

FCIL NEWSLETTER

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
Special Interest Section



From the Chair

BY CAITLIN HUNTER

It's hard to believe this is my last column as chair! I want to offer a huge thank you to Mike McArthur (FCIL-SIS Past Chair), Renu Sagreiya (FCIL-SIS Vice Chair/Chair-Elect), Meredith Capps (FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer), and to all the Committee and Interest Group chairs and members who keep FCIL-SIS running. I'm pleased to report that Meredith will be continuing on the Executive Committee as the next FCIL-SIS Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and that Sue Silverman will be joining the Executive Committee as the next FCIL-SIS Secretary-Treasurer. It has been wonderful working with Meredith in her role as the current FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer and with Sue in her current role as Chair of the DEI Committee, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in their new roles.

If you'd like to get more involved with FCIL-SIS, the call for volunteers is now open! You can [volunteer online](#) for available roles. We encourage you to check out the recording of our recent webinar on the benefits of volunteering, available at <https://tinyurl.com/fcilce>.

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Volunteer with
FCIL-SIS!



Editor's Note: See full program descriptions starting on p7.

From the Chair

AALL 2025

The 2025 AALL Annual Meeting will take place July 19 to 22 in Portland, Oregon.

In advance of the meeting, FCIL-SIS members will have three opportunities to connect on Zoom:

- **FCIL-SIS Executive Committee Office Hours** (June 24, 2025, 11 am-11:30 am US/Central Time)- Stop by for a casual conversation with the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee. We're happy to chat about all things FCIL-SIS, whether you have questions about how to get involved, new ideas for projects and programs, or concerns you'd like to share.
- **Schaffer Grant Presentation** (June 26, 2025, 10 am-11 am US/Central Time)- Please join us for a webinar by Judy Wairimu Ng'ang'a (Senior Library Assistant – Systems, Kenya School of Law), recipient of this year's FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant. Judy will present on Effective Strategies for E-Resource Management in Academic Law Libraries: A Kenyan Perspective.
- **FCIL-SIS Virtual Business Meeting** (July 1, 2025, 11 am-12 pm US/Central Time)- Join FCIL-SIS for our virtual business meeting, to hear updates on the activities of FCIL-SIS Interest Groups and Committees and honor this year's FCIL-SIS Award recipients.

At the AALL Annual Meeting itself, FCIL-SIS members will have three more opportunities to connect:

- **FCIL-SIS Committee and Interest Group Meetings** (Sunday, July 20th, 12:45 pm-1:45 pm, Room B117)- We've booked a room for any Committees and Interest Groups that would like to meet in person!
- **Thriving Wages and Anti-Oppressive Compensation: Bold Ideas or Ethical Obligations for an Inclusive Profession?** (Monday, July 21, 9:45am-10:45am)- Please join us for this program, which is co-sponsored by FCIL-SIS, BLL-SIS, and SR-SIS and coordinated by longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair, Dean Deane.
- **From Idea to Publication and Beyond: Navigating Legal Research Textbook Creation and Leveraging Emerging Technologies** (Monday, July 21, 2025, 11am-12 pm)- Please join us for this program, which is sponsored by FCIL-SIS, coordinated by longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair Alex Zhang, and features as a speaker longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair, Heidi Frostestad.

I also encourage you to check out two annual meeting programs that are not sponsored by FCIL-SIS, but are FCIL related:

- **Exploring the Globe: Cataloging Foreign Materials** (Sunday, July 20, 2025, 2pm-3pm) (Featuring FCIL-SIS member Traci Emerson Spackey as a speaker)
- **Neighbors to the North: Understanding the Canadian Legal Landscape** (Monday, July 21, 2025, 3:45pm-4:45pm)

Finally, don't forget to stop by the FCIL-SIS table at CONELL (if you're attending) and to stop by the FCIL-SIS poster in the exhibit hall.

