

A Multi-Field Logics Approach to Theorizing Relationships Between Healthcare and Criminal Justice



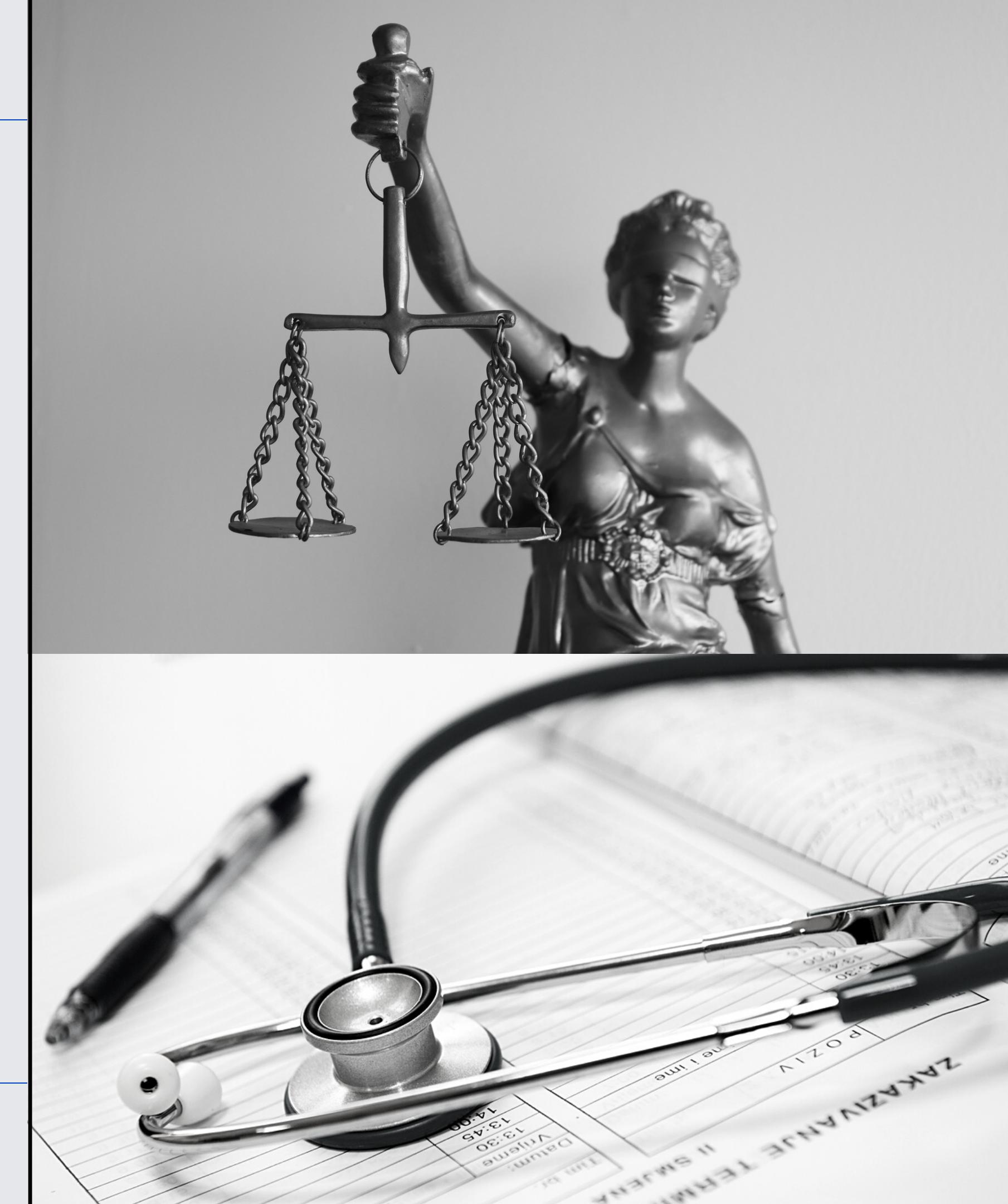
Elizabeth Chiarello, Ph.D.
Calvin Morrill, Ph.D.



A Field Approach to Social Problems

What can the institutional locus of a social problem tell us about field relationships and field dynamics?

The Multi-Field Logics Approach



Key Concepts

Fields

"Those organizations that, in the aggregate, constitute a recognized area of institutional life."

