



# Contested Properties

*Culture, Rights and the Humanities*

August 4 – 16, 2014

5th International Osnabrück Summer Institute on the Cultural Study of the Law

Focus Lecture

Einladung zum Vortrag | Lecture Announcement

## A LAW OF NATURES, NATIONS, NATIVES, AND NARRATIVES

**RICHARD PERRY**

University of California, Berkeley

Thursday, 14 Aug. 2014

09:30

Schloss, Room: 11/212

It is generally recognized that legal rights claims – whether private property rights, collective-cultural rights, or even the jus cogens of human rights claims – are speech acts that may “do things with words” by virtue of their illocutionary force that is made explicit in the lexical-grammatical forms in which they are uttered and as that force is rendered performatively intelligible against the background of the canonical discourse genre of “Narrating the Nation” (Bhabha 1990).

This presentation will reflect on Judith Butler’s recent accounts of performativity in politico-legal discourse (in *Who Sings the Nation-State?* with Spivak 2007, and in *Dispossession: The Performative in the Political* with Athanasiou 2013). Primary data considered will include legal cases from *Calvin’s Case* (1608) to the present time, as well as other materials. The audience is hereby cautioned that media may be mixed in your presence.

*Richard Perry is Lecturer-in-Residence and Senior Fellow in Legal Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also Professor of Justice Studies at San Jose State University. His research currently focuses on questions of temporal ordering after the alleged end of history.*