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From the Chair

Awards

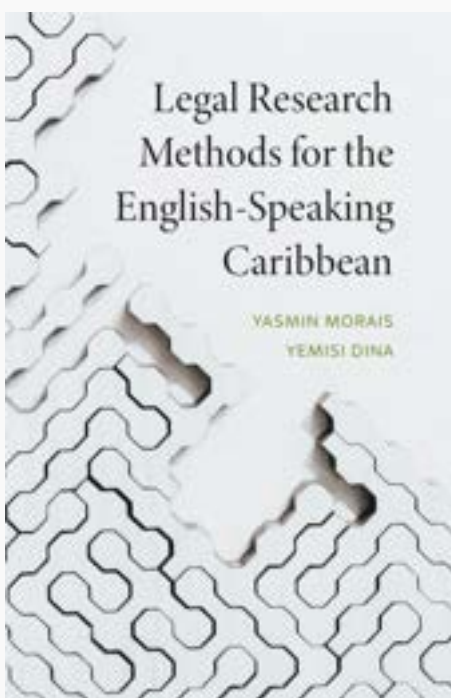
This year, FCIL-SIS gave out the following awards:

Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award

- Anne Burnett, Foreign and International Law Librarian, University of Georgia School of Law Library. The librarian who nominated Anne praised Anne's years of volunteering for FCIL-SIS Committees and wrote that "without dedicated volunteers like Anne who will continue to serve where asked throughout their career, we would not be able to keep our small but mighty SIS moving forward."
- Laura A. Cadra, Head of Reference Services/Foreign & International Law Librarian, LMU Loyola Law School (Retired). The librarians who nominated Laura praised her many years of mentoring new FCIL law librarians and encouraging new FCIL librarians to become active in FCIL-SIS.

Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award

- Yemisi Dina & Yasmin Morais, Legal Research Methods for the English-Speaking Caribbean (2024). One of the three librarians who nominated this publication predicted that the book would become "the go-to publication for teaching foreign and international law research in the Caribbean" and described it as "a must-have addition to any law library collection."
- Alison Shea & Jennifer Alison, European Legal Research, in Handbook for European Studies Librarians (Brian Vetruba & Heidi Madden eds. 2024). The librarian who nominated this publication described it as "an example of excellent scholarship that bridges the information gap and ensures access for all."



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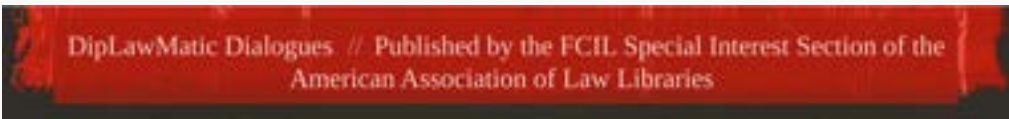
From the Chair

Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award

- Charlotte Daugherty, Foreign & Comparative Legal Research Librarian, University of California, Berkeley Law Library. The librarian who nominated Charlotte praised her “contributions and commitment to FCIL.”
- Sarah E. M. Martin, Librarian, Global Law & Language Access, Los Angeles County Law Library. The librarian who nominated Sarah praised “her willingness to jump in and get involved in all things related to law librarianship.”
- Paul Moorman, Senior Law Librarian - Research Services/Foreign & International Law, USC Gould School of Law. The librarian who nominated Paul praised him for “quietly and steadily contributing to the success of the FCIL-SIS for more than a decade” and being “a great team player who is always ready to volunteer and represent FCIL.”

Blog Post of the Year Award

Sarah E. M. Martin for “[Hidden Gems of the LA Law Library: Treasure Hunting in the Stacks.](#)”

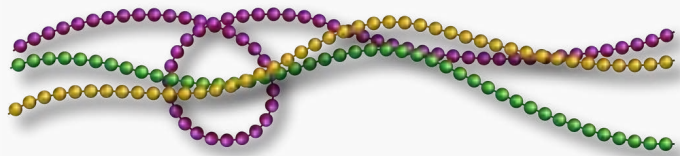


IG/Committee Project of the Year Award

The FCIL-SIS Newsletter Committee (Janet Kearney, Ana Delgado Valentín, Carmen Valero, Jingwei Zhang, and Kristen Clarke Kellems) for the [February 2025 Mardi Gras themed issue.](#)

Newsletter Article of the Year Award

FCIL-SIS Newsletter Committee Chair Janet Kearney, for “Janet’s Good but Not Well Organized or Methodical Bibliography” on Mardi Gras and for her work coordinating the Mardi Gras themed issue more broadly.



