

Kent Law School

Visitors

The Kent Centre for Law Gender and Sexuality (KCLGS) is hosting a number of visitors

Currently at KCLGS and Forthcoming visitors

Jeremy C Bradley is visiting the Kent Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality in November 2012. His research examines the links between fairness, philosophy and feminism. His monograph 'Virginia Woolf and The Judicial Imagination' was published in Summer 2012 and is a ground-breaking study on applying Woolf's novels to a framework for judicial decision-making. Jeremy has shared his research at, among other places, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the European Conference on Human Trafficking, and the International Conference on Virginia Woolf. Jeremy holds an MBA and is an associate lecturer at London School of Business and Finance. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Law at University of Leicester and will be looking at feminist responses to empathy for violent offenders whilst visiting Kent.

January 2013-June 2013: Professor Judy Fudge^[1] is an internationally leading scholar in the field of labour law, with particular expertise in gender and labour regulation, migration, and constitutionalising labour law. She is based at the University of Victoria in Canada.^[2] She will visit the Kent Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality (KCLGS) as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor for six months from late January 2013 to late June 2013.

4 March to 9 March 2013: Dr Johanna Oskala^[3] will be visiting the Kent Law School. Dr Oskala is a Senior Research Fellow in the Academy of Finland research project Philosophy and Politics in Feminist Theory located in the Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies at the University of Helsinki. She has previously worked as a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Dundee, UK (2007-2011) and as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Philosophy at New School for Social Research, USA (2006-2007). During her stay, Dr Oskala will run a research seminar for staff and research students.

8 April – 10 May 2013: Dr Jane Wangmann^[4] will be visiting Kent Law School from 8 April to 10 May 2013. Dr Wangmann joined the Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 2010. She completed her PhD in the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney in 2009. Her doctoral thesis explored the use of cross applications in domestic violence protection order proceedings in NSW. In this way it was concerned with men's and women's competing definitions of intimate partner violence. Dr Wangmann has recently been investigating the application of sociological research about different types of intimate partner violence in the context of family law proceedings. Whilst at Kent Law School, Dr Wangmann will be undertaking research concerning the presence/absence of gender in various policy and legal debates concerning legislation specifically designed to address intimate partner violence.

6 May - 13 June 2013: Professor Elena Urso from the University of Florence will be visiting the Kent Law School. During her stay, Professor Urso will run a research seminar for staff and

research students.

June - July 2013: Professor Gail Mason^[5] from the University of Sydney will be visiting the Kent Law School. Professor Mason is Co-Director of the Sydney Institute of Criminology. Her research centres on crime, social justice and exclusion, particularly: racist and homophobic violence; hate crime law and punishment; and the legal construction of hatred. She is co-ordinator of the Australian Hate Crime Network and Chief Investigator on the ARC funded Hate Crime Law and Justice Project which is undertaking an international comparison of hate crime laws. She is also involved in research exploring resilience and gendered violence amongst former-refugee communities in Australia. During her stay, Professor Mason will run a research seminar for staff and research students.

Recent Visitors

Professor Dayna Scott^[6] visited the Kent Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality from 19-27 October 2012. Dr Scott joined the faculties of York University's Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty for Environmental Studies in 2006. Her research provides critical feminist analysis of the capacity of law to protect the environment, secure equal access to environmental health and contribute to social justice. Her research and teaching ask "how?", and "how effectively?", communities and their advocates employ law in their struggles against environmental injustice. More generally Professor Scott's research engages with the dynamic between globalizing and localizing forces – in particular with respect to specialized expert knowledges, such as 'global science' or 'global doctrine', and its confrontations with locally situated ways of knowing and modes of governing. Professor Scott is the editor of `Consuming` Chemicals: Law, Science and Policy for Women`s Health, forthcoming from UBC Press, and the Director of Canada's National Network on Environments and Women`s Health. Among other awards, Professor Scott has been a recipient of Fulbright and SSHRC Fellowships, and the Law Commission of Canada's "Audacity of Imagination" Prize. Sample publications include: "Gender-Benders`: Sex and Law in the Constitution of Polluted Bodies" (2009) 18(3) Feminist Legal Studies 241-265. "Pollution and the Body Boundary: Exploring Scale, Gender and Remedy" appears in Feminist Perspectives on Tort Law, edited by Janice Richardson and Erica Rackley (Routledge, 2012).

Dr Elenor Perez Carrillo^[7] visited the Law School between 23rd July and the 27th August 2012. Dr Perez Carrillo specialises in Corporate and Commercial Law. During her stay, Dr Perez Carrillo ran a small research seminar for staff and research students.

