



Participants at 'Agency, Sexuality and Law', a joint workshop organised with the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (Mumbai), in Goa, 11-13 December 2007.

Welcome by Anisa de Jong, Centre Co-ordinator



Welcome to the fourth issue of the CentreLGS newsletter. As we start to plan the CentreLGS closing event for Spring 2009, I'm thinking back to the Centre's first international conference 'Theorising Intersectionality' (May 2005), and I'm realising how fast the Centre's lifespan of five years (since 2004) has passed and how much has happened – and is still to happen in our last year:

One of the challenges the Centre has faced is to develop conversations across boundaries: the boundaries of academic disciplines, geographical

boundaries and the 'boundaries' between theory and practice. The content of this newsletter reflects – in a small way – how the Centre has continued to successfully work across these boundaries, by engaging in a variety of local and international events, hosting international visitors as well as

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speakers from non-academic backgrounds, and by stimulating and supporting the diversity of research undertaken by its members.

The Centre quite literally crossed boundaries this year by holding a co-organised conference with the Tata Institute (Mumbai) 'on location' in Goa, India: 'Agency, sexuality and law – globalising economies, localising cultures, politicising states'. Many Centre members from the UK enjoyed attending this event, and already plans are being made for future collaborations with partners in India.

The Centre has also continued to move beyond the academic field and engaged with legal practice and policy, for example in its 'Feminism with Fizz' series, by responding to the HFEA and Discrimination Law Review consultations, as well as in Keele's Streetlaw Project. The feature in this newsletter on Jean Fraser's 'Drawing Breath' project shows the Centre's continued engagement with art, as well as with health issues.

In crossing these boundaries, the Centre's project also highlights the value of collaboration in itself, which creates such a vibrant intellectual culture. For many members, as well as for other partners and visitors of the Centre, this collaboration has always been more than a mere professional 'working together'. Over the Centre's lifespan a close-knit community of scholars has been created, as new contacts have been formed and old ones reinforced. Often these collaborations go beyond collegiality and many of us are not just colleagues, but also friends.

As this is the Centre's last annual newsletter, I would like to thank all my colleagues (and friends) for this joint effort in creating such a dynamic, friendly, interesting and supportive place to work. In the forward-looking spirit of the Centre, we should also remember not to think of the current project's end in May 2009 as a final 'ending', but rather as the beginnings – and continuation – of the many collaborations, (research) initiatives, networks and friendships that have been formed.

News

Here is a summary of our latest news. You can find more information on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/.

Hilary Charlesworth to give 2008 Annual Lecture
Are Women Peaceful? Reflections on the role of women in peace building.

Hilary Charlesworth, Professor of International Law and Human Rights at Australian National University, will give the Centre's Annual Lecture on 15 May 2008 at the University of Westminster. Professor Charlesworth is a renowned feminist theorist and the Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice at ANU. She is joint winner (with Christine Chinkin) of the American Society of International Law's 2006 Goler T. Butcher Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development of international human rights law.

To read the abstract and book places for the lecture, go to: http://www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/events/annual_lecture08.htm

CentreLGS welcomes Harriet Samuels and Mima Vicentijevic. Goodbye to Rosemary Auchmuty and Penny Bernard.

Harriet Samuels is now the Associate Director for Westminster, taking over from Rosemary Auchmuty who has moved to take up a Chair at Reading. Thank you very much to Rosemary for her hard work and cheerfulness whilst at the Centre, and we're looking forward to working with Harriet.

We're pleased that Mima Vicentijevic has joined us. She is the assistant co-ordinator, working with



Mima Vicentijevic



Harriet Samuels

Anisa in the Centre at Kent and taking over from Penny Bernard, who has sadly left.

Consultation Responses and Policy Documents

In March 2008, Sharron Fitzgerald (Keele) co-ordinated the Centre's response to the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency's 'Visitor Consultation Paper'.

In February 2008, Toni Johnson (Kent) co-authored with David Harris, Therese Murphy and Jeffrey Kenner (Nottingham) a report on homophobia and sexual orientation discrimination in the UK for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

In July 2007, Marie Fox, Stephen Wilkinson, Andrew Sharpe and Michael Thomson (Keele University) produced the Centre's response to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's consultation on the ethical and social implications of creating human/animal embryos in research.

In September 2007, Joanne Conaghan (University of Kent) produced the Centre's response to the Discrimination Law Review's consultation paper 'A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain'.

Thank you very much to all involved with drafting these Centre responses. You can view the responses on our website.

Encountering Human Rights Report

The report is now on the Centre website from the Centre's joint conference with Liberty and LAG in January 2007 **Encountering Human Rights: Gender/Sexuality, Activism and the Promise of Law**. You can access it at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/documents/EncounteringHumanRights08.pdf>.

The journal *Feminist Legal Studies* has published a special issue featuring papers from the conference. Those with subscriptions to FLS can access the special issue at:
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/0966-3622>.

This Year's Events

PECANS Workshop (Postgraduate and Early Career Academics Network of Scholars), University of Westminster, London 23 and 24 April 2008

This two day workshop is for postgraduate scholars and early career academics working in the areas of law, gender and sexuality.

