H. C. ROBINSON

Associate Professor of Law and Sociology
Northeastern University
Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Northeastern University
  Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
  Associate Professor of Law and Sociology, School of Law\Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, 2018 –
Wesleyan University
  Middletown, Connecticut, U.S.A.
  Visiting Assistant Professor, Science in Society Program, 2017 – 2018
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
  Geneva, Switzerland
  Visiting Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Programmes, 2013 – 2015
  Research Fellow in the Program for the Study of International Governance, 2014 – 2015
Georgetown University Law Center
  Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
  Visiting Researcher, 2012 – 2013
Vermont Law School
  South Royalton, Vermont, U.S.A.
  Assistant Professor of Law, 2009 – 2012
Harvard Law School
  Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
  Reginald F. Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching, 2006 – 2007

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  Program in History, Anthropology, Science, Technology, and Society
  Qualified fields: Science, Technology, and Society; Law and Society; Digital Infrastructures
  Susan Silbey, Dissertation Advisor
  Thesis: "Making a Digital Working Class: Uber Drivers in Boston, 2016-2017"
  https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/113946

J.D. Harvard Law School

A.B. Harvard College, magna cum laude
  Special Concentration in Genomic Science and Public Policy
  Sheila Jasanoff, Thesis Advisor
  Thesis: "Making the Case for Kinship: Reproductive Biotechnology in U.S. Courts of Law"

RESEARCH GRANTS

2019   U.S. National Science Foundation, Directorate for Engineering, Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research (FW-HTF), $1,499,884/3 years: "Regulating and Managing the Algorithmic Workplace: A Multi-Method Study for Comprehensive Optimization of Platforms" https://bit.ly/2yl1dwD

2019   Northeastern University, Tier I Seed Grant/Proof of Concept, $40,000/1 year: "Modeling and Evaluation of Interdependencies in Platform-Based Markets" – with Yakov Bart (D'Amore-McKim School of Business), Dan O'Brien (Public Policy and Urban Affairs), Rashmi Dyal-Chand (School of Law), Babak Heydari, P.I. (College of Engineering) http://bit.ly/2GqA7WJ

2017   U.S. National Science Foundation, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, Science and Technology Studies (STS) Program: Doctoral Dissertation Research, $15,857/10 months: "A Multi-Method Comparative Study of Uber Drivers" http://bit.ly/2nMTxsA

PUBLICATIONS

2019   Robinson, H.C. "Regulating Platforms as Triangulated Firms." <u>Reengineering the Sharing Economy: Design, Policy, and Regulation</u>. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) edited volume, forthcoming.

2016   Robinson, H.C. "Shifted Personhood: Corporations, Technology, and Law on the Path to *Citizens United* and Current Electoral Politics in the United States." <u>University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Social Change</u> (18:5) pp. 403-457.
                                        Winner of the 2015 James W. Carey Media Research Award

2001   Juma, C., Robinson, H., et. al. "Global Governance of Technology: Meeting the Needs of Developing Countries." <u>International Journal of Technology Management</u> (22:7/8) pp. 629-655.

2000   Robinson, Hilary C. "Questions of Rejected Motherhood: Male Creation, Ambition, and Solitude in Mary Shelly's Frankenstein." <u>Exposé</u> (Cambridge, Mass.: President and Fellows of Harvard College) pp. 12-17.
                                        Winner of the 2000 Richard C. Marius Prize for Expository Writing

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2020   Robinson, H.C. and Steven P. Vallas. "The Lived Experience of Risk among Ride-Hailing Drivers in Boston." Annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Jul. 18-21, virtual.

2018   Robinson, H.C. "Software-Enabled Breach of Regulatory Systems by Work Organizations and Workers in the Digital Economy." Annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Jun. 23-25, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan.

2017   Robinson, H.C. "The Legal Consciousness of Uber Drivers: Implications of Law-Breaking in the Routine Course of Work." Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Nov. 29-Dec. 3, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

2016   Robinson, H.C. "Regulating the Digital Working Classes: Some Evidence from a Field Study of Uber Drivers in Boston." Annual meeting of the Law and Society Association. Jun. 2-5, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

2015   Robinson, H.C. "Media Technology, Corporations, and the Law of Freedom of Speech in the United States." Political Agency in the Digital Age: Media, Participation, and Democracy. Regional meeting of the European Communication Research and Education Association. Oct. 9-10, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2014   Robinson, H.C. "Sociotechnical Linkages between Beat Policing and Forensic DNA Databases in Twenty-First Century Crime Control." Modes of Technoscientific Knowledge. Winter school of the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, and University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Jan. 19-25, Manigod, France.

