

Sarah A. Seo

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Employment

- 2020–present Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
- Winter 2022 Daniel P.S. Paul Visiting Professor of Constitutional Law, Harvard Law School
- 2016–2020 Associate Professor of Law, University of Iowa College of Law
- Spring 2019 Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
- 2008–2009 Law Clerk, Hon. Reena Raggi, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- 2007–2008 Law Clerk, Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- 2006–2007 Part-time Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, NY
- Summer 2006 Summer Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, NY and Hong Kong
- Summer 2005 Legal Intern, International Labor Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

Education

- 2009–2016 Princeton University, Ph.D., History
- Emerging Alumni Scholars Award (2015)
 - Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, University Center for Human Values (2013–2014)
- 2004–2007 Columbia Law School, J.D.
- Senior Editor, *Columbia Law Review*
 - Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (2004–2007)
 - Harvey Fellowship (2004–2007)
 - E. Allan Farnsworth Note Competition Prize (2007)
- 1998–2002 Princeton University, A.B., History, *magna cum laude*
- Certificates in East Asian Studies and Program in the Study of Women & Gender
 - Phi Beta Kappa
 - Suzanne M. Huffman Memorial Prize (best thesis in Women & Gender Studies)
 - History Department Asian History Prize (best thesis on Asia)

Publications

Book

2019 Policing the Open Road: How Cars Transformed American Freedom (Harvard UP)

Prizes

- Order of the Coif Book Award
- Littleton-Griswold Prize, American Historical Association
- Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, Phi Beta Kappa Society
- David J. Langum, Sr. Prize in American Legal History
- Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize
- Honorable Mention, J. Willard Hurst Book Prize, Law & Society Association

Citations

- *United States v. Weaver*, No. 18-1697-cr (2d Cir. Aug. 16, 2021 (en banc) (Calabresi, J., dissenting)
- *United States v. Weaver*, 975 F.3d 94 (2d Cir. Sept. 15, 2020)
- *United States v. Walker*, 965 F.3d 180 (2d Cir. July 14, 2020)
- *United States v. Wallace*, 937 F.3d 130 (2d Cir. Sept. 3, 2019) (Pooler, J., dissenting)

Reviews (selected)

- Peter Norton in *Technology and Culture*, vol. 62, no. 2 (April 2021)
- Kathryn Birks Harvey in *Law and History Review*, vol. 39, no. 1 (February 2021)
- Seth W. Stoughton in *Law and Society Review*, vol. 55, no. 1 (2021)
- Eric Goldwyn, “Driving Opportunity,” *Urban Omnibus*, Mar. 11, 2020
- Stephanie Wykstra, “License and Registration, Please,” *Issues in Science and Technology*, vol. 36, no. 2 (Winter 2020)
- Adam Gurri, “Driving, Police Power, and the Word: Sarah A. Seo’s *Policing the Open Road*,” *Liberal Currents*, Jan. 14, 2020
- *Smithsonian Magazine*’s “The Ten Best History Books of 2019,” by Angela Serratore, Nov. 22, 2019
- Tracey Maclin, “Cops and Cars: How the Automobile Drove Fourth Amendment Law,” 99 B.U. L. Rev. 2317 (2019)
- Jackson Smith, “Why Do Police Drive Cars?” *Public Books*, Nov. 13, 2019
- Emily A. Profigle, “A Century of Cars Driving the Fourth Amendment,” *The New Rambler*, Oct. 2, 2019
- Nathan Heller, “Was the Automobile Era a Terrible Mistake?” *New Yorker*, July 29, 2019
- *New Yorker*’s “What We’re Reading in the Summer of 2019,” with a review by Hua Hsu, June 4, 2019
- *Cato Unbound* dedicated April 2019 issue, “Cars, Police, and American Freedom,” to host a symposium on *Policing the Open Road*, with review essays by Clark Neily, Lars Trautman, and John Pfaff

Published Excerpts

- [The Long History of Police Abuse on the Road](#), *Medium*, July 27, 2020
- [How Cars Transformed Policing](#), *Boston Review*, June 3, 2019
- [The Need for Speed Limits](#), *Lapham’s Quarterly*, Apr. 9, 2019

Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming Kindred to Treason: Conspiracy Laws in the United States, in *In Between and Across: Legal History without Boundaries*, edited by Jacob Katz Cogan and Kenneth W. Mack (Oxford University Press)
- 2022 [How Federalism Built the FBI, Sustained Local Police, and Left Out the States](#), *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties* (with Daniel Richman)
- 2021 [User's Guide to History](#), in *Research Handbook on Modern Legal Realism*, edited by Shaubin Talesh, Heinz Klug, and Elizabeth Mertz (Edward Elgar)
- Reviewed in Christopher W. Schmidt, [Using the Past](#), *Jotwell: The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*, May 19, 2022
- 2020 [Charles Reich and the Legal History of Privacy](#), 36 *Touro Law Review* 823 (invited symposium essay)
- 2020 [The Originalist Road Not Taken in *Kansas v. Glover*](#), *ACS Supreme Court Review*
- 2019 [Democratic Policing before the Due Process Revolution](#), 128 *Yale Law Journal* 1246
- Selected for the 2019 ACS Junior Scholars Public Law Workshop
 - Finalist, 2018 AALS Scholarly Papers Competition
- 2016 [The New Public](#), 125 *Yale Law Journal* 1616
- Quoted in *United States v. Johnson*, 874 F.3d 571 (7th Cir. 2017) (en banc) (Hamilton, J., dissenting)
 - Quoted in *Iowa v. Storm*, 898 N.W.2d 140 (Iowa 2017) (Hecht, J., dissenting)
 - Quoted in *In re Motors Liquidation Co.*, 829 F.3d 135 (2d Cir. 2016)
 - Quoted in Josh Keefe, "A Brief History of the Traffic Stop (Or How the Car Created the Police State)," *observer.com*, July 26, 2016
 - Quoted in Conor Friedersdorf, "The Senate's Only Black Republican Opens Up About Being Mistreated by Cops," *theatlantic.com*, July 15, 2016
- 2013 [Antinomies and the Automobile: A New Approach to Criminal Justice Histories](#), 38 *Law and Social Inquiry* 1020
- 2008 The Science of the Mind and the Practical Science of the Law, 26 *Law and History Review* 161 (with John F. Witt)
- 2008 A Shattered Dream: The American Law Institute and the Drafting of the International Bill of Rights, 30 *Thomas Jefferson Law Review* 179
- 2008 Battle of the Branches: An Empirical Analysis of Education Lawsuits in the United States, 41 *Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems* 125 (with Joy Chia)
- Popular Essays, Book Reviews, Reports, and Op-Eds (selected)
- Dec. 2, 2021 [Reimagining the Public Defender](#), *The New York Review of Books*
- April 15, 2021 [Police Officers Shouldn't Be the Ones to Enforce Traffic Laws](#), *New York Times*
- March 22, 2021 [How the Car Industry Drove the Growth of Police and 'Discretionary' Policing](#), *USA Today*

- August 24, 2020 A Path to Non-Police Enforcement of Civil Traffic Violations, *The Justice Collaborative Institute*
- July 23, 2020 Racism on the Road, *The New York Review of Books*
- Oct. 12, 2019 What Cars Can Teach Us About New Policing Technologies, *The New York Review Daily*
- Aug. 2019 Sur la route, la police est reine, *Le Monde Diplomatique* (English version, Price of Freedom on the Road, published in Nov. 2019)
- July 14, 2019 On the Road, Police Power Has Few Limits, *The Atlantic*
- May 15, 2019 Why we can – and must – create a fairer system of traffic enforcement. *Washington Post*
- Apr. 19, 2019 If Overpolicing Happened to Everyone, *Cato Unbound*
- Apr. 8, 2019 From Courtesy, to Discretion ... to Heightened Police Power, *Cato Unbound*
- Apr. 23, 2018 Why our response to the Starbucks arrests must go beyond race, *Washington Post*
- July 24, 2017 How the fight over civil forfeiture lays bare the contradictions in modern conservatism, *Washington Post*
- June 27, 2017 A bullet can cross the border. Can the Constitution? The Supreme Court won't say. *Washington Post*
- 2017 Our Criminal Laws, Our Constitution, 52 *Tulsa L. Rev.* 607 (solicited review essay for faculty-edited issue)