Day One will include practical sessions for postgraduate students and early career academics:

- Revising and rewriting
- Surviving the viva
- Modeling good and bad supervision.

Day Two will be a one day conference on the theme of **Reconfiguring Resistance** including a question and answer session with Bonnie Honig (Northwestern University, US). Questions/themes for the conference are:

- What are the differences and similarities between concepts such as resistance, subversion and transgression?
- How can these concepts help us to critique existing practices and structures?
- Have gender/sexuality/feminist scholars been too focused on the margins, thereby underestimating the significance of mainstream or hegemonic life in efforts to advance social change?

For more information on this workshop, go to the PECANS website at <http://www.clgs-pecans.org.uk>.

Mobilising the Imaginary: The 'Unreal' in Law, Gender and Sexuality Research, Keele University, 1 May 2008

Building on previous CenteLGS events, this workshop aims to examine how concepts such as the utopian, the virtual, the fantastic and the fictitious can be deployed to envisage a more just social order and provide a basis for critiquing existing institutional arrangements.

Workshop themes include:

- The transformative potential of literary critique
- The 'liaison' between law 'and' literature

- The promises and perils of the virtual
- Monsters, the imaginary and the law.

Plenary sessions (based around pre-circulated papers):

- **Maria Aristodemou** (Birkbeck College) 'The Lost Object in Law, Literature, and 'Law and Literature'
- **Martin Kayman** (Cardiff University) 'Statutes and Statutes: The Law, The Literary, and The Corpus'
- **Vikki Bell** (Goldsmiths College) 'Fernando's Photograph: Revisiting 'the Absolute Witness' in Contemporary Argentina'
- **Andrew Sharpe** (Keele University) 'Structured like a Monster: Understanding Human Difference through a Legal Category'

For further information on the workshop, contact Lieve Gies on l.gies@keele.ac.uk.

Utopian Practices Seminar Series Workshop: 'Citizenship', University of Kent, 17 May 2008

This seminar is one of a series that has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Utopias seek a better world. They stem from discontent with the present and seek to imagine a different and improved way of being. The term 'utopia' may evoke images of perfect worlds and escapist fantasies but utopias have a very real function in the political and social world. Utopian discontent and desire lie at the heart of much radical politics and politics of resistance. They also inform many schemes for the good life. For some people, utopian visions inform their daily lives: some people try to realize their utopia in the here and now. Others try to work towards a better or improved life, based on an ideal. Utopian practices take a multitude of forms, and we seek to engage practitioners and academics in a series of meetings that reflects this.

Sessions:

- Conduct and Affiliation: Engin Isin and Rhiannon Firth
- Discussion – Utopian Thinking: Ruth Lister and Darren Langdrige
- Belonging and Transgression: Rosie Harding and Sally Hines.
- Discussion – Accomplishing Utopian Citizenship: Rainer Baubock and Nick Stevenson.

To register, and for more information, please go to: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics/Utopia/>

Gender and Regulation – A Global/Local Conversation, University of Kent, 13 and 14 June 2008

Discussion topics:

- regulation and normativity
- recognition and regulation in/through law
- new (trans)national configurations of gender and sexuality
- International Financial Institutions as sites for/of gender regulation
- the relationship between social movements and regulation

Confirmed speakers:

- **Eudine Barriteau** who heads up the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies. Title: *Gendered Hierarchies of Power and Politics: Macroeconomic Policies and Caribbean States in the 21st Century*.
- **Ruth Buchanan**, currently an Associate Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, at York University, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Title: *Is another (Legal) World Possible? Transnational Civil Society, Resistance and the Limits of International Law*.
- **Irene León**, member of the Board of Directors of Agencia Latinoamericana de Información (ALAI) and director of its Women's Program. Title: *New Approaches to Gender and Sexuality in Alter-globalization Proposals*.
- **Jasbir Puar**, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Title: *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*

The event will be focussed around plenary talks, roundtables, and focused small and large group discussion. Participants will write a 1-3 page informal "think piece" on the theme of gender, sexuality, and regulation as it currently informs their work.

Please go to the website for further details on any of these events.



Akshay Khanna, Sameena Dalwai, Asha Bajpai, and Shraddha Chigateri at 'Agency, Sexuality and Law'

Transnational feminist research practice: A critical conversation¹

In December 2007, CentreLGS joined with the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (Mumbai) in organising 'Agency, Sexuality and Law', a three day workshop in Goa, India. The following critical conversation has been pulled together, and edited, by Ruth Fletcher and Jane Krishnadas (Keele) who, along with Lakshmi Lingham (Tata Institute), put a lot of work into making the workshop as successful as it was.

Ruth: *A warm welcome to you all and thank you for contributing to this conversation. On returning to our home jurisdictions after the Agency workshop in India, a few of us thought it would be helpful and interesting to share our current reflections on different kinds of transnational feminist research practices. So, to get us started, how do you find working across jurisdictions influences knowledge production?*

Emily: It can be very easy for a sort of centrifugal force to suck us into feminist theoretical perspectives emanating from (if not wholly influenced by) scholars working in the US and Canada. Watching Shohini Ghosh's 'Tales of the Night Fairies' at the workshop was exhilarating and interesting and helped me in thinking about the many different ways that women negotiate and construct agency in their own contexts, whether in the context of sex work (as in the film) or in relation to mental health policy (which is what I'm working on right now). Given that sexuality and gender are so integral and productive to agentic practices, engaging in cross-jurisdictional research in gender and sexuality is essential for thinking about agency.