Thank you to all of our award recipients and thank you again to the rest of the Executive Committee and everyone else who volunteers for FCIL-SIS! It’s been a pleasure serving as FCIL-SIS Chair, and I hope that many of you will consider becoming more involved in FCIL-SIS and [volunteering.](#)



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

*BY JOSH FREEMAN AND ANNE BURNETT,
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS*

Please consider volunteering for an FCIL SIS committee or for a leadership role in a committee or interest group. Committee membership requires only your interest in FCIL and does not require expertise as an FCIL or specialist librarian!

Complete our brief volunteer survey by COB on June 6, 2025. Find the survey at forms.gle/MVQVMBofHos6AFkX6.

Information about the committees and interest groups is available on the [FCIL-SIS Committees & Groups page](#). Additionally, the volunteer survey includes a linked document providing descriptions of committee responsibilities and time commitments.

Note: you can join interest groups at any time via the AALL "My Communities" platform. The FCIL SIS encourages members of diverse backgrounds to apply and adheres to the [AALL Ethical Principles](#).

For more information, see our [March 13 post to the FCIL SIS list](#), and please feel encouraged to contact Anne (aburnett@uga.edu) or Josh (jf3528@columbia.edu) with any questions.

Upcoming Webinars

- **May 27, 2025, 1:30-2:30 pm Central:** What in the World...is Happening? A Panel Discussion with FCIL Librarians on Current Events and How We Are Coping
- **June 5, 12 pm Central:** African Digitization Stories
- **June 24, 11 am Central:** FCIL-SIS Executive Committee Office Hours
- **June 26, 10 am Central:** Effective Strategies for E-Resource Management in Academic Law Libraries: A Kenyan Perspective (Schaffer Grant presentation)
- **July 1, 11 am Central:** FCIL-SIS Virtual Business Meeting

See tinyurl.com/fcilce for registration instructions!



Editor's Corner

This issue of the FCIL Newsletter primarily highlights upcoming panels of interest at the AALL Annual Meeting. I encourage you to check out this and other professional development programming of interest going on. Every year I grow in my understanding of how important community is.

As for my column in this issue, I feel a stream of consciousness coming on...

AI - will anyone ever ask me about anything else?

I am using it though - translations (collection development, occasionally reference but it's a staff use only). Editing source citations from Bluebook to Chicago - maybe the worst mistake I've ever made? Never seen so many hallucinations in one place.

When professional development goes from 0 to 100.

The Newsletter creeps up on me! I hope someone is reading this column. Look out for special newsletter projects in the future. What do you want out of your Newsletter?

Writing projects - why did I ask for accountability, did I really want it? You never have anything to do when you want to do something, and then suddenly you have three projects with deadlines.

Conference programs - work travel is fun, right? If you're going to BIALL in June in Birmingham, UK, reach out! I'll be reviewing US company information with Alison Shea (GOAT) and hopefully finding Afternoon Tea (yes, in caps) with good scones (scones, biscuits, scones, biscuits??).

What is hiring anyway?

Are hiring committees to library service what grading is to instruction?

What is life anyway?

Is my two-year-old trying to gaslight me? Or is she just two years old? What exactly is work-life balance supposed to mean anyway? Can you ever be sick "expectedly" as opposed to "unexpectedly"?

Take fun pictures of your summer travels! I'll be asking for them in January/February.
JK



Special Feature: The Conference Prep Issue

Here you will find all the information you need to have an FCIL-centric time at the AALL Annual Conference in Portland this July. Programs are highlighted in chronological order.

