

Laura A. Foster

UCLA Department of Women's Studies
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Education

2004-2012 Ph.D. (June 2012) **University of California - Los Angeles**, Women's Studies

Dissertation *Re-inventing Hoodia: Patent Law, Epistemic Citizenship, and the Making of Difference in South Africa*

Advisors Sandra Harding (Chair), Christine Littleton, Carole Browner, Richard Abel

2000 J.D., **University of Cincinnati College of Law**

2000 M.A., **University of Cincinnati**, Women's Studies

M.A./J.D. Thesis *Social Security and African American Families: Unmasking Race and Gender Discrimination*

Advisors Dorothy Brown (Chair), Patricia Hill Collins, Marcia Bellas

1995 B.A., **Georgetown University**, Double Major in Government and Economics

Fellowships and Awards

2012 LGBT Studies Teaching Fellowship, UCLA

2010-2011 Center for the Study of Women Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA

2008-2009 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

2007 International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship, UCLA

2007 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA

2007 Law & Society Association Graduate Student Research Grant

2006-2008 Center for Society and Genetics Graduate Research Fellowship, UCLA

2005 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA

2004-2008 Pauley Graduate Studies Fellowship, UCLA

1998 Spiegel Public Interest Law Fellowship, UC College of Law

1998-1999 University of Cincinnati Law Review, UC College of Law

1997-1998 Cox Law Scholarship, UC College of Law

Publications

2011 Laura Foster, *Situating Feminisms, Patent Law, and the Public Domain*, 20 COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER AND LAW 261 (2011).

2008 Laura Foster, Book Review of *Sexual Inequalities and Social Justice* by Niels Teunis and Gilbert Herdt, 17 JOURNAL OF GENDER STUDIES 75 (2008)

2001 Laura Foster, *Social Security and African American Families: Unmasking Race and Gender Discrimination*, 12 UCLA WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL 55 (2001).

- 1999 Laura Foster, *A Modified Approach to Claims of Sexual Harassment under Title IX after Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District: Finding Protection against Peer Sexual Harassment*, 67 UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW REVIEW 1229 (1999).

Works in Progress

Patents, Biopolitics, and Feminisms: Linking/De-linking Patent Law Struggles Over Breast Cancer Genes and the Hoodia Plant (submitted and under review)

Circulations of Genetic Relatedness and Legal Personhood: Genetic Ancestry Testing in South Africa

Governing Hoodia: Legal Assemblages of Recognition, Ethics, and Citizenship

Feminist Critical Cartography of Circulations: Intersectionality and the Movement of Transnational Patented Objects

The Use and Regulation of Hormone Replacement Therapy Drugs for Menopause: A Qualitative Study of Physicians' Decision-making Practices (Saskia Subramanian and Dr. Thuy Tran, co-authors)

Courses Taught

- Spring 2012 Sex from Biology to Gendered Society General Education Cluster 72A: *Feminisms, Law, and Genetic Technologies: Constructing the Body* (UCLA) (upcoming)
- Winter 2012 LGBT Studies 187: *Sexuality, Gender, and the Law: Tensions in Feminist and Queer Legal Theory* (UCLA)
- Fall 2008 Women's Studies 185: *Feminism, Law, and Intellectual Property* (UCLA)
- Spring 2008 Sex from Biology to Gendered Society General Education Cluster 72A: *Genetic Identities: New Discrimination?* (UCLA)
- Winter 2008 Society and Genetics 97A: *Patent Law Reading Group* (UCLA)
- Spring 2007 Biotechnology & Society Cluster 71CW: *Bioprospecting and Patent Law: Indigenous and Feminist Critical Responses* (UCLA)
- Spring 2004 Women's Studies 350: *Women & Law* (Cincinnati)
- Winter 2004 Women's Studies 350: *Women & Law* (Cincinnati)
- Winter 2003 Women's Studies 350: *Women & Law* (Cincinnati)
- Winter 2003 Women's Studies 101: *Introduction to Women's Studies* (Cincinnati)
- Fall 2002 Women's Studies 350: *Women & Law* (Cincinnati)
- Winter 1998 Women's Studies 101: *Introduction to Women's Studies* (Cincinnati)