¹ Edited from email contributions made by Anagha Tambe, Andreas Philippopoulos Mihalopoulos, Dania Thomas, Dianne Otto, Emily Grabham, Jane Krishnadas, Kate Bedford, Renu Addlakha, and Shraddha Chigateri in March 2008.

Shraddha: In a sense I'm also questioning that 'centrifugal force' as using the work of US author Nancy Fraser has made me contend with the applicability of Fraser's conceptual framework in a context such as India. I have had to ask myself questions such as 'Why Fraser and not an indigenous theorist?' The issues that I have had to contend with are about the applicability and possible indigenising of a conceptual framework developed elsewhere, and of course what the local context tells us about the validity of a conceptual framework developed elsewhere. But speaking of jurisdiction also begs questions of the relationship between power, knowledge production, representation and experience. Who is a legitimate producer of knowledge, especially in relation to subaltern communities? What constitutes knowledge claims? Who can speak about, for whom, and how? Here, I think the much rehearsed article 'Under Western Eyes' by Chandra Mohanty, and the debates that ensued in India in relation to research carried out by 'Indian' researchers on 'Indian' women, are useful pointers to how one might benefit from critically evaluating the use of conceptual and empirical material from other jurisdictions as well as one's own.

Jane: I've enjoyed working against that 'force' you mention for some time, but still find it draws me back in. For me, the 'force' of critical thinking was driven by the voices which I had access to whilst working with women's groups in Latur; the local feminist activist literature and then through attending the Gender Just Workshop, in Mumbai in 1996. The Gender Just Workshop presented an opportunity for Indian academics and activists to address the debate on the Uniform Civil Code and its impact on religious personal laws. Economic and Political Weekly was a key source for me during the first stages of my PhD, and the TISS library in Mumbai enabled me to access a wide variety of Indian feminist socio-legal literature. When I came to Keele University the privilege of electronic journals brought a multitude of jurisdictions within reach. I was also very interested to see how cross jurisdictional work had drawn on the 'foundational' texts at the core of the centrifuge, Foucault, Marx, Engels and Habermas, in strikingly different ways. The

search for alternative foundations drives my current research.

Anagha: I have found the South East Asian and Caribbean literature an important introduction to the diverse ways in which prostitution has been organized, specifically on the site of sex tourism. The scholarship on prostitution in the context of sex tourism has enabled me to problematize the definition of prostitution as desexualized/de-eroticized sex work and uncover how romance, love, sexual desire are intermingled with material aspirations, money and more intangible economic options in the 'sex work' in sex tourism.

Dianne: Because I work primarily in international law, I often work with feminist analysis that has been developed in jurisdictions other than the one I work in but most of the work draws from international law as its framework which gives it a common language – so the jurisdictional difference are somewhat muted by the transnational framework – though of course much of the discussion is about, and based in, jurisdictional differences.

Andreas: It has only been in the last few years that I have become interested in Indian feminist theory and its connection to a Western understanding of feminism. This literature has given me another way to think about differentiated contextual understanding, and the transgression of context at the same time.

Dania: For me knowledge production across jurisdictions requires us to get out of our comfort zones, to take risks with our ideas, to rethink what we've been conditioned into thinking because people's lived experiences elsewhere are different. In the context of India, agency is a good bridge idea as we can rely on a common language to some extent but we need to build relationships, engage in extended and long conversations to flesh out our discontent. Agency as transformative action has been used extensively in Indian feminist scholarship and it relies on an appreciation of common concerns and presents an opportunity to establish long-term relationships.

Kate: I find work on regions different from those I am doing work on tremendously helpful. For example, I am writing something on crisis, gender, and sexuality

at the moment, focused on Argentina, but the framework draws on work on the Philippines, South Korea, the UK, the US, and Chile. This is not to suggest that findings can be simply exported from one context to another; but when you research multilateral institutions, whose programmes are often cut and pasted from one region to another; the analyses you find most useful are not necessarily going to be those that fall within obvious geographical boundaries.

Renu: In many ways, my current research on disability is already a product of globalizing social science and social movement discourses.

Ruth: *Sharing perspectives across jurisdictions is a critical aspect of our research. But how do we negotiate concepts and experiences of the global, transnational, cross-jurisdictional, post-colonial in our work?*

Kate: Transnational research does not have to be done abroad and it does not need to be multi-sited or comparative. Work that takes transnational processes seriously within any site, including work on the profoundly local level, counts. I'm thinking of Inderpal Grewal's book on 'Transnational America' that examines intimate sites such as toy purchasing as linked to the forging of globalized subjectivities, or Ara Wilson's work on sexualities in Bangkok and their imbrication with transnational processes.

Jane: The way my 'local' research in India was labelled 'international' once I moved to the UK has been interesting for me in complicating notions of representation in cross-jurisdictional work. This has been particularly important in motivating me to employ a transnational approach grounded in an Indian literature in engaging with local research in Stoke, UK.

