

DAN TRAFICONTE

Associate Professor of Law
Syracuse University College of Law
(315) 443-4108; dmtrafic@syr.edu

Academic Employment

Syracuse University College of Law, August 2022–present

Associate Professor of Law

Courses: Property, Patents and Trade Secrets, Law and Technology, International Technology Law

Study Abroad Course in Seoul, South Korea (May 2026)

Faculty Affiliate, Autonomous Systems Policy Institute (ASPI)

Sciences Po Paris, August 2021–August 2022

Teaching Fellow, Law and Political Economy

Courses: Introduction to Legal Reasoning; Law, Innovation, and Climate Change; Law and Economic Development

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, January 2021–August 2021

Postdoctoral Scholar, Industrial Performance Center and Initiative for Knowledge and Innovation in Manufacturing

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D. in Political Economy, 2021

Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Dissertation: *Patents Over Planning: Industrial Capital and Federal Innovation Policy*

Committee: Samuel Moyn, Jason Jackson, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Elisabeth Reynolds

Research Associate, MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future

Harvard Law School, J.D., 2017

Cravath, Swaine and Moore LLP International Fellow

Research Assistantships: Professor Samuel Moyn; Professor William Fisher

University of Chicago, B.A. in Biological Sciences, 2013

Student Marshal (highest academic honor in the College)

Phi Beta Kappa

Publications

Journal articles:

AI and Open Innovation in China (in progress)

Innovation Policy Feedback (in progress)

Government Research, 135 YALE LAW JOURNAL 110 (2025)

After the Storm: The Fair Housing Act and Post-Disaster Recovery, 43 VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 141 (with Justin Steil)

People Having Ordinary Skills in the Arts, 37 HARVARD JOURNAL OF LAW AND TECHNOLOGY 329 (2024) (with Ben Armstrong)

Collaboration in the Making: Innovation and the State in Advanced Manufacturing, 21 COLUMBIA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW 2 (2020)

A Flood—Not a Ripple—Of Harm: Proximate Cause Under the Fair Housing Act, 40 CARDOZO LAW REVIEW 2 (2019) (with Justin Steil)

Other writing:

Innovation and the States: The Regional Manifestations of the Endless Frontier in the U.S. Rust Belt, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON REGIONS AND TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY (Luc Soete et al. eds.) (with Ben Armstrong) (forthcoming 2025)

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (Bartosz Brożek et al. eds., 2023)

Patents Over Planning: Industrial Capital and Federal Innovation Policy (doctoral dissertation, 2021)

Factories of the Future: Technology, Skills, and Digital Innovation at Large Manufacturing Firms, Research Brief, MIT Work of the Future Task Force (2021) (with Susan Helper, Elisabeth Reynolds, and Anuraag Singh)

Strengthening Manufacturing Innovation Ecosystems Before, During, and After COVID: Lessons from Massachusetts, Working Paper, MIT Work of the Future Task Force (2021) (with Elisabeth Reynolds and Anna Waldman-Brown)

Manufacturing in America: A View from the Field, Research Brief, MIT Work of the Future Task Force (2020) (with Suzanne Berger)

An Innovation Policy for the Green New Deal, People's Policy Project Research Brief (2019) (with Ian Wells)

Additional Experience

Human Augmentation via Dexterity (“HAND”) (National Science Foundation-funded Engineering Research Center)
Research Team Member

MIT Political Economy Lab, September 2023-present
Research Affiliate

MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future, January 2018-January 2021
Research Associate

Biden-Harris Campaign, June-September 2020
Policy Analyst, Innovation and Manufacturing Policy

Warren for President, May-June 2019
Policy Analyst, Innovation Policy

United States Department of Commerce, May-August 2016
Law Clerk, Commercial Law Development Program

The World Bank, May 2015-January 2016
Legal Fellow, Public Integrity and Openness – Governance Global Practice

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (Montreal, July 2025)

Industry Studies Association (Cambridge, June 2025)

Northeastern Law Junior Scholars Conference (Boston, February 2025)

Law and Political Economy Junior Scholars Workshop (New York, February 2025)

Law and Political Economy of Technology Workshop (Cambridge, September 2024)

Patent Law Roundtable: Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Statute of Monopolies (DC, May 2024)

PatCon (The Patent Conference) 12 (San Diego, April 2024)

Heterodox Economics Meets Law and Political Economy (organized by APPEAL) (New York, March 2024)

Works In Progress for Intellectual Property (WIPIP) Scholars Colloquium (Santa Clara, February 2024)

Junior Scholars Workshop on Law and Industrial Policy (New Haven, December 2023)

Intellectual Property Scholars Conference (New York, August 2023)

Junior Intellectual Property Scholars Association (JIPSA) Workshop (New York, August 2023)

Law and Political Economy of Technology Workshop (New Haven, February 2023)

Intellectual Property Scholars Conference (Palo Alto, August 2022)

Industry Studies Association Annual Conference (Virtual, June 2021)

Law and Society Association Annual Conference (Virtual, May 2021)

Law and Society Association Annual Conference (Virtual, May 2020)

Climate Futures II (Providence, December 2019)

Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (New York, June 2019)

Association for the Promotion of Political Economy and Law Conference (Baltimore, June 2019)

Institute for Global Law and Policy Writers Workshop (Bangkok, January 2019)

External Funding

National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center funding for project tentatively called “AI and Open Innovation in China” (\$25,000 committed in 2025 for fieldwork in January 2026; funding renewable in 2026)

Fellowships and Awards

Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Teaching Recognition Award for Early Performance, Syracuse University (2025) (university-wide award recognizing excellence in teaching among untenured faculty)

Faculty Creative Activities and Research Grant Program, Syracuse University (2025)

Henry Belin du Pont Dissertation Fellowship, Hagley Library and Archive (2020)

Hagley Library Exploratory Research Grant, Hagley Library and Archive (2019)

William Emerson Travel Grant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2018)

Cravath, Swaine and Moore LLP International Fellow, Harvard Law School (2016)

Bar Admission

Massachusetts (admitted 2017)