Marketing + Outreach

¡Bienvenidos a la Biblioteca!: Welcoming Spanish-Speaking Patrons to Your Law Library

📅 Sunday, July 20, 2025 ⌚ 2:00pm – 3:00pm PDT

The Hispanic/Latin population is the largest minority group in the United States—in the 2019 U.S. American Community Survey, it was estimated that almost 42 million people in the U.S. spoke Spanish at home, about 8 percent of the population. In some regions, that number is far higher. This program will explore best practices to welcome Spanish-speaking patrons to your law library. A government law librarian will discuss how her law library developed Spanish-language libguides and other related outreach to Spanish-speaking members of the public, focusing in particular on the specific legal information needs she has encountered. An academic law librarian will discuss how their law library welcomes Spanish-speaking ESL (English as second language) students through Hispanic Heritage Month and other celebrations of diversity and collaborates with faculty on specialized courses focused on Spanish. Both speakers will emphasize the importance of partnerships and cultural competence.

Consider how much language access crosses over with FCIL, especially for public patrons! For example, many of our primarily or monolingual Spanish-speaking patrons are Latin American folks dealing with property disputes, probate/estate, or family law issues in their home countries. The interaction between the civil or mixed legal systems and foreign terminology in many foreign countries with our system and legalistic language can be super complicated, but always interesting to geeks like me!

- Sarah Martin, speaker

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Information Management

Exploring the Globe: Cataloging Foreign Materials

📅 Sunday, July 20, 2025 ⌚ 2:00pm – 3:00pm PDT

Cataloging foreign legal materials is an area of legal cataloging that has some interesting quirks that ought to be discussed more by the larger law library community. Legal cataloging itself requires a very specific set of skills, because of this we tend to restrict our cataloging discussions to works primarily from the United States, and if we do go beyond the U.S., we tend to stay in the Anglo-world. This program aims to highlight what goes into cataloging foreign legal materials: the various classifications and subject headings taken into consideration, and how we can start incorporating these discussions into a broader conversation about legal cataloging and classification. Because of how the American legal system has influenced other countries' legal systems, we should be able to have a fruitful discussion about foreign law-specific subject headings, classification tables, and other international legal bibliographic standards.

Marketing + Outreach

Research + Analysis

Beyond the Stacks: Reinventing the Law Library Tour

📅 Sunday, July 20, 2025 ⌚ 3:15pm – 4:15pm PDT

"Beyond the Stacks" is a program designed to transform traditional law library tours by offering a deeper, more engaging exploration of the library's history, architecture, and its critical role within the community it serves. This program encourages law libraries to move beyond a standard introduction and provide a rich, educational experience for internal patrons and visitors, enhancing their appreciation for the library as both a workplace and a community space. There are two main topics to achieve a redesigned law library tour: 1) Research your Institution, including historical facts, architecture and design, and its role in the community; 2) Craft a tour plan, including incorporating history, architecture, and community engagement. Drawing from personal experience, this program will provide concrete examples of how these elements can be integrated into a successful law library tour. This hands-on approach ensures that attendees leave equipped with the skills to apply these strategies to their own institutions.

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Professionalism + Leadership at Every Level

Management + Business Acumen

Thriving Wages and Anti-Oppressive Compensation: Bold Ideas or Ethical Obligations for an Inclusive Profession?

Monday, July 21, 2025 9:45am – 10:45am PDT

This program challenges attendees to explore thriving wages and anti-oppressive compensation as ethical imperatives for an inclusive profession for law library employees. It centers on the concepts of a thriving wage, as described by the Portland Independent Salary Commission, and anti-oppressive compensation, as described by co-founders of an anti-oppression and human resources consultancy. Attendees will learn that thriving wages and anti-oppressive pay are foundational to DEIAB plans to hire, retain, and promote a diverse law library staff.

Moving beyond traditional salary surveys and minimum wage standards, the program introduces the concept of a “thriving wage.” Drawing from the Portland Independent Salary Commission, participants will learn how a thriving wage considers the actual cost of living in a specific location, ensuring workers can cover basic needs and opportunities for financial security. Using the 50/30/20 rule, popularized by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, participants will learn to allocate income toward necessities, wants, and savings. Participants will create budgets in real time using these concepts.

