



### THE DETENTION ARCHIPELAGO

Transfers in immigration custody regularly move detainees from public to private facilities, across state lines, and beyond the jurisdiction of individual courts, often with little transparency and minimal external justification. As the result of these transfers, many immigrants in removal proceedings are detained in remote facilities, far from their community support networks and potential legal representatives. The chaotic and apparently random nature of transfers exacerbates the psychological hardships of detention. Existing law does not prevent the weaponization of transfers to punish detainees, to push cases into hostile legal venues, disrupt access to counsel, and to deter detainees from pursuing claims for relief. Transfers also limit the effects of campaigns to close facilities with poor records of detainee treatment or reduce the use of detention generally, given that facility closures often result transfers to a new facility. This presentation examines Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE transfers) as a critical dimension of immigration detention that suppresses detainee rights and hastens their deportation, arguing that effective strategize to reimagine immigration detention must address ICE's unconstrained transfer authority.



> **Sabrina Balgamwalla is an Assistant Professor at Wayne State Law School**, where she had directed the Asylum & Immigration Law Clinic since 2017. She has a background in nonprofit immigration and domestic violence practice, and previously taught in clinics at University of Baltimore and University of North Dakota. Her scholarship focuses on the intersections of race, gender, and criminalization in immigration policy and enforcement. She holds a JD from American University Washington College of Law and a BA from Bryn Mawr College.

**MONDAY,  
JANUARY 24**

**Noon**

**Zoom invite:**

**<https://slu.zoom.us/j/94486176791>**

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