GLS is pleased to invite you to the following workshop:

**Legal Innovation toward Social Change**

3:00pm-5:15pm on Friday, May 4, 2012
and 8:30am-2:00pm on Saturday, May 5, 2012
Lubar Commons (7200 Law)

**Program**

**Friday, May 4, 2012**
3:00-3:30 Registration and Refreshments
3:30-3:45 Introductory remarks
3:45-5:15 Panel 1 - Areas of Social Contestation outside Formal Institutions

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**
8:30 Breakfast
9:00-10:30 Panel 2 - Reconceptualizing the Role of Courts
10:45-12:15 Panel 3 - Reconceptualizing International Principles
12:15-12:30 Concluding remarks
12:30-2:00 Lunch

**About the workshop/project:**
The dynamics of legal change are central questions for academic inquiry. While much legal change takes place incrementally through legal reform and judicial decision-making, there are particular instances of change, in the law or the legal system, that are more abrupt and more directed, animated with the goal of yielding particular policy outcomes. The proposed project will focus on the role of different actors - lawyers, judges, legal academics and even social movements - in this more purposeful use of law, which we refer to as legal innovation. This includes the innovative use of existing law by these actors. We begin from the assumption that ambiguity in the language
and practice of law permits and even encourages innovation that either facilitates or impedes progressive social change. The impetus for the project comes from the observation that as law becomes ever more transnational, new opportunities and imperatives arise for innovation.

Our goal is to explore the phenomenon of legal innovation - in different settings, in different regions of the world, and across different scales - in order to begin generating theories about the conditions that lead to legal innovation, and the conditions that lead to its ultimate success or failure.

Questions? Please contact Sumudu Atapattu
Full program available here

Sponsors:
Global Legal Studies Center
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