This program explores the consultants' framework of “anti-oppressive pay,” which goes beyond simply seeking pay equity within existing systems. Participants will learn how anti-oppressive pay seeks to dismantle the systems and factors that create pay disparities for marginalized groups.

Participants will discuss how traditional pay structures in law libraries, often based on factors like job levels, functions, longevity with an institution, and individual performance, can perpetuate inequities. This discussion will highlight the disadvantages faced by marginalized groups, including Black and Brown staff, as well as disabled, queer, and neuroatypical workers, due to market-based pay and underpayment in expensive cities like Los Angeles and New York. Examples such as salary reductions upon retirement, limited paid time off, and challenges in affording housing will illustrate these inequities.

Building upon the principles of anti-oppressive compensation, participants will learn about alternative compensation models and benefits policies that promote equity and inclusion. This will involve reviewing case studies of organizations like Gravity Payments and Unity Web Agency that have successfully implemented bold anti-oppressive pay practices. The program will cover the six factors of pay identified that can contribute to systemic oppression, as well as their recommendations for mitigating these effects. Participants are invited to envision a life where they are compensated in ways that allow them to thrive.

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Thriving Wages, con't

The discussion will focus on the ethical imperative for law libraries to address pay disparities and create a more inclusive work environment for all staff, not just the most privileged. Participants will be encouraged to consider how they can advocate for change within their own institutions and contribute to a profession that values diversity, equity, and inclusion.

By engaging with these critical topics, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how current compensation practices create systemic barriers to hiring, promoting, and retaining law library workers without access to intergenerational wealth and other supplemental resources. They will learn practical strategies for creating a more just and equitable profession for all law library staff members.

Research + AnalysisTeaching + Training

From Idea to Publication and Beyond: Navigating Legal Research Textbook Creation and Leveraging Emerging Technologies

Monday, July 21, 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm PDT

Are you ready to transform your legal research expertise into a published textbook? Whether you are designing or revamping a legal research course or exploring the diverse landscape of legal publishing platforms, our panel is here to guide you through each step of the process. The program will be joined by panelists who have published legal research textbooks covering different jurisdictions and specialized areas, such as U.S. federal, state, international, foreign, and animal law. They have also worked with a variety of platforms including commercial and open-access platforms.

The panelists will discuss the entire research and content creation process including selecting substantive topics, creating exercises, and using tools including indexing tools and citation formatting tools to organize teaching materials. They will also share practical insights working with different legal publishers including important factors to consider when selecting an appropriate platform. The discussion also covers how developments in the legal publishing industry and emerging technologies, including AI-empowered tools may impact future research and publication processes.

The program will include an interactive component with sufficient time for the audience to ask specific questions and engage with the panelists. The interactive part of the program will allow the audience to share their experiences and thoughts to supplement the pre-planned panel discussions.

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Research + Analysis

Teaching + Training

Neighbours to the North: Understanding the Canadian Legal Landscape

Monday, July 21, 2025 3:45pm – 4:45pm PDT

It may be hard to distinguish by the landscape when you drive across the U.S.-Canada border, but the legal systems on either side differ in significant ways. These differences extend not only to the structure of our legal processes but also to the tools and resources available to legal professionals and citizens alike. Whether you are already involved in Foreign, Comparative, and International Law (FCIL) and want to deepen your knowledge of Canada, or you are new to FCIL and see Canada as an accessible starting point, this program is designed to meet your needs.

Presented by two Canadian law librarians working at top-tier law schools, this program will provide a comprehensive overview of the Canadian legal system. Attendees will learn the essential background needed for researching Canadian legislation and case law, including an overview of the legislative process and the court system. The presenters will point out differences between the U.S. and Canada, and highlight open access options for finding Canadian legislation and jurisprudence, as well as key limitations in open access to legal information in Canada.

We will highlight essential research resources, including Halsbury's Laws of Canada, Barron's Law Dictionary and specialized jurilinguistic tools, that distinguish the Canadian legal landscape. Canada is an ideal case study for FCIL due to its unique position—sharing some similarities with the American legal system but also strongly influenced by UK common law and French civil law.