Andreas: Global is a term I don't quite get... I find that the more 'localised' and 'place-focused' the research, the more I can relate to it. Examples of urban gender studies of the kind we heard in Goa are precisely the kind of thing that gets me excited and allows me parallel thinking.

Renu: While one does draw upon global macro-trends embedded in economic processes, knowledge production and political events, I too am wary of

making sweeping generalizations given the overriding importance I accord to local factors.

Transnational factors are operating in the crystallization of feminine identity especially in the urban regions of the developing world, and yet these factors work in conjunction with traditional norms and practices. The end product is quite fascinating and very different from the operation of these factors in say the North American context.

Anagha: Cross-jurisdictional work has sensitized me to the hierarchies within global politics, to the silences and differences in the articulation of feminist subjects as global actors and agents.

Shraddha: Yes, 'jurisdiction' already imagines issues of boundedness and boundaries. Women, third world women and the politics of difference, dalit women, dalit women in Bangalore, dalit women domestic workers in Karinapalya slum? The more universal the subject seems, the wider the jurisdiction and the conception of the local, the more readily applicable a particular conceptual framework.

Dianne: Of course I think that post-colonial theory is really important to feminist theory and in many ways, not just in assisting cross-jurisdictional discussion. But the importance of post-colonial perspectives begs rather than answers the question.

Emily: Yes, I have used critical perspectives from postcolonial theory in my work but the Goa workshop was fantastic because meeting Indian colleagues enabled me to be much more up to date with political/theoretical conversations happening within Indian queer/feminist circles, and that has been invaluable.

Ruth: *How have critical cross-jurisdictional conversations impacted on our work?*

Jane: I have really struggled with issues of representation in researching women's experiences in India and engaging with a post-colonial feminist perspective, to the point of questioning my authenticity to research and write in this field. It has been through engaging in literature on caste and class that I have better understood the layers of complexities in researcher/research relations. I find

the Indian feminist debates on caste and religion particularly critical in challenging wider feminist debates on class, third world feminism, critical race and queer theories. So for me, engaging with the post-colonial critiques is critically important in order to challenge the 'givens' of the western modern legal system and related norms of sexuality, gender, property ownership. The pre-colonial discourses on caste, religion and gender are also critical in presenting alternative modes of socio-legal relations. The diversity of India's legal system, whose constitutional rights and duties permit plural arrangements and the co-existence of the personal laws, has been fascinating in disrupting the notion of a single 'modern' system of law and its relation to social realities.

Shraddha: I think that while you do not need to be working across jurisdictions to contend with questions of representation, working in different jurisdictions makes the issues of representation more difficult. There are barriers to understanding experiences of the 'jurisdictional other' that go to the heart of a particular knowledge claim made about the 'other'. For instance, when teaching Gender and Law to a mostly white middle class female audience, I had to contend with the difficulty of accessing and assessing thick descriptions of gendered experiences of being white and middle class in the UK. I hadn't lived in the UK for long, and there is only so much you can learn from reading about experiences. In this sense, I think lived experience has a legitimate but difficult relationship with knowledge production, legitimate because there is so much that is knowable by living and breathing the air of a particular milieu, and difficult because of how it essentialises both experience and identities.

Emily: Recent CentreLGS conversations have provoked me to ask which boundaries (national, political, transgressive) structure my own work and in what ways and I am not at all sure this is a simple question. At what level do national boundaries work? When we talk about nationalism for example, do national borders exert most significance ontologically through geographical boundaries, or can nationalism be secured through the skin, by

aesthetic surgeries, for example? So really, I am asking what does 'across' mean? What are we crossing?

For me, the questions that came out of the Goa workshop brought me back to how and why issues of difference get constructed along national and 'cultural' borders. My paper on the UK psychopharmaceutical industry and the agency of people with mental health diagnoses was placed on a panel alongside Renu who has written extensively on disability politics and the treatment of people with bipolar disorder in India. In one sense, the border that we were both negotiating, the 'trans' or 'across', was the apparent binary between 'sanity' and 'madness', which is constructed differently in India and in the UK. Both of us were looking at the pharmaceutical industry – Mumbai is a real centre for pharmaceutical start ups right now and obviously the problematic implications of drug regimes and self-surveillance for people with mental health diagnoses have different inflections in different geographical and political locations, but the eerie commonalities in our research forced me to think about how the homogenising force of transnational pharmaceutical 'brands' impact on government policies in vastly different environments.

Kate: I worry that certain trends in development studies may overstate the influence that texts have on development practice, and cross-jurisdictional research can help in this respect. While written reports are important, most of the nearly 10,000 people who work for the World Bank do far more than write policy texts. They produce grounded development outcomes – training workshops, altered state policy, buildings, irrigation channels, micro-credit institutions, and so on. It is a huge leap of faith to assume that these outcomes neatly reflect the policy texts. Indeed many observers comment on a "schizophrenia" between Bank rhetoric and the reality of lending operations. David Mosse (2005) explicates this brilliantly. His approach – which takes texts very seriously – foregrounds a specific vision of agency comprised of compromises and contingencies, the fragility in practice of many of the policy models, the need to recruit supporters to particular representations of reality, and the

interlocking intentionalities of the developers and the "to-be-developed."

