



# RECHT UND LITERATUR

## SFB 1385

Teilprojekt C 03: "Literarisches Eigentum zwischen Recht und Kultur"  
Sub-Project C 03: "Literary Property between Law and Culture"

### Law & Literature Lecture Series 2023

Oren Bracha

University of Texas, Austin

## **Owning Culture: Expression, Property, and Authorship Ideology in Nineteenth Century America**

Online Lecture - Tuesday, May 2, 2023 | 6 pm

<https://webconf.uni-osnabrueck.de/b/ced-y1c-b1y-8nm>

How did human expression become private property? What role did the concept of the author play in this process? While in the Anglo-American tradition authors' copyright is traced back to the 1710 Statute of Anne, much of the fundamental elements of the modern framework of owning expression were forged during the long nineteenth century. The lecture outlines the consolidation during this period of a distinctive conceptual structure constitutive of the modern institution of private property in expression. It argues that this structure is shot through with a specific ideology of authorship. The ideology of authorship and the conceptual scheme of expressive property are mutually constitutive, and together they support a system of social relations of owning culture.

*Oren Bracha is the William C. Conner Chair in Law at the University of Texas School of Law. He is a legal historian and an intellectual property law scholar. His extensive scholarship pertains to contemporary and historical aspects of intellectual property law, law and technology, and legal theory. Bracha's book, *Owning Ideas: The Intellectual Origins of American Intellectual Property, 1790-1909*, explores the history of the emergence of intellectual property in the United States during the nineteenth century, examining the fields of both patent and copyright.*