

PRIVATE RIGHTS & PUBLIC FIGHTS ▶

LIVE FORUMS WEDNESDAYS, 5:30 PM
AS220 115 EMPIRE STREET, PROVIDENCE RI

Action Speaks turns its attention to the line between 'public' and 'private'—where it has been defined and where it blurs—in a country committed to individual liberty, but part of an increasingly interdependent world.

OCT. 3

1980: *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*
The Supreme Court case that put a 'for sale' sign on our genes.

This case that first secured the right to patent 'life', set the stage for the biotech revolution and a debate about monetization.

OCT. 10

1992: First Critical Mass Ride

Bicyclists take to the streets in a fight over the 'right to the city'.

The revolution may no longer take place first in the factories, but as Seattle anti-NAFTA Demonstrations and Occupy Wall Street has shown, might be in the streets, in the parks and—to the anger of many—in traffic.

OCT. 17

1936: Chaplin's 'Modern Times' Debuts

Factories closed; Unions ignored; The Tramp asks, 'What's Next?'

Chaplin previews a world beyond the factory and unionism where one's identity is as fragile as one's last pay check and where even a walk into the sunset leads to nowhere in particular.

OCT. 24

1965: *Griswold v. Connecticut*

Contraception as a right of privacy? The Supreme Court say, 'Yes!'

A law against the sharing of information about contraception even within marriage is overturned, but the argument about who controls the body doesn't disappear. The woman's body as a site of contestation.

OCT. 31

1992: The Invasion of the Body Scanner

Surveillance in America—needed or nightmare?

Our body is revealed in this latest ramping up of Post-9/11 airport security. While the body is visible, the mechanisms and extent of surveillance might not be.

NOV. 7

1908: Lewis Hine hired to Document Child Labor

The camera, exposing social problems or becoming one?

Photographer Hine opens a lens on society's injustices. Social documentary photography and its role in making the private...public.

NOV. 14

1944: FDR's Second Bill of Rights Speech

Can and should the government guarantee economic security?

Coming on the heels of FDR's Four Freedoms Speech, this speech clarified the meaning of 'Freedom from Want.' Is a promise of health care, housing and education an abuse of government power or a prerequisite for a healthy America?

NOV. 21

1971: Powell Memo

A call to arms to protect business from the anti-capitalist rhetoric of the 1960's.

Soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell issues a widely-read memo, sounding the alarm to protect the free market system from Left Wing radicals. Powell ushers in the rise of contemporary pro-business conservatism.

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Underappreciated 20th Century Dates that Changed America

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