Anagha: As I started working on the debates over the conceptualization of prostitution in contemporary India, the debates in India seemed to be evidently influenced by the global debates over prostitution. And so I have looked at the feminist scholarship over prostitution in the global north and also that from the global south, specifically South East Asia or Caribbean from where the feminist engagement with prostitution has emerged. This allowed me to contextualize the debate and highlighted not only the different practices of prostitution in the region, but also the different political economic locations that have produced these perspectives.

Renu: I find the only way to negotiate these issues is to recognize and acknowledge my own positionality in my research. It is not camouflaged, concealed and written out of my research experiences and writings. In that sense, the subject-object and personal-political dichotomies are de-stabilised. Differential contexts always challenge one's ingrained perceptions, be they the product of individual socialization or disciplinary training.

Andreas: It would seem that transnational feminist research has enhanced my understanding of feminist research, in that the contextualisation in conditions of higher urgency and presence meant that the occasionally invisible is now perfectly and constantly visible. The two films [Ghosh's *Tales of the Night Fairies* and Monteiro and Jayasankar's *Our Family*] we watched really contributed to this.

Ruth: *Given the diversity of perspectives where is the potential for feminist transnational research?*

Shraddha: Working across jurisdictions has both challenged at times and supported at other times my understanding and belief in a feminist perspective. Working in India with dalit communities has necessarily made me question the universalising claims of an Indian feminism, and working in the west has made me question the claims of feminisms that are not mindful of difference. But it is within both these jurisdictions that I have seen possibilities

of a different kind of feminist politics, a radical politics in the context of sex workers, for instance.

Dania: I'm interested in how transnational feminist research can challenge the disturbing ways in which statistics on sex-selective abortions in India are used to represent a culture in transition. This process reveals diverse agents, ideological persuasions and the pervasive sex-determination industry.

Jane: For me, transnational feminist research has challenged a common feminist research standpoint but affirmed a shared affiliation through a diversity of critiques and alliances. Cross-jurisdictional feminist research on diverse sexual and kinship arrangements has been critical in challenging heteronormative models of gender and sexuality in socio-legal relations.

Anagha: Highlighting and analyzing the global axis of domination and exploitation can reveal the material relations of solidarity and hierarchy among the regions, and locate the issue of prostitution in the matrix of the global economy.

Kate: I am extremely suspicious of apparent convergences in the global arena around gender truths – particularly those based on ideas that poor people are more oppressive in their gender relations than rich people, and that loving monogamous partnerships are the universal model for empowerment. Lots of research, in a range of different sites, has complicated those 'truths', and revealed the power-laden knowledge production processes upon which the claims are reliant. The most mobile gender claims are often the most wrong – and the insidious uses to which they can get put when they travel leads to me be very cautious about generalizing about a feminist perspective. But my research has only intensified my sense that women need a transformative social movement to improve our lives, and that the struggle to decide our intimate attachments freely is a collective one.

Ruth: *An excellent place to pause right now. But let's think about how to keep the conversation flowing!*

Update on the Governance and Regulation Stream

Kate Bedford and Toni Williams

We're delighted to welcome as co-ordinators of the governance and regulation stream Kate Bedford, the Centre's RCUK Research Fellow, who arrived last summer; and Toni Williams, formerly of Osgoode Hall Law School, who is now at Kent Law School.

Since joining the CentreLGS in summer 2007 as co-coordinators of its regulation and governance cluster, we have come to appreciate the breadth, complexity and diversity of Centre members work in this field. The established cluster streams of "citizenship and state," "regulation of intimate relations" and "governance of / by communities" engage with some of the most challenging theoretical questions and salient policy matters in contemporary political life; and it has been exciting for us to work on linking these streams to our own research projects on the interconnections between law, gender and sexuality in the regulation of finance and international political economy. In true CentreLGS fashion, we have sought to develop these connections through events in which participants share their work.

In February 2008, Keele hosted a very successful 1-day cluster workshop, attended by some 20 Centre members drawn from all three sites. The day opened with a lively and illuminating discussion of Centre members' participation in recent research workshops on "Agency, sexuality and law – globalising economies, localising cultures, politicising states" (Goa, December 2007) and "Toward a vision of sexual and economic justice" (New York, November 2007). We discussed the relationships between these events and the two-

day workshop planned for June 2008, "Gender and Regulation – a global/local conversation". The rest of the day was divided into panels organised around two main themes: "'Only Connect': linking the interpersonal with the transnational in governance and regulation research" and "Governing intimacy through the regulation of space and place, care, debt and desire." We were very grateful that so many people came to share their work in this collaborative, supportive environment and the discussions were rich, spirited and thought provoking.