INVITED TALKS

2020   Robinson, H.C. "Authors Meet Critic: Tim Jordan's The Digital Economy." Panel at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Jul. 18-21, virtual.

2019   Robinson, H.C. "Sharing Economy Systems – Design, Governance, and Policy." Panel at the annual meeting of the Council of Engineering Systems Universities (CESUN). Northeastern University, May 1-2, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

2019   Robinson, H.C. "Part-time Workers and Reserve Labor Dynamics on Platforms: Some Insights from a Field Study of Uber Drivers." Lecture given to the Sharing Economy: Research on Access, Technology, Equity and Applications conference. Northeastern University, Mar. 21-22, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

2018   Robinson, H.C. "Uber vs. the Law? Some Lessons from a Field Study of Uber Drivers." Lecture given at the Academic Technology Roundtable Series. Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, U.S.A.

2017   Robinson, H.C. "Information and Community in the Age of Trump." Lecture given at the Program in History and Anthropology, Science, Technology and Society. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

2017   Robinson, H.C. "Regulating the Digital Working Classes: Some Evidence from a Field Study of Uber Drivers." Lecture given at the Techno-Anthropology Research Group Annual Meeting. Ålborg University, Dragør, Denmark.

2014   Robinson, H.C. "DNA Databases as Historical Tracers." Historical Tracers and the Historiography of Science. Panel at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting. Nov. 6-9, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

2013   Robinson, H.C. "DNA Databases and the Administration of Criminal Justice." Lecture given at the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2019   Robinson, H.C. "The Boeing Crashes and Managing Algorithms So They Don't Manage Us." Cognoscenti (Mar. 27, 2019) https://wbur.fm/2H09Dug

2017   "A Discussion on Tech in Toronto: Sidewalk Labs' Project to Build the Quayside Community 'From the Internet Up'" (interview by Aisling O'Carroll). The Site Magazine (39: 50-60) https://www.thesitemagazine.com/read/sidewalk-labs

2016   Robinson, H.C. (pseudonymously). "Action You Can Take Against Post-Truth." Medium (Dec. 13, 2016) https://bit.ly/2Ep34DC

2016   Robinson, H.C. "If Denmark were the U.S., would we have our own Trump?" *The* Copenhagen Post (Oct. 19, 2016) http://cphpost.dk/?p=72009

2013   Katz, Bruce and Jennifer Bradley. "Metros as the New Sovereign." The Metropolitan Revolution (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution) pp. 171-191 [acknowledgement p. xii].

2007   Robinson, Hilary. "An Intellectual Desire." *55 Successful Harvard Law School Application Essays* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard Crimson) pp. 157-161.

2002   Robinson, Hilary C. "Coverage of Homeless Woman's Plight Unfair." Letter to the Editors responding to "Harvard Grad Prepares to Leave Home on the Street" (News, Nov. 15) The Harvard Crimson (Nov. 17, 2002) https://bit.ly/2QdcoNS

2001   Robinson, Hilary C. "Biotechnology in South Africa: 2001." (U.S. Department of State: Pretoria, South Africa) [unclassified cable, Economic Section, U.S. Embassy].

2001   Internet Policy Institute. Briefing the President: What the Next President of the United States Needs to Know About the Internet and its Transformative Impact on Society. (Washington, D.C.: Internet Policy Institute) [editorial staff].

THESES ADVISED

2018   William Freudenheim. "Reading the Hybrid Worlds of Augmented Reality: An Embodied Interface Approach." B.A. honors thesis, awarded with high honors at Wesleyan University.

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE
& SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

2020-   National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founding member of the North Shore of Massachusetts Branch (chartered Jul. 24, 2020)
2020-   Northeastern University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, faculty member of the Intellectual Events Committee
2020   National Science Foundation, Engineering Directorate, Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier, member of the review panel for planning grants
2019-   90.9 WBUR-FM Boston, contributor to *Cognoscenti* forum
2019-   Boston Area Junior Law Scholars Roundtable
2019   Massachusetts-Area Planning Council Workshop, "The Municipal Workforce in Greater Boston," Northeastern University Law Lab
2018   Law and Society Association, member of the Wheeler Award Committee
2017   American Sociological Association, contributor to the Law and Society Section Newsletter
2016   Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Campaign for a Better World, doctoral research featured: "The Laws of Technology" https://betterworld.mit.edu/the-laws-of-technology/