Academic Research and Service

- Fall 2009 Graduate Student Researcher
& Winter 2010 **UCLA Women's Studies**
UCLA Medical School, Department of Culture and Health
- Winter & Visiting Research Associate
Spring 2009 **University of Stellenbosch Law School, South Africa**
- Winter & Visiting Research Associate
Spring 2009 **Department of African Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa**
- 2006 Graduate Student Research Affiliate
- current **UCLA Center for Society and Genetics**
- Summer 2007 Visiting Research Associate
Department of African Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Fall 2005 Conference Coordinator
& Winter 2006 **UCLA Center for the Study of Women**
- Spring 2005 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Women's Studies
& Spring 2006 **UCLA Department of Women's Studies**
- 2004-2007 Graduate Student Representative
UCLA Graduate Division Social Sciences Council
- 1996-2000 Academic Advisor
College of Arts & Sciences Advising Center, University of Cincinnati
- 1999-2000 Associate Editor
Human Rights Quarterly, University of Cincinnati College of Law
- 1998-1999 Law Review Editorial Staff Member
Law Review, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Invited Presentations

- 2011 *Mobilization, Messaging and Communication for a Campaign to Stop Gene Patenting*, Panelist, The Tarrytown Meetings, New York, July 25-27, 2011.
- 2010 *Property: A Keywords Roundtable Discussion*, Moderator, Department of Women's Studies, University of California Irvine, March 10, 2010.
- 2008 *IP in South Africa*, Radio interview with Carey Shenkman, UCLA Radio, April 17, 2008.
- 2007 *Patents, Genes, and Empire: Indigenous Legal Responses to Biopiracy*, UCLA Center for the Study of Women Speaker Series, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, March 7, 2007.
- 2007 *Decolonizing Patent Law*, Radio interview with Sarah Soloman, UCLA Radio, February 15, 2007.

- 2007 *Commodification of a Cactus: Patents and Benefit Sharing Agreements*, Plenary Panelist, Thinking Gender Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, February 2, 2007.

Refereed Presentations

- 2011 *Epistemic Citizenship and the Patenting of Indigenous Knowledge*, Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, Nov 2-5, 2011.
- 2011 *Governing Hoodia: Legal Assemblages of Recognition, Ethics, and Citizenship*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, June 2-5, 2011.
- 2010 *Circulations of Genetic Relatedness: Genetic Ancestry Testing in South Africa*, American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Nov 17-21, 2010.
- 2010 *Indigenous Feminisms, African Feminisms, and the Patenting of Genetic Material in South Africa*, National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, Nov. 11-14, 2010.
- 2010 *A Feminist Critical Cartography of Circulations: Examining the Gendered Social Relations of Transnational Patented Objects*, International Studies Association – West Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 24-25, 2010.
- 2010 *Mapping Circulations: Intersectionality and the Movement of Transnational Patented Objects*, Annual Critical Race Studies Symposium, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA, Mar. 11-13, 2010.
- 2009 *Patent Law as Site for Transnational Feminist Inquiry*, National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 12-14, 2009.
- 2009 *Do Patents Privilege Reductionist Science?: Patentable Subject Matter and the Politics of Benefit Sharing*, Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., October 28-31, 2009.
- 2009 *Patenting Hoodia: Feminisms, Patent Law, and Situated Public Domains*, Law and Society Association West Coast Retreat, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA, October 16-17, 2009.
- 2007 *Patent Law's Progress?: Deconstructing Narratives of the Scientific Expert*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany, July 25 – 29, 2007.
- 2007 *Patents and Pirates: Tracing Colonial Discourses within United States Intellectual Property Policy*, Sustainable Directions in Feminist Scholarship Graduate Student Conference, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, March 31, 2007.
- 2006 *Towards a Feminist Critique of Intellectual Property Law: The Case of Hoodia and the Indigenous San*, 2006 Law and Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, July 6, 2006.

