

Law & Society CRN6

Monthly Newsletter from CRN6 Sex, Work, Law and Society

Dear Friends,

In an effort to maximize the utility of CRN6, we will now be compiling a monthly newsletter. The CRN6 Newsletter will go out on the 15th of each month. Please send information on publications of interest, job postings, call for proposals (in Word format), grants or awards of interest to section members to **AlexJNelsonPHD@gmail.com**. (this is a new email to make tracking these submissions easier). Please include "CRN6 Newsletter" in the subject line of Newsletter requests. For books, please provide a link to your publisher's page rather than a summary. If you have a report or something longer than two pages to share (like a CFP) please provide a 1-2 page summary or introduction in a word document and a link to the larger report or CFP that can be inserted.

January & February Newsletter Contents:

- 1) Call for papers Transforming Justice Conference: March 1st 2025 Deadline
- 2) Call For Papers: Virtual Sex: Pornography, Immersion, and Erotic Environments
- 3) New Journal Announcement: *Gender & Justice*
- 4) LSR Policy Change Notes (See Separate Attachment)
- 5) New Publications of Interest: 2 Books, 14 Book Chapters, 10 Dissertations/Theses, 113 articles, 5 Reports & 10 book reviews.

Sincerely,

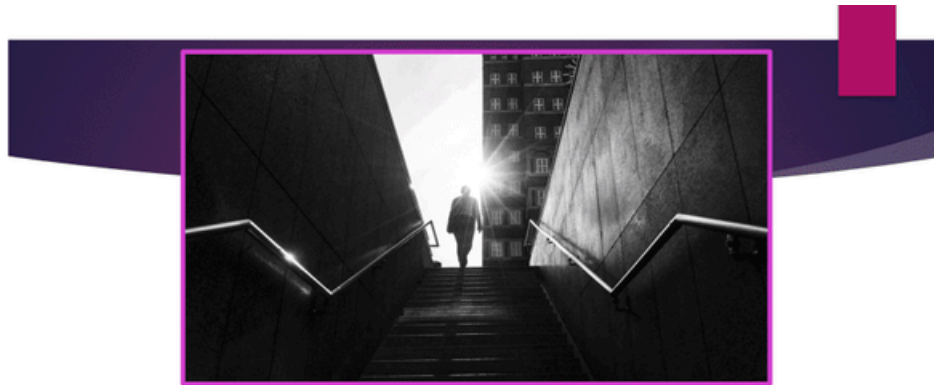
Alex Nelson & Patricia Fernandez

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CFP: Transforming Justice:

**A Joint National Conference of Critical Perspectives:
Criminology and Social Justice and the Centre for
Interdisciplinary Justice Studies,
May 14th to 16th, 2025**



Critical Perspectives 2025:
Transforming Justice

<https://crpoi.ca/critical-perspