

COLLOQUIUM BY CARL MINZNER

AMERICAN POLITICS: EROSION AND RENEWAL

TIME: 7:00-8:00 PM, TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

American Politics: Erosion and Renewal

Speaker: Carl Minzner, Professor of Law, Fordham Law School

Abstract:

Institutions are the heart of America's domestic political and legal stability during the 20th century. These include Congress, President, and court system. They also include social institutions, such as media, universities, and the bar. These have eroded over the past 30-40 years. Some reasons are economic- rising gap between rich and poor, globalization. Others are technological (social media and Internet eroding the traditional role of media). Others are political and legal (gerrymandering + Supreme Court decisions increasing the ability of large donors to affect politics. The effect of this has been to erode key American institutions. Examples include: spreading polarization and dysfunction in Congress, decline of traditional media, breakdown of implicit political norms (filibuster, blocking of judicial nominees). And now: rising populism, with Trump's 2016 election as most visible manifestation.

The key question going forward is: will these core problems get addressed? Key things to watch include: 2018 Pennsylvania gerrymandering case, new discussion of possible regulation on social media, potential results of 2018 midterm elections.

BIO:

Carl Minzner is an expert in Chinese law and governance. He has written extensively on these topics in both academic journals and the popular press, including op-eds appearing in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, and Christian Science Monitor. Prior to

joining Fordham, he was an Associate Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition, he has served as Senior Counsel for the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, International Affairs Fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations, and Yale-China Legal Education Fellow at the Xibei Institute of Politics and Law in Xi'an, China. He has also worked as an Associate at McCutchen & Doyle (Palo Alto, CA) and as a Law Clerk for Hon. Raymond Clevenger of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

This event is open to all. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.