Registration is now open for the June workshop, and we are very much looking forward to it. The goal of the workshop is to create intellectual space to interrogate the gendered and sexualized dimensions of regulation shaping the contemporary global order. The workshop is thematically related to the Goa, New York and Keele workshops with this event threading its conversations through four substantive topics that have particular salience in critical analysis of law and legal institutions: regulation and normativity, recognition and regulation in/through law, international financial institutions as sites for/of gender regulation, and the relationship between social movements and regulation. We have invited four prominent scholars as plenary speakers to engage conference participants in intellectually and politically challenging conversations about the global/local, macro/micro dimensions of gender, sexuality, and regulation. These scholars are Eudine Barriteau, the head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, who has published extensively and critically on Gender & Development and on women's leadership and feminist policy-making;

Ruth Buchanan, an Associate Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, who publishes on globalization, law and social justice; international economic institutions and global civil society; law and development and postcolonial approaches to international law; Irene León, the director of the Women's Program of the Agencia Latinoamericana de Información (ALAI), who has an extensive history of activism and writing about the World Social Forum, gender issues, globalization, and resistance in Latin America; and Jasbir Puar, an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, whose recent book *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (October 2007) questions the distinctive ways in which liberal politics incorporate certain queer subjects into the fold of the nation-state, and highlights troublesome links between the war on "terror" and sexuality. We are also pleased that Marco Da Silva will be helping us to organise this event – you will meet him when you come.

We expect the workshop discussions to address the complex interactions between the increasing centrality of multilateral institutions to global governance; the persistence of states as powerful regulators of citizen's conduct; and the growth of diverse regulatory enforcement mechanisms, including self-monitoring, and the deployment of expertise in a range of fields. We also expect the workshop to advance understanding about how changes in macro-level governance are connected with shifts in the regulation of micro-level behaviour. We would like to know more, for example, about how changes in trade regimes interact with changes in intimate relations; about how alterations in state sovereignty affect the ability of marginalized populations to effect social change; about how international political economy links with what Jon Binnie has called the 'mess and goo' of sexuality in global frame. The conference will focus on such linkages among gender, sexuality, regulation and economic restructuring, at global, national, and local levels.

We are very excited at the prospect of joining together in conversation scholars from the Global South and North whose research spans queer post-colonial studies and structural adjustment, the World Trade Organization and the World Social Forum and we are hoping to interest a leading interdisciplinary journal in publication of some part of the proceedings. Additional information about the June workshop is available on the Centre website. It promises to be a really exciting event – we hope to see you there.

We'd like to finish with a brief word about Joanne Conaghan's contribution in guiding the development of the cluster since the Centre's inception. The range of research in this field is such that co-ordination of the cluster is quite a challenge for the two of us. It takes a special kind of intellectual imagination – not to mention prodigious energy – to weave together the various elements of regulation and governance in and through law, gender and sexuality. Joanne has played a vital role in promoting critical inquiry into how materialist and governmentality literatures have contributed to constructions of sexed citizenship and gendered intimate relations; and in leading important Centre interventions into government policies, particularly in relation to equality and anti-discrimination. So, thanks, Joanne!

Past Events – 2007-2008

December 2007

With the Tata Institute for Social Sciences in Mumbai, the Centre organised a workshop in Goa, India entitled **Agency, Sexuality and Law – Globalising Economies, Localising Cultures, Politicising States**. Please see section 4 of this newsletter for further information about this event.

November 2007

The Centre hosted an author meets reader session at the University of Westminster featuring Cynthia Daniels, who spoke about her book *Exposing Men: The Science and Politics of Male Reproduction* (OUP, 2006). Discussants at this event were: Jonathan Ives, Sally Sheldon, Emily Jackson, Julie McCandless, and Michael Thomson.

July 2007

The Centre's international conference **Gender Unbound** took place at Keele University, with plenary speakers Hazel Carby, Sander Gilman, Rosemary Hennessy, Carol Smart and Sylvia Tamale and performance artist Lois Weaver. This wide-ranging event focussed on legal and institutional reform, embodied sites of struggle, violence, performance, and the pursuit of social justice.

June 2007

Sexing Reproductive Regulation: Gendering Health and Human Rights took place at Keele University, co-hosted by the Centre, the Alternative Globalisations Forum at Keele and the Keele Centre for Law, Ethics and Society. This event focused on the challenges that sexual diversity, intersectionality, and globalisation pose for feminist research and activism on reproductive rights. It was linked with a lecture given at Keele by Professor Rosalind Pollack Petchesky entitled **Rights of the Body in Times of War**.

April 2007

The Centre's governance and regulation workshop for 2007 took place at the University of Westminster. Entitled **Revisiting the Material: New Directions in Gender, Sexuality and Law Studies**, the workshop featured Wendy Larner, Lisa Adkins and Kathi Weeks.

The PECANS workshop took place, with an author meets reader session featuring Lois McNay, who went on to give the Centre's 2007 annual lecture on **The Trouble with Recognition**. Also in April was the workshop **Liquid Lives, Wholesome Selves: Change, Legal Ritual, and Autobiographical Narrative** with keynote speaker Laura Beth Nielsen.



Sylvia Tamale and Rosemary Hennessy, Plenary Speakers at 'Gender Unbound'.

Spotlight on....

In this section, we highlight Centre members' collaborative projects, and members' recent publications.