September 2011- March 2012: Professor Maragret Davies^[8] visited the Law School as a Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor. Professor Davies is an eminent scholar with an international reputation in critical legal theory, particularly feminist legal theory, legal pluralism, and property theory. She also holds a visiting appointment with Umeå Law School in Sweden and is at the heart of important academic networks in Australia and Scandinavia. Over the course of the visit, Professor Davies gave six Leverhulme Lectures, four of which were at Kent and one each at Keele University and University of Reading. Professor Davies was also actively involved in the research life of KCLGS, participating in informal seminars and other post-graduate research focussed activities. Professor Davies gave an Open Lecture on 18 January 2012 titled 'Are persons property?' which will be made available as a podcast on the website. Further details of this lecture and the other Leverhulme Lectures are on the KLS Research events calendar.

25/10/11-25/11/11: Monica Burman was a visiting scholar from the Department of Law, Umea University Sweden. Monica's area of research is criminal law, gender, crime victims and men's violence against women. Her current research analyses legal protection, legal processes and gender constructions in law concerning men's violence against women in heterosexual

relationships in a family context and with a perspective on the violence as related to gender equality.

8 December 2011 Sharon Hayes^[9] (Queensland University of Technology) visited KentCLGS where she gave a talk on the nexus between sex, crime and morality. The title of her talk was Out of Time: The Moral Temporality of Sex and Taboo^[10]

Dara Purvis^[11] (Law, University of Illinois) will be visiting KentCLGS between **14/03/2011 and 25/03/2011**. Her project looks at the way in which gender intersects with the administrative state. In particular, she will focus on the structurally gendered analysis underlying the doctrine developed by the American Social Security Administration (“SSA”) to deal with claims made by women suffering from fibromyalgia. (PECANS)

Gendered Evaluation of Social Security Disability Claims Based on Fibromyalgia

This paper examines the treatment of Social Security disability claims brought by women asserting fibromyalgia as the disabling condition. Fibromyalgia has very limited clinical diagnosis procedures, chiefly a patient’s response to a significant number of “trigger points” at which she feels tenderness. Even the clinical diagnosis of fibromyalgia thus rests on a patient’s self-reported and subjective pain.

The Social Security Administration, however, was designed to rely upon supposedly objective determinations by physicians as to whether claimants were actually disabled. Over the objections of physicians, who explained that diagnoses are not purely black-or-white questions, the Social Security administrative process was created to rely only upon clinical determinations.

This structure has disproportionately adverse effects upon certain types of claims and claimants, such as woman with fibromyalgia. Adjudicators rely upon medical experts who present evidence based on medical research that uses predominantly male test subjects, despite evidence indicating that biological mechanisms may explain why women and men feel pain differently. The types of evidence used to rebut claimant testimony is also gendered. Evidence that a woman is able to complete traditionally female household tasks such as cooking dinner or shopping for food can be presented as proof that her claims of debilitating pain are not credible.

Evaluations of disability claims that turn on an individual’s credibility are inherently subjective, but this paper argues that a greater awareness of structural problems created by the overreliance on medical determinations will result in more accurate and just outcomes.

Ivana Radacic^[12] (Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia) will be visiting KentCLGS between **14/03/2011 to 25/03/2011**. Building on feminist theories of sexuality, equality and human rights, she will explore how the Croatian judiciary conceptualises female sexuality, equality and women’s human rights. In particular she will be looking at the way in which the construction of female sexuality in the context of rape trials influences the understanding and practical implementation of ideas of gender equality and human rights. (PECANS)

Rethinking Croatian Rape Laws

This paper is based on a research project the author undertook for the women’s human rights group B.a.B.e., Zagreb. We analysed Croatian rape laws and practice, with the aim of identifying incompatibilities with the human rights standards and proposing concrete reforms. The project was therefore aimed at practical reforms; what was lacking was an in-depth theoretical analysis of the construction of (female) sexuality, and its impact on gender equality and human rights (of women). This investigation is what we aimed to do in the continuation of this project. Building on feminist theories of sexuality, equality and human rights, I would like to explore further how

Croatian judiciary conceptualises female sexuality, equality and women's human rights and what the links between these concepts are in theory and in practice; in particular how the construction of female sexuality in the context of rape trials influences the understanding and practical implementation of the ideas of gender equality and human rights. Further, I would like to compare Croatian judiciary's discourse on rape with a human rights discourse on rape, in particular, one constructed by the European Court of Human Rights. Finally, I would like to do an empirical research by interviewing the victims of rape whose cases had been analysed in the project, in order to identify their perception of the links between sexuality, equality and human rights, and whether and how the court's discourse influenced their understanding of these concepts.

