

Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on Oops, I Did It Again: Embracing Risk-Taking and Mistake-Making

Abstracts due: Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Introduction

This is a Call for Participation for the Discussion Group “**Oops, I Did It Again: Embracing Risk-Taking and Mistake-Making.**” The Discussion Group will be held in person during the AALS Annual Meeting from January 7-11, 2025, in San Francisco.

Discussion groups allow a small group of people to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest. This particular discussion group has assembled a dynamic, diverse, and delightful panel of administrators and professors. An important aspect of this group is that many of us have participated in this discussion group at the AALS for several years; as a result, we’ve created a space where we can take risks, make mistakes, and have fun.

Description

In this session we will explore the joys of risk-taking and mistake-making. Social scientists – and good common sense – invite us into an understanding that taking risks and making mistakes go hand-in-hand, but as lawyers, we tend to prefer risk-free risks. Together, we will explore the if, how, and when of taking risks and making mistakes, and how to encourage our students to do the same.

This Discussion Group will include blend both short presentations and moderated discussion. Embracing the ethos of risk-taking, we aim to infuse creativity into our discussion. Through this approach we will discuss the themes raised above as well as the following issues:

- We will ask how we and our students can recover gracefully from inevitable mistakes and make fewer reckless mistakes, all while being willing to make more calculated risk-taking mistakes.
- We will encourage participants to reflect honestly on their own pedagogical and professional mistakes, and work to leverage those reflections toward a better pedagogy of mistake-making.
- We will discuss what courage looks like in action in the classroom; what mistakes do we worry about making in taking action in the classroom?

Call for Abstracts

We would love to have you join us; we will select additional participants from this “call for participation”. If you would like to join this Discussion Group, please submit a three-page abstract that addresses risk-taking and mistake-making by **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**. The submission link is at the end.

The organizers of this discussion group are:

- Bradford Colbert, Professor of Law, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, brad.colbert@mitchellhamline.edu, 651-290-8651, <http://mitchellhamline.edu/biographies/person/bradford-colbert/>
- Claire Donohue, Associate Dean Center for Experiential Learning, Boston College Law School, donohucl@bc.edu, 617-552-0257, [https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/law/academics-faculty/faculty-directory/clair e-donohue.html](https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/law/academics-faculty/faculty-directory/clair-e-donohue.html)
- Laurie S. Kohn, Jacob Burns Foundation Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Associate Professor of Law, George Washington Law School, lkohn@law.gwu.edu, 202-994-5784, <https://www.law.gwu.edu/laurie-s-kohn>

Please feel free to reach out to any (or all) of the organizers if you have questions.

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty organizers of this discussion, will select the remaining discussion participants from the abstracts submitted.

Each submission for this Discussion Group should include:

- The title of the submitted presentation/paper;
- The name, school and email of the applying participant;
- A three-page, double-spaced abstract discussing your views on risk-taking and mistake-making, including any examples of risks or mistakes;
- The curriculum vitae of the applying participant; and
- Your connection to Britney Spears, if any.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the discussion group organizer and selection committee will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the abstract;
- The diversity, in the broadest and most inclusive sense of that word, that the applying participant may bring in terms of a variety of factors including viewpoint diversity, institutional affiliation, and status.

Abstracts are due by **Wednesday, August 28, 2024** and should be submitted at

<https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/wb2dffk1xw6pbv/>.