DiMaggio and Powell, 1991

Institutional Logics

Frameworks for guiding action

Thornton and Ocasio, 2012

Focal and Adjacent Fields

Focal field = the primary focus

Adjacent field = field that engages with the focal field

Chiarello, 2018

THE MULTI-FIELD LOGICS FRAMEWORK

Field Relationships



Encroachment



Channeling



Buffering



Cooperation



Competition



FIELD ENCROACHMENT

Definition

When an adjacent field reorganizes portions of a focal field according to the adjacent field's logics

Example

Governing through crime

Simon 2007

HC and CJ

Healthcare providers as legal gatekeepers in the overdose crisis

Chiarello 2015



FIELD CHANNELING

Definition

When a focal field
ushers social
problems into an
adjacent field

Example

School to
prison pipeline

HC and CJ

Mandatory
reporting



FIELD BUFFERING

Definition

When a focal field protects its logics and the social problems under its purview from intrusion by adjacent fields

Example

Universities, churches, and the military protect their members from sexual assault charges

HC and CJ

Professional closure



FIELD COOPERATION

Definition

When two fields work together to manage a social problem

Example

Drug courts

Tiger, 2012

HC and CJ

Courts co-opt medical logics to justify the expansion of the criminal justice system



FIELD COMPETITION

Definition

When multiple fields attempt to take social problems under their purview

Example

Alcoholism
Gusfield, 1967

HC and CJ

- Sin
- Crime
- Disease

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FUTURE RESEARCH

Other relationships?	How do field logics change?	Why do specific relationships occur?	How do relationships change over time?
Why do field processes speed up, slow down, or radically transform?	What about social problems in gaps between fields?	When does collective action reshape relationships?	

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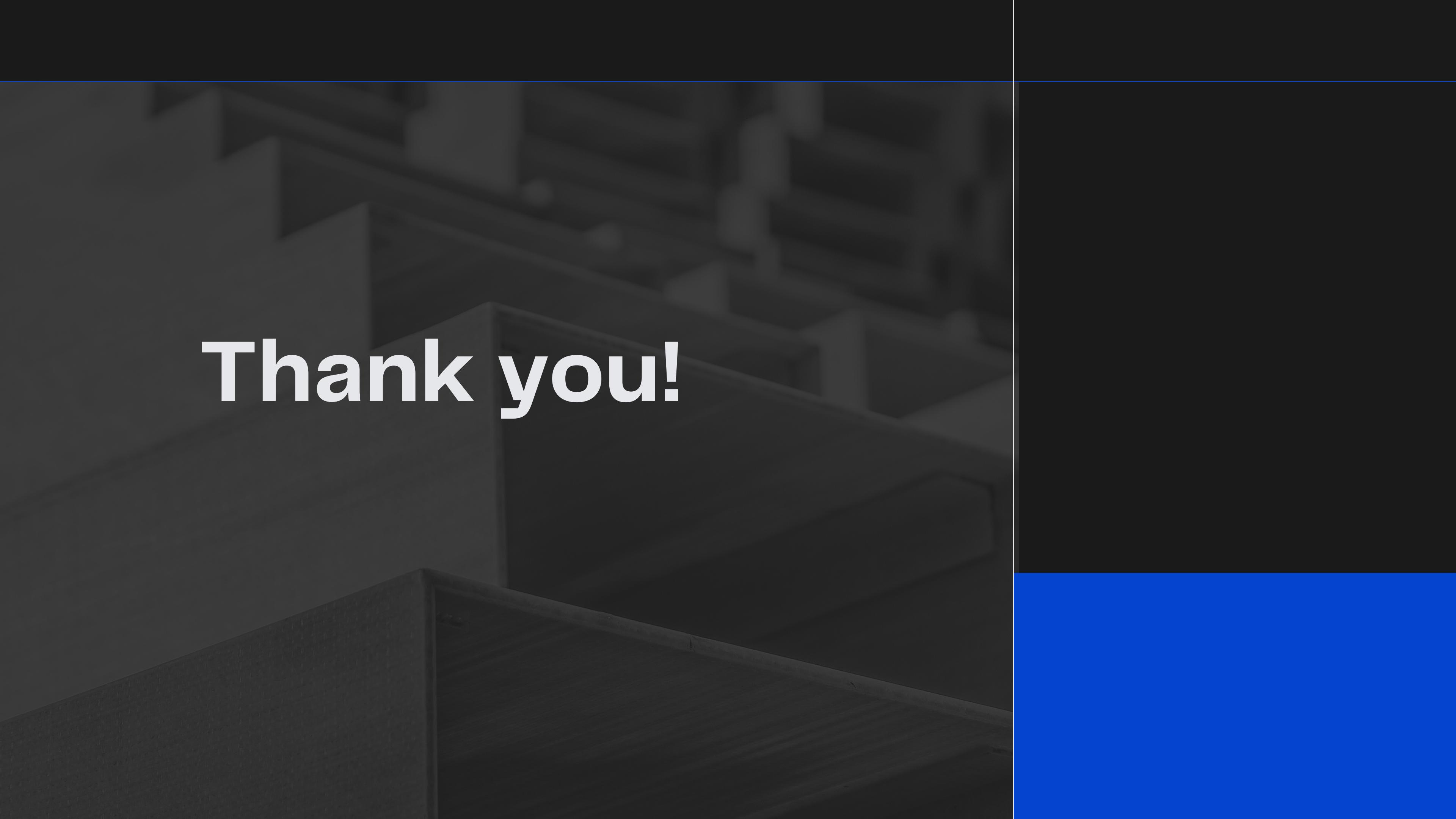
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Thank you!

Questions or Comments?

liz.chiarello@slu.edu

cmorrill@law.berkeley.edu