Recent and Ongoing Projects

Law in Action! Rosie Harding and Jane Krishnadas

As part of the CentreLGS knowledge transfer activities and Keele University's ongoing commitment to reach out to the local community, Centre members Rosie Harding and Jane Krishnadas, both from the School of Law, Keele University, have been piloting an innovative community legal education and legal literacy project with law student volunteers. Building on previous collaborative links with local community organisations, the homeless support group Brighter Futures, women's counselling service Savana, and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Citizens Advice Bureau, the pilot 'Law in Action' scheme encouraged undergraduate students to get involved in research that is relevant to the local community. Thirty second and third year law students have conducted research projects on behalf of the three community partners, exploring issues such as the law relating to street prostitution, rape (including changes to civil actions stemming from a recent House of Lords decision²), gender discrimination in access to drug treatment services provided through the criminal justice system, irresponsible lending and forthcoming changes to incapacity benefits.

Groups of volunteers initially visited the offices of the community partner organisations, to be introduced to the work of the organisation. The volunteers then discussed with the community partners possible topics for their research. The student groups then had eight weeks to carry out their research project for the community organisation. Each of the groups prepared some form of report, leaflet or poster communicating their research and also prepared a short presentation on their research findings. The student presentations took place at an open event, hosted by Keele Law School in association with the Alternative Globalisations Forum and supported by CentreLGS

2 A v Hoare [2008] UKHL 6

and the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice.

The pilot project has paved the way for a new 'Law in Action' module, which will start in the 2008-2009 academic session, allowing second year law students to gain credit as part of their law degree for the legal research that they carry out for community partners. It is hoped that this project will pave the way for future postgraduate research projects and knowledge transfer collaborations, as well as feeding into the undergraduate curriculum. As this will be an ongoing project, we are keen to develop links with other local community organisations. If you would like more information about this exciting and innovative knowledge transfer project, please feel free to contact Rosie Harding (email: r.harding@law.keele.ac.uk) or Jane Krishnadas (email: j.h.krishnadas@law.keele.ac.uk), who will be more than happy to provide more information about the scheme and future development plans.

Embryonic Hopes: Marie-Andrée Jacob

Marie has recently joined Keele Law School from L'Université du Québec à Montréal. Her research focuses on how law, experts and society interact in generating controversies and consensus on issues in modern medicine. She is organising a joint Keele-King's College London one-day workshop "Embryonic Hopes: Social and legal dimensions of reproductive medicine and human cloning", which will take place on 6 June 2008, at King's College in London. Funded by *Social and Legal Studies*, the workshop is co-organised with Barbara Prainsack (KCL Centre for Biomedicine and Society). It is built around a recent paper by feminist Israeli lawyer Dr. Carmel Shalev, "Human Dignity and the Israeli Cloning Debate." Shalev's paper addresses diverse interpretations of the concept of human dignity (legalistic, religious, secular, nationalist, pro-natalist) in debates on genetics and cloning in Israel but also elsewhere. The workshop will more generally address the following themes:

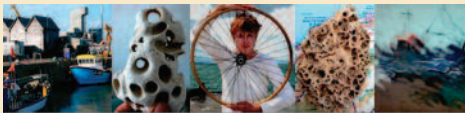
- How does reproductive medicine generate multiple interpretations of the concept of "human dignity"?
- How is "hope" mobilised in legal debates on reproductive medicine and cloning?

- What methods can we use to tackle the sociality and politics of the promises of genetics within clinical practices and scientific discourse?

Participants will include: Carmel Shalev (Visiting Professor at the University Medical Center, Georg-August University, Germany); Sarah Franklin (Professor at the London School of Economics); Marie Fox (Professor at Keele University School of Law); and Michal Nahman (Senior Lecturer at University of West England).

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please write to Marie at: m.jacob@law.keele.ac.uk or Barbara at: barbara.prainsack@kcl.ac.uk

Drawing Breath: A Coastal Pushbike Journey by Jean Fraser



CentreLGS is supporting *Drawing Breath* by Jean Fraser. An arts and health project about breath and breathing, *Drawing Breath* is based around a cycle ride in the summer of 2007, searching for oxygen on the Kent and East Sussex coast, and the conversations and conditions encountered on the way – a landscape adventure about survival and what remains possible as we grow older.

Jean Fraser is a photographic artist with a background in community and independent photography. She has exhibited widely in individual and group shows and her commissioned work has been concerned with health and environment. Jean is also a state registered art therapist who worked for several years in adult mental health. She previously worked in the voluntary sector; in particular in women's aid refuges in the seventies. Jean was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease seven years ago, and in 2005 she had to leave her art therapy job in the NHS due to ill health.

Finding cycling easier than walking, Jean has developed the *Drawing Breath* project to enable her

to continue her photographic practice while living with a chronic condition which requires regular attention to maintaining fitness. Her diagnosis has also provided her with an opportunity to explore connections between art, technology, and the body. Jean hopes to maximise her physical and mental health through exploring the body's inbuilt adaptability in the face of major health changes. She hopes the project will raise the profile of respiratory disease and combat judgemental attitudes which often surround it.

Jean's project intersects with the research interests of Centre members in a number of ways, including through her focus on the politics of health, cultural and social understandings of the body and through the feminist lens Jean brings to her work. Jean will be talking to Kent Centre members on 26 March about the project.