7/03/2011 and 18/03/2011 Ponni Arasu^[13] (History, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore, India - joint PECANS/KCLGS visitor) . Her work explores the links between the position of Dalit women within movements that struggled for caste based reservations policy in Tamilnadu and the position of queer women within the struggle for the reading down of Section 377. (KentCLGS and PECANS)

Queer Women and the Law

The paper will present the beginnings of a comparative study between women within struggles for caste based reservation among other anti-caste struggles in Tamilnadu and queer women within the struggle against the sodomy law that criminalizes homosexual activity in India. There is a difference of twenty years or so between the two struggles. Care will be taken to not impose any existing models on to newer movements. This empirical/analytical framework will be used as a basis to raise broader questions; namely, the role of identity within movements for social change; hierarchies within struggles for social change and their impact on the means and ends (both short and long term) of these struggles. This particular presentation is part of a larger project and it will attempt to lay out the various analytical frameworks that are available and how they may be used to understand identity and social movements. While the law will be one part of this exercise, the presentation will put forth an approach that de-centers law and conversations with the law within analysis of social movements. The presentation will be based on research on some primary as well as secondary literature. It will also be based on the author's own experience as an activist and legal researcher within the queer movement in India and her nascent involvement in feminist debates vis-à-vis caste among other things in her 'home state'- Tamilnadu

ESTHER SEIJAS VILLADANGOS from the University of Leon in Spain was at Kent from March 3-9th

Suzanne Lenon^[14] (Women's Studies, University of Lethbridge, Canada) 14-25th February 2011

Abstract- Global Governance, Gender Reform, and HIV/AIDS Prevention in Uganda

This paper will focus on recent developments in HIV/AIDS governance in Uganda, with a particular focus on the influence of former President George W. Bush's global AIDS policy (otherwise known as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) and broader shifts in development thought toward a more 'inclusive' neoliberalism. Drawing on my previous fieldwork in Uganda, I will discuss the increased attention that is paid to gender inequality, poverty, and good governance mechanisms in HIV/AIDS prevention projects, some of the constraints development workers confront in implementing these projects, as well as the contested dynamics of recent gender reform initiatives in terms of advancing neoliberalism, religious-moral conservatisms, and feminist commitments to sexual and economic justice. Secondly, I will discuss some of the challenges of my research and situate these within the

objectives of my upcoming research trip to Kampala in March.

Marcia Oliver (Sociology, York University, Canada) 14-25 February 2011

Abstract- Deep Relationality: Civil Partnerships & Forced Marriage in the UK

Over the course of the last several years, law and policy makers in Britain have grappled with two seemingly unrelated human rights issues: on the one hand, extending Civil Partnership to same-sex couples followed by a rejection of the legalization of same-sex marriage; and on the other, designing a number of policy initiatives and legal reforms to tackle the issue of forced marriage, with a particular focus on the ‘overseas’ dimension and augmenting racialized immigration restrictions. The various discourses shaping these legal and policy responses are not bound by national specificity but garner meaning from and within transnational circulation of discourses of “gay rights” and “women’s rights”. In this paper, I examine the legal and policy responses to these two rights-based issues, not as discrete state projects but as mutually constituting racial and sexual formations. I highlight a relational analytic that opposes comparisons in order to foreground the racializing discourses and ideological scaffolding that conjoin them. Through an examination of Parliamentary debates over civil partnership and forced marriage, I investigate ways in which the figures of the “good gay” and the “imperiled woman” emerge through and against each other. In so doing, the paper pays specific attention to how the articulation of partnership/marriage rights for lesbians and gay men becomes complicit with racist state regulations concerning forced marriage

Barbara Spadaro, Instituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (22 March - 2 April 2010) - PECANS

Mark Thomas, Queensland University of Technology (19 - 23 April 2010) - PECANS

Elaine Craig, Dalhousie Law School (26 - 30 April 2010) - PECANS

Karen Pearlston^[15], University of New Brunswick (15 January - 15 April 2010) - Joint with Kent Law School

Mudje Erdinc^[16], University of Limerick (1 February - 1 June 2010) - PECANS

Stu Marvel^[17] (Law, Osgoode, Canada) between 24/01/2011 and 04/02/2011. Stu will be working on reproductive rights, queer families and postcolonial geographies of commerce and intimacy. (PECANS)

Links

1. http://www.kent.ac.uk/law/kentclgs/Fudge_Judy.html
 2. http://www.law.uvic.ca/faculty_staff/faculty_directory/fudge.php
 3. <http://www.coepolcon.fi/researchers/58/johanna-oksala>
 4. <http://datasearch2.uts.edu.au/law/staff/details.cfm?StaffId=8760>
 5. <http://sydney.edu.au/law/about/staff/GailMason/>
 6. <http://www.kent.ac.uk/law/research/index.html>
 7. http://www.ecgi.org/members_directory/member.php?member_id=514
 8. <http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehi/law/staff/margaret-davies.cfm>
 9. <http://www.law.qut.edu.au/staff/jsstaff/shayes.jsp>
 10. https://www.kent.ac.uk/law-local/events/Abstract_Sex_crime_and_taboo.doc
 11. <http://www.law.uiuc.edu/faculty-admin/directory/DaraPurvis>
 12. <http://www.law.qut.edu.au/staff/jsstaff/shayes.jsp>
 13. <http://www.kent.ac.uk/research/documents/PONNI%20ARASU.doc>
 14. http://directory.uleth.ca/users/suzanne.lenon?no_headers=1
 15. <http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/law/faculty/kpearlston.html>
 16. <http://www.ul.ie/~ceuros/research.html>
 17. <http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/faculty/MarvelStu.html>
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