth and begin working toward an environmental history of the universe. Professor Rawson is currently working on a book that explores past visions of the environmental future.

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