2011   Vermont Law School, Law and Philosophy Club, Faculty advisor
2010   Vermont Law School, member of the Faculty Development Committee
2008 - Harvard College, volunteer Alumni interviewer for Admissions and Financial Aid

COURSES TAUGHT

LAW

Contract Law

A contract is simply a set of written instructions: specifications for a transaction or a business relationship constituted by the exchange of goods or services or both. Contract law is the process by which the force of the police power of a state or federal government is brought behind those instructions, to force them to be carried out ("specific performance") or some other remedy in the event the contract is breached (such as an award of money damages). The aim of this course is to train students to litigate contract disputes – to learn how to examine the facts of a case, and the applicable law, in order to: 1) develop arguments to support the adversarial position of a client in a contract dispute, and 2) determine the likely outcome of a controversy over a contract. A further aim is to give students a sense of how a transactional commercial lawyer works to reach agreements with the lawyers of other parties prior to any dispute over the meaning of drafted terms and parties' behavior around them. This is about how a commercial lawyer can act as an architect and engineer of relationships that take the shape of legal arrangements in which clients operate.

Law and Technology

Human beings have used rulemaking and toolmaking to shape the world since history has been recorded. Does that mean that our world is primarily structured by technology, or by law? How do the two interact to create social order? Technology is commonly defined as the practical application of knowledge, and specific technologies as those capabilities produced by the practical application of knowledge—such as the capability to "word process" this syllabus (which is a practical application of knowledge about how to create and manipulate very small electrical circuits inside a computer). A legal realist might similarly describe jurisprudence as the practical application of legal reasoning: it produces the capability to decide cases. In the words of law and society scholar Susan Silbey: "The law is a construct of human ingenuity; laws are material phenomena" ("After Legal Consciousness," *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* (2005) 1:323-68). These material phenomena are important tools for societies like ours, since laws provide a way to resolve disputes between parties without them needing to use physical force (n.b., law and legal process, applied unevenly, are also used to legitimize the use of force in repressive regimes). This course is interested in what happens when the use of technology creates disputes that legal institutions are called upon to resolve. We will therefore investigate law and technology as two interlocking phenomena in cases concerning biotechnology, information technologies, and the "platforms" they use to facilitate things like social media (e.g., Facebook), transportation (e.g., Uber), and commerce in goods (e.g., eBay). By seeking to understand these scenarios in which law and technology appear to be in processes of conflict and accommodation, we will aim to go beyond the one-directional, technologically-deterministic idea of "law lag" (where technology makes material changes and the law simply catches up). To do this, we will use concepts from the social study of technology—science and technology studies (STS)—to investigate how technology and law influence each other within the networks in which they are produced: in specific societies and at specific moments in place and time.

Legislation and Regulation

This course in legislation and regulation supplements first-year courses focused on the common law, and upper-level courses focused on specific legal areas, by illuminating how laws are made in the modern administrative state (tripartite government + implementing institutions) as a form of problem-solving for the public good. In order to understand how aims like these are accomplished through law, we will examine how statutes are drafted and enacted by legislatures, how regulations are adopted by administrative agencies implementing statutory authority, and how courts interpret legislation and regulation. Alongside understanding these political and technical processes, our goal is to also reveal, in the words of Daniel Rodriguez (a professor of law who teaches Legislation and Regulation), "the ways in which law is embedded in, and reflective of our best and worst perspectives on politics and social policy" (*Harvard Law Record*, Sept. 4, 2018) as we aspire to create the (or a) good society.

Constitutional Law
Required first-year doctrinal law course addressing the collection of evaluative standards that the U.S. Supreme Court has used to judge the limits of governmental power against individuals, amongst the branches of government, and between the federal government and the states. Text: Paul Brest, et al., Processes of Constitutional Decisionmaking (2006).

Law and "Techno"-privacy
Considering the evolution of the legal concept of "information privacy" and use of legal process to assert a right to control personal information from one hundred years ago to Facebook, the iPhone, and Wikileaks today.

Agricultural Biotechnology and the Law
Considering the use of law by stakeholders in agricultural systems as they seek to improve those systems through the constructive use of scientific and technical knowledge. Interrogates how new technological and scientific developments shift power and resources between stakeholders, giving rise to new disputes about property rights, safety, and harm.

Appellate Advocacy and Legal Writing I
First and second year law courses in legal analysis and written and oral argument.