Prizes, Fellowships, and Honors

(See also under “Publications: Book”)

- 2018 Scholar in Residence, Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia Law School
- 2017 Dissertation Prize, Law & Society Association
- 2017 Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society
- 2017 Professor Eric K. Yamamoto Emerging Scholar Award, Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty
- 2016–2020 Beach Law Faculty Opportunity Fund, University of Iowa College of Law
- 2016–2017 William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Grant
- 2015–2016 Charles W. McCurdy Legal History Fellowship, University of Virginia School of Law and Miller Center of Public Affairs
- 2015–2016 Raoul Berger-Mark DeWolfe Howe Legal History Fellowship, Harvard Law School (declined)
- 2015 J. Willard Hurst Institute in Legal History Fellowship, American Society for Legal History and University of Wisconsin Law School

- 2014–2015 Samuel I. Golieb Fellowship, New York University School of Law
- 2014 Richard Scharchburg Student Paper Award, Society of Automotive Historians
- 2013 William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Grant

Presentations and Lectures (selected)

- 2021 *Between Treason and Pardons*, The Political Turn(s) in Criminal Law Theory, Columbia Law School, Northeastern University Law School, University of Connecticut Law School, Yale Legal History Forum
- May 11, 2021 *The Automotive Fourth Amendment*, Supreme Court Historical Society (aired on C-SPAN)
- March 4, 2021 The 14th Annual Martin Wachs Distinguished Lecture in Transportation, UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies and UC Berkeley
- Jan. 9, 2020 Panelist, A Conversation on Policing, Freedom, and the Arts, Lincoln Center Education, New York, NY
- Dec. 6, 2019 Panelist, *The Fourth Amendment and Privacy: Historical Perspectives*, Federal Judicial Center and the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. 22, 2019 Author-Meets-Readers for *Policing the Open Road*, American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- Apr. 10, 2019 *Driving toward Autonomy? The FBI in the Federal System, 1908-1960*, Harvard Law School (with Daniel Richman)
- Feb. 28, 2018 *The Totalitarian Challenge to the Automobile Exception*, Faculty Colloquium, Emory Law School
- Jan. 30, 2018 *Democratic Policing before the Due Process Revolution*, Public Law and Legal Theory Workshop, University of Chicago Law School
- Dec. 4, 2017 *From the Automobile Exception to Stop-and-Frisks*, Chicago Legal History Workshop, American Bar Foundation
- Oct. 27, 2017 *Policing and American Democracy*, American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
- Sept. 21, 2017 *The Problem of Traffic with Law-Abiding Citizens*, Faculty Works-in-Progress Presentation, University of Minnesota Law School
- May 5-6, 2017 *Policing under American Rule of Law*, Criminal Justice Roundtable (invited participant), Columbia Law School
- June 4, 2016 *Discretionary Policing in a Free Society*, Policy History Conference, Nashville, TN
- Sept. 14, 2015 *The New Public*, Contemporary Legal Scholarship, Yale Law School

Professional Service

Reviewer, Oxford University Press, University of Wisconsin Press, *Journal of Urban History*, *Green Bag's* Exemplary Legal Writing Honors (Books)

- 2020–present Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History
- 2019–2021 Cromwell Prize Committee, American Society for Legal History
- 2017–2018 J. Willard Hurst Book Prize Committee, Law & Society Association
- 2014–2015 Pro Bono Attorney, Legal Services NYC
- 2013–2015 Chair, Academic Committee, Asian American Bar Association of New York
- 2011–2012 Co-coordinator, Modern America Workshop, Princeton University

Professional Affiliations

American Society for Legal History

American Historical Association

Law & Society Association

- 2007 Admitted to New York State Bar (inactive status)