Additionally, we will introduce CanLII, the Canadian Legal Information Institute, a robust, free resource that offers advanced noting-up capabilities comparable to major commercial legal databases. We will explore how open-access legal tools like CanLII support both legal professionals and the broader community, and examine the role academic libraries play in promoting these resources.

This program promises not only to be informative but will also encourage active discussion. We will facilitate engaging activities designed to spark dialogue on cross-border legal systems and the exchange of information, helping to foster greater understanding, and collaboration between Canadian and American law librarians.



FCIL-SIS Member Recent Publications Roundup

Our SIS is fortunate to include in its ranks exceptionally talented and enthusiastic writers. With this feature, we are happy to spread the word of their recent publications.

Journal Articles

Law Library Journal

Laura J. Ax-Fultz, Why Academic Law Librarians Quit: Results of the Law Librarian Exit Survey, 117 Law Libr. J. 84 (2025).

Victoria Szymczak and Melanie Knapp, The Continuing Decline of Academic Law Library Director Status and Rank, 117 Law Libr. J. 153 (2025).

Andrew Martineau and Loren Turner, Legal Scholarship Through the Lens of Generative AI, Darkly, 117 Law Libr. J. 232 (2025).

International Journal of Legal Information

Sergio D. Stone, In Memoriam: James William Hart, Jr. (1948-2024), 52 Int'l J. Legal Info. 176 (2024).

Michael McArthur and Julie M. Wooldridge, Behind the Books: Global Insights from Law Librarians, 52 Int'l J. Legal Info. 266 (2025).

Caitlin Hunter, Book Review [Advanced Introduction to International Conflict and Security Law. Nigel D. White], 52 Int'l J. Legal Info. 177 (2025).

Other

Janet Kearney, A Research Process for the Entire World? Challenges in Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Instruction, 73 J. Leg. Educ. 356 (2025).

Spectrum

Leslie Street, Leading with Courage: Defending Intellectual Freedom and Championing a Broad Range of Ideas in Law Libraries, 29 AALL: Spectrum, Mar. / Apr. 2025, at 30.

Lindsey Carpino, Ryan Metheny & Scott Vanderlin, Strategies for Building a Relevant, Balanced & Budget-Friendly Collection, 29 AALL: Spectrum, Mar. / Apr. 2025, at 36.

Teresa Miguel-Stearns & Cas Laskowski, Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Law Libraries: Bringing Together Voices and Visions to Ponder and Plan for the Future, 29 AALL: Spectrum, May / June 2025, at 12.

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Recent Publications

GlobaLex Articles

Jootaek Lee, [The Human Right to Development: Definitions, Research and Annotated Bibliography](#)

Linda Tashbook and Marko Zivanov, [Legal Research in Serbia](#)

Linda Tashbook, [Nuclear Law Research](#)

Alex Zhang, [Taiwan Legal Research](#)

Blog Posts

DipLawMatic Dialogues

Lucie Olejnikova, [GlobaLex: March/April 2025 Issue is Live](#)

Lucie Olejnikova, [GlobaLex January/February 2025 Issue is Live](#)

Jonathan Pratter, [From the Reference Desk: Rethinking the Sources of International Law](#)

Jonathan Pratter, [From the Reference Desk: An Experiment in Comparative Legal Research](#)

Alison Shea, [AALL Recap - FCIL Cool Tools - EuroVoc](#)

IALL

Mark Engsberg, [On the Value of Attending an IALL Annual Course](#)



*Editor's Note: Have you recently published?
We would love to highlight it in our Recent
Member Publications.*

*Send your information to [Jingwei Zhang](#) for
the next issue.*

FCIL NEWSLETTER

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
Special Interest Section

FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May, and October of each year. Current and past issues of FCIL Newsletter are available on our [website](#).

We welcome submissions!

Send us your conference recaps, member news, and other contributions, such as works in progress or reviews. [Email the editor](#).

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