

# MALA CHATTERJEE

## Columbia Law School

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### Columbia Law School, New York, NY

- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, 2022—
- Co-Director, *Law & Philosophy Program at Columbia*, 2023—
- Affiliated Faculty, *Kernochan Center for Law, Media & the Arts*, 2022—
- Board of Trustees, *JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY*, 2023—

### NYU School of Law, New York, NY

- Furman Academic Fellow, 2020—2022
- Fellow, *Engelberg Center for Innovation Law & Policy*, 2018—2021

### Yale Law School, New Haven, CT

- Visiting Fellow, *Information Society Project*, Fall 2019

## EDUCATION

### New York University & NYU School of Law, New York, NY

- PH.D., PHILOSOPHY, 2014—2022
- Dissertation: *The Fruits of Authorship: A Theory of Copyright*
- Advisors: Liam Murphy (Chair), Samuel Scheffler, Jeremy Waldron, David Chalmers, Daniel Viehoff

### NYU School of Law, New York, NY

- JURIS DOCTOR, *SUMMA CUM LAUDE*, 2015—2018
- *Furman Academic Scholar*: scholarship for students with exceptional academic promise

### Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

- B.A., PHILOSOPHY & MINOR, SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS, 2010—2014  
Thesis: *Stalnakerian Semantics and Impossible Worlds*

## RESEARCH AREAS

**PRIMARY:** Law & Philosophy, Intellectual Property, Law & Technology, Information Law, Torts, Privacy, Defamation

**SECONDARY:** Aesthetics, Speech, Private Law, Jurisprudence, Philosophy of Mind & Language, Normative Metaphysics, Applied Ethics/Bioethics, Moral & Political Philosophy

## ACADEMIC ARTICLES

- *The Legal Afterlife: A Theory of Posthumous Life & the Law of the Dead*, OXFORD STUDIES IN PRIVATE LAW THEORY, VOLUME IV (forthcoming 2025) (invited).
- *Intellectual Property, Alienability, and Identity*, 103 TEXAS LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2025) (symposium essay).
- *A Functionalist Theory of Legal Persons*, under review.
- *The Will to Outlive Ourselves*, in TIME, MEANING, AND VALUE: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE FOR THE PRESENT (Oxford U. Press, forthcoming 2024).
- *Property, Speech, and Authorship: A Dilemma for Personhood Theories of Copyright*, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & PRIVATE LAW (Cambridge U. Press, forthcoming 2024).
- *Understanding Intellectual Property: Expression, Function, and Individuation*, 70 JOURNAL OF THE COPYRIGHT SOCIETY OF THE USA 57 (2023) (peer reviewed).
- *Intellectual Property, Independent Creation, and the Lockean Commons*, 12 UC IRVINE LAW REVIEW 747 (2022).
- *Lockean Copyright versus Lockean Property*, 12 JOURNAL OF LEGAL ANALYSIS 136 (2020) (peer reviewed).
- *Minds, Machines, and the Law: The Case of Volition in Copyright Law*, 119 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 1887 (2019) (with Jeanne Fromer).
- *Conceptual Separability as Conceivability: A Philosophical Analysis of the Useful Articles Doctrine*, 93 NYU LAW REVIEW 558 (2018) (student note).

## ACADEMIC WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

- *Extending the Legal Person*
- *From Extended Personality to Extended Minds: The Case for Legal Rights Beyond Bodies*
- *Personal Identity, Surviving Death, and Harming the Dead*
- *The Extended Self: A Framework for Information Rights*
- *Legal Minds*
- *The Alienable Legal Identity*
- *The Imitation Game: Style, Speech, and Identity*
- *Fake Selves, Future Selves, and Fading Selves*
- *Expression, Expressive Liberty, and Quasi-Expression*
- *Privacy, Prediction, and Person: Toward a Legal Right to the Illusion of Freedom*

## PUBLIC WRITING

- [“Our Avatars, Ourselves,”](#) *Boston Review* (April 2023).
- [“Saved by \*Infinite Jest\*,”](#) *Aeon* (2023).
- [“Transcendent Luminescence, Ravaging Flames: On Alexander Kriss’s \*Borderline: The Biography of a Personality Disorder\*,”](#) *Los Angeles Review of Books* (2024).
- [“There is More Than is Dreamt of in Our Academic Philosophy: On Becca Rothfeld’s \*All Things Are Too Small\*,”](#) *The Chronicle Review* (2024).
- “Embodiment and Enigma: On Xi Xi’s *Mourning a Breast*,” *Cleveland Review of Books* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Knowing the Story of Your Life: On Lowry Pressly’s *The Right to Oblivion*,” *The Point* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Letter: A Reply to ‘DBT & its Discontents,’” *The Drift* (forthcoming 2024).
- “On Revisiting Art & the Passage of Time,” (in progress).
- “Techno Time Travel,” (in progress).
- “Invisible Pain and the Right to Escape,” (in progress).
- “Surviving Death in the Age of Information” (in progress).
- “The Strange Loop of Reality TV” (in progress).
- “Science Fiction as a Philosophy Lesson for the Modern World” (in progress).
- “When the Artist Becomes the Algorithm” (with Jenny Judge) (in progress).

## MONOGRAPHS & BOOK PROJECTS

- THE EXTENDED SELF (academic book; proposal in progress).
- THE IDENTITY PRISM (collection of essays; proposal in progress).
- [THE FRUITS OF AUTHORSHIP: A THEORY OF COPYRIGHT](#) (philosophy PhD dissertation).
- RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON PHILOSOPHY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (editor with Shyamkrishna Balganes) (in progress).

## TEACHING

- *Seminar: Personhood & Time*, Columbia Department of Philosophy, Spring 2025
- *Intellectual Property Law*, Columbia Law School in Amsterdam Program, Summer 2023
- *Law & Philosophy*, Columbia Law School, 2023—
- *Seminar: Intellectual Property & Information Law Theory*, Columbia Law School, 2023—
- *Torts*, Columbia Law School, 2022—
- *Furman Academic Scholars Seminar*, NYU School of Law, 2019-2022

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Co-Director, [Law & Philosophy Program at Columbia](#), 2023—
- Founder & Organizer, Law & Philosophy Workshop, Columbia Law School, 2023—
- Affiliated Faculty, [Kernochan Center for Law, Media & the Arts](#), 2022—
- Board of Trustees, [JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY](#), 2023—
- [Ambedkar Lectures Committee](#), Columbia University, 2022—
- [Joseph Raz Tribute Conference](#) Organizing Committee, New York, 2022— 2023
- Reviewer for *Nous*, *Law & Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, ongoing
- Honorary Alumni of Color Committee, Columbia Law School, 2022—
- Committee for Careers in Law Teaching, Columbia Law School, 2022—
- Climate Committee, NYU Department of Philosophy, 2018—2019

## HONORS

- *summa cum laude*: highest honor of law school, awarded to the very few students (if any in a particular year) who compiled a truly outstanding academic record
- Furman Academic Scholar: for exceptionally promising future legal academics
- Maurice Goodman Prize: outstanding academic achievement & scholarship
- John Bruce Moore Award: highest excellence in law & philosophy
- Order of the Coif: national society of law students with GPA in top 10%
- Pomeroy Scholar: top ten students after first year of law school
- Butler Scholar: top ten students after second year of law school

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Honorable Robert D. Sack, US Court of Appeals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, New York, NY  
Law Clerk, 2019-2020 Term
- Durie Tangri, LLP, San Francisco, CA  
Summer Law Associate, Intellectual Property Litigation, July-August 2018
- Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, NY  
Summer Law Associate, Litigation & Intellectual Property, June-August 2017

## PRESENTATIONS

### *A Functional Theory of Legal Persons*

- Rutgers Philosophy Department, Law & Philosophy Seminar, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Amherst College, Philosophy Department Colloquium, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- Yale Legal Theory Workshop, Yale Law School, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Duke Faculty Workshop, Duke Law School, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Columbia Formal Faculty Workshop, Columbia Law School, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2024
- Fordham Law & Philosophy Colloquium, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

### ***Extending the Legal Person***

- Harvard Private Law Workshop, Harvard Law School, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Yale Law & Technology Speakers Series, Yale Law School, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### ***The Extended Self: A Framework for Information Rights***