- 2006 *Decolonizing Patent Law: Invention, Objectivity, and Democracy*, New Directions in Feminist Scholarship Graduate Student Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, April 21, 2006.
- 2005 *Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples: Recognizing Indigenous Men's and Women's Contributions*, New Legal Realism Meets Feminism and Legal Theory Conference, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA, June 24-25, 2005.
- 2005 *International Law and Resistance*, Thinking Gender Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, March 4, 2005.
- 2003 *Social Security and African American Families: Unmasking Race and Gender Discrimination*, Institute for Women's Policy Research International Public Policy Conference, Washington, D.C., June 2003.
- 1999 *A Hard Lesson to Learn: The Demise of Title IX Protection Against Sexual Harassment in Schools and its Impact on U.S. Feminist Activist Strategies*, Gender and Violence Symposium, University of Miami, OH, February 1999.
- 1999 *Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District: Finding Protection against Peer Sexual Harassment*, GROW Conference, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, February 1999.

Professional Affiliations

National Women's Studies Association
 Law & Society Association
 Society for Social Studies of Science
 American Anthropological Society
 Ohio State Bar

Legal and Non-Profit Experience

Nov. 2003 **Associate Director**
 -July 2004 Dress for Success Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Managed development and operations for a non-profit organization that assists low-income women in obtaining and maintaining employment. Developed, implemented, and evaluated the fundraising efforts of the organization and its Board members. Designed and carried out strategies to cultivate and maintain individual donors and corporate sponsorship. Managed the organization's business operations, staff, and volunteers. Researched grant prospects and reviewed grant proposals. Provided leadership in strategic planning and human resource efforts.

Dec. 2001 **Attorney**
-Nov. 2003 Beckman, Weil, Shepardson & Faller, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Served as general counsel for two local universities. Advised university administrators on bond financing, real estate law, employment law, and regulations governing student privacy and faculty research. Worked directly with clients on general business law transactions such as forming and dissolving corporations, meeting corporate compliance requirements, negotiating contracts, obtaining commercial financing, and developing employee benefit plans. Assisted clients with strategic tax planning, drafting of wills and trusts, and the probate of estates.

Sept. 2000 **Attorney**
-Dec. 2001 Deloitte & Touche, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Identified and implemented tax and business planning opportunities for existing and prospective clients. Reviewed contracts, purchase agreements, and trust agreements and then advised accountants and clients on appropriate legal action. Advised accountants on general legal principals in contracts, employment, and litigation law. Performed legal research and drafted memorandum.

June 1999 **Litigation Law Clerk**
-August 1999 Moskowitz & Moskowitz, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Performed legal research for a general litigation firm in the areas of business, taxation, employment, domestic relations, and probate law. Drafted memorandums and motions, organized trial evidence, prepared interrogatories, assisted with depositions, contacted clients, and supported attorneys during scheduled litigation.

June 1998 **Human Rights Law Clerk**
-August 1998 Metlhaetsile Women's Centre, Botswana, Africa

Conducted research and developed a comparative analysis of anti-domestic violence legislation in the Netherlands, United States, and South Africa. Performed research on the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault on women's lives in Botswana. Drafted a proposed Protection from Family Violence Bill and Prevention of Sexual Contact with Students Bill. Presented draft legislation and participated in a dialogue with government and non-government organizations at a national conference in Botswana.

Community Engagement

Jan. 2009-
current Legal Research Volunteer
 Natural Justice, Cape Town, South Africa

Mar. 2007 Legal Research Volunteer
-June 2007 **Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism, Nevada**

Mar. 2002 Board of Directors
-July 2004 **Cincinnati Alzheimer's Association, Ohio**

Jan. 2002 Volunteer
-July 2004 **Cincinnati Women's Community Leadership Network, Ohio**

Dec. 2001 Board of Directors
-June 2002 **Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation, Indiana**

June 1996 Domestic Violence Court Advocate
-Sept. 1996 **Cincinnati Women Helping Women, Ohio**