SOCIOLOGY/STS

Law, Technology, and Society in the Digital World
In our lifetime, networked computing technologies have become part of everyday activities – mostly via smart "phones," which are pocket-sized computers that are continuously connected to digital networks and became widespread about a decade ago. The platform applications accessed using smartphones make many of the activities of daily life, such as communication and commerce, now part of a "digital world." This course draws on readings in the sociology of law and the study of science, technology, and society (STS) to contextualize this digital world as a sociotechnical system structured by the capabilities and constraints of both technology and law. We will consider how people and other actors, like business organizations, design and use law and technology to do things in the digital world, and block things from being done. Our objective is to begin by critically investigating what we take for granted about the categories "law" and "technology," and then to use a more complex and comprehensive understanding to consider how law and technology together

enable and constrain human agency across three types of activity on digital platforms: labor, communication, and commerce.

The 21st Century Workplace

Much of contemporary popular culture and scholarship depicts history, arts, corporate behavior, and public affairs as the product of individual human decisions, utility, invention, malfeasance, avarice, or creativity. However, to understand the intersection of individual biographies and large-scale patterns, we must relate the life of the individual to the operation of social institutions such as corporations, markets, nation states, or legal systems. Sociology uses a range of research methods to do this: studying the processes, mechanisms, and intervening conditions that influence, channel, and organize – or "structure" – human action. This course analyzes human action in a particular time and space: contemporary American work settings. It explores emerging labor markets, gender, race, and technology. Our effort will be to develop a complex understanding of the twenty-first century workplace by using principles and examples from history, sociology, and anthropology, and from the social study of technology (science and technology studies, or STS). Our aim is to investigate how technology, the owners of capital, workers, and workplaces and the surrounding culture influence each other; to go beyond ideas of work as simply a private or individual concern, or an economic matter to be interpreted solely in terms of market competition.

Social and Cultural Studies of Science

Provides a survey of theories and methods attending the social and cultural study of science and technology. Students consider the role of design (such as by engineers) and use (such as by consumers), and learn historical perspectives that frame the question of whether the social configurations and cultural meanings linked to scientific and technological innovation are really "new."

Science and Technology at the Supreme Court in the Current Term

Introduces students to legal decision making in the context of "disruptive" scientific and technological innovation by considering several cases that will be taken up the U.S. Supreme Court this term. To contextualize the specific factual and legal disputes, students learn about science, technology, and law as social institutions that shape each other and also shape their constituents and publics. The seminar further considers the history and theory of the state monopoly on the use of force, which is what will be set into action by the enforcement of these court decisions.

Research Methods in Science Studies: Studying "On-Demand Work" in the 21st Century

Considers how to study work and workers in in the "on demand," "contingent," or "gig" economy of the twenty-first century, described as a "peer-to-peer" marketplace where firms provide software that links "users" to one another so that they can make exchanges, serving the roles of both customer and employee. The course trains students in the use of qualitative social scientific methods to examine these software-based labor markets, drawing in part from earlier studies of mobile workplaces (such as of the police on patrol), and more recent studies of computerized gambling, software-facilitated dating, and transportation services like Uber. Students read a National Science Foundation research proposal and draft their own proposal for a study of "on demand" work and workers.

Transnational Comparison of Technology Regulation in the U.S. and Europe

Takes up the relativist philosophical stance of the sociological study of science and technology to generate a research program into what these are in social and cultural context. This course teaches the theory and practice of transnational comparative research, drawing both on classical and new texts in the field, and on my own experience studying technology in two different national contexts (the U.S. and Denmark).

Advanced Group Tutorial in Socio-Legal Studies

Focused on how law serves as a tool for general legal order as well as carefully defined regulatory purposes, and also how it constitutes a cultural system. Viewing the law as both a set of symbols and tools, this course will help students to understand what the law is and what it does in relation to specific societal problems. It will introduce students to the difference between common law systems (where the law is "what the judges say"), and more modern types of regulation in which the law works by vesting the power to make rules, enforce them, and adjudicate disputes in technocratic, "regulatory" bodies. The course will explain how legal regulation is semiotic, telling us what things are in the context of disputes between the users of the law, and its targets. The course will focus on specific people, institutions, and events and describe them as concretely as possible as situated both in law and in society.

Governing Genomics in the 21st Century

Uses examples from various countries to provide a survey of relevant topics and perspectives in genomics and public policy, with the objective of providing students with a multidisciplinary working knowledge of innovations in human and agricultural biotechnology, an understanding of legal and political institutions and modes of thinking concerning these technologies, and the norms that shape today's debates. Students become familiar with regulatory approaches to scientific development, terms of art in patent, privacy, and tort law, and their interpretation by courts in novel technological contexts in various jurisdictions around the world.