- Intellectual Property & Information Law Colloquium, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Faculty Workshop, Columbia Law School, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- USC Center for Law & Philosophy Workshop, USC Gould School of Law, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (invited)
- NYC Workshop on Intellectual Property & Philosophy, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (invited)
- Junior Faculty Workshop, Columbia Law School, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- Faculty Workshop Series, University of Connecticut School of Law, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (invited)
- North American Private Law Theory Workshop, UCLA School of Law, February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (invited)
- Yale-Toronto Private Law Theory Workshop, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (invited)
- Annual Intellectual Property Law Scholars Conference (IPSC), Stanford Law School, August 11-12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### ***Understanding Intellectual Property: Expression, Function, and Individuation***

- Harvard Law & Philosophy Workshop, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (invited)
- Annual IP & Innovation Conference, Suffolk Law School, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (invited)
- Michigan Law School Legal Theory Workshop, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (invited)
- NYC Workshop on Intellectual Property and Philosophy, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (invited)
- Annual Intellectual Property Law Scholars Conference (IPSC), Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Philosophical Methods in IP Colloquium, Classical Liberal Institute, NYU School of Law, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 (invited)

- Tristate Region Intellectual Property Workshop, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, NYU School of Law, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 (invited)
- Furman Academic Scholars Seminar, NYU School of Law, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- NYU Philosophy Department: Washington Square Circle Workshop, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### ***Intellectual Property, Independent Creation, and the Lockean Commons***

- Furman Academic Scholars Seminar, NYU School of Law, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, University of Pennsylvania School of Law, June 21<sup>st</sup>-June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- Theories of Intellectual Property Law Seminar, NYU School of Law, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- Works-in-Progress Intellectual Property (WIPIP) Colloquium, University of Houston Law Center, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Furman Academic Scholars Seminar, NYU School of Law, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018

### ***Lockean Copyright versus Lockean Property***

- NYC Workshop on Intellectual Property and Philosophy, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 (invited)
- Furman Academic Scholars Seminar, NYU School of Law, Spring 2018
- NYU Department of Philosophy: Lunch Talk Series, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 (invited)

### ***Minds, Machines, and the Law: The Case of Volition in Copyright Law***

- Ipse Dixit: A Podcast on Legal Scholarship, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- Engelberg Center for Innovation Law & Policy, Faculty Workshop, NYU School of Law, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- *Columbia Law Review* Symposium: “Common Law in the Age of AI”, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- Yale Law School, Information Society Project: Ideas Lunch, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (invited)
- Works-in-Progress Intellectual Property (WIPIP) Colloquium, University of Houston Law Center, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## ***Conceptual Separability as Conceivability: A Philosophical Analysis of the Useful Articles Doctrine***

- Annual Intellectual Property Law Scholars Conference (IPSC), UC Berkeley School of Law, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Tristate Region Intellectual Property Workshop, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, NYU School of Law, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (invited)

## **Invited Contributions & Commentaries:**

- Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, University of Pennsylvania School of Law, May 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Commentary on *Copyright's Missing Personality* by David Simon
- Tristate Region Intellectual Property Workshop, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, NYU School of Law, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Commentary on *Elements of Style: Copyrightability, Similarity and Generative AI* by Ben Sobel
- Conference on Intellectual Property and Private Law, University of Cambridge, July 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (co-organizer of conference & invited contributor/co-editor of volume)
- University of Houston Intellectual Property & Information Law Symposium, Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (invited commentator)
- Conference and Festschrift in Honor of Samuel Scheffler, UC Berkeley Department of Philosophy, May 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2023 (invited contributor to volume of essays)
- Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, University of Pennsylvania School of Law, May 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Commentary on *Centering Creative Labor; Towards a Progressive Copyright* by Xiyin Tang
- Tristate Region Intellectual Property Workshop, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, NYU School of Law, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Commentary on *Anti-Intellectualism in Intellectual Property* by Sepehr Shahshahani
- Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, Columbia Law School, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Commentary on *Fighting Image Piracy or Copyright Trolling?* by Melissa Eckhaus
- Tristate Region Intellectual Property Workshop, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, NYU School of Law, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Commentary on *Jefferson's Taper* by Jeremy Sheff