Workshop: Sex Work: Regulating the Many Faces of Sexual Labour, Suzanne Jenkins

This workshop, which was hosted by the Gender, Sexuality and Law group supported by CentreLGS and the Institute for Law, Politics and Justice at Keele, took place on October 17th 2007 at Keele University. The event brought together activists, academics and practitioners from the sex work community with the aim of exploring the difficulties in regulating the commercial sex industry. The event provided the opportunity for liaison between academics and sex industry workers to highlight some of the ways that regulation can impact on what is a diverse and multi-faceted industry. The workshop included many facets of sex work. Topics as diverse as the particular issues raised by sex trafficking, migrant workers, street prostitution, sex work in rural communities, male and trans prostitution, and escorts and the clients of sex workers were all represented.

The workshop attracted many participants from a variety of academic disciplines and different academic institutions, together with local voluntary group representatives as well as several Keele Gender, Sexuality and Law members. This provided for some lively discussion throughout what was a positive, stimulating and productive afternoon. The final

programme, including speakers' details and abstracts can be downloaded at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/la/gslgroup/events/index.htm>.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Here is a selection of recent and forthcoming publications by Centre members:

Kate Bedford (Kent) 'Social Rights and Gender Justice in the Neoliberal Moment: A Conversation about Welfare and Transnational Politics' An Interview with Nancy Fraser *Feminist Theory* 2008, forthcoming.

Maria Drakopoulou (Kent) 'Feminism, Governmentality, and the Politics of Law Reform' *Griffith Law Review* 2008, forthcoming.

Sharron Fitzgerald (Keele) 'Deploying the Racial Order of Things: White Women's Agency in Canada's Red River Colony, 1850 and 1863' *Women's History Review* 2007 Vol 16(5): 661-680.

Rosie Harding (Keele) 'Heterosexism at Work: Diversity Training, Discrimination Law and the Limits of Liberal Individualism' in Victoria Clarke and Elizabeth Peel (eds) *Out in Psychology: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Perspectives* 2007 Chichester: Wiley, pp. 247-271 (with Elizabeth Peel).

Rosemary Hunter (Kent) and Sharon Cowan (Edinburgh) (eds) *Choice and Consent: Feminist Engagements with Law and Subjectivity* 2007 Routledge-Cavendish.

Tsachi Keren-Paz (Keele) 'A Feminist Distributive Analysis of Maternal Prenatal Duty: Ideology, Symbolism and Pragmatism' in Daphne Barak-Erez et al (eds) *Law, Gender & Feminism* 2007 Nevo, pp. 321-355.

Sarah Lamble (Kent) 'Unknowable Bodies, Unthinkable Sexualities: Lesbian and Transgender Invisibility in the Toronto Women's Bathhouse Raid' *Social and Legal Studies* 2009, forthcoming.

Monica Mookherjee (Keele) *Women's Rights as Multicultural Claims* 2008 Edinburgh University Press.

Visitors to CentreLGS

We run two visitor schemes – the Visiting Scholar Scheme, and the Associate Fellow Scheme. Visitors to Centre institutions for the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 under Visiting Scholar Scheme and the Associate Fellow Scheme are listed below.

2007-2008

Brinda Bose (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi), **Cheshire Calhoun** (Arizona State University), **Claudia Card** (University of Wisconsin), **Lisa Freeman** (University of Toronto), **Judy Fudge** (University of Victoria, Canada), **Miranda Joseph** (University of Arizona), **Anna Kirkland** (University of Michigan), **Nikki Sullivan** (Macquarie University, Sydney), **Irene Watson** (University of Sydney).

2008-2009 (confirmed to date)

Christine Beasley (University of Adelaide), **John Goldberg-Hiller** (University of Hawai'i), **Gillian Harkins** (University of Washington), **Bonnie Honig** (Northwestern University), **Elena Marchetti** (Griffith University), **Aleardo Zanghellini** (Macquarie University, Sydney).

You can find the names of visitors to the Centre under other schemes (such as Keele Law School, Kent Law School, or British Academy) on the website.

Contacts

Newsletter Editor

Emily Grabham – Kent Law School (e.grabham@kent.ac.uk)

Director

Davina Cooper – Kent Law School (d.s.cooper@kent.ac.uk)

Associate Director

Harriet Samuels – University of Westminster (h.samuels@westminster.ac.uk)

Associate Director

Ruth Fletcher – Keele Law School (r.fletcher@law.keele.ac.uk)

Centre Co-ordinator

Anisa De Jong – Kent Law School (A.J.De-Jong@kent.ac.uk)

Assistant Co-ordinator

Mima Vicentijevic – Kent Law School (m.vicentijevic@kent.ac.uk)

Centre address

The AHRC Research Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality
Kent Law School, Eliot College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NS.

Tel: +44 1227 824474

Fax: +44 1227 827399

E-mail: centre-lgs@kent.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/>

Thematic Co-ordinators

Healthcare and Bioethics: Marie Fox, Keele (m.fox@law.keele.ac.uk)

Cultural Studies: Lieve Gies, Keele (l.gies@keele.ac.uk)

Governance and Regulation: Toni Williams, Kent (g.a.williams@kent.ac.uk)

and Kate Bedford, Kent (k.bedford@kent.ac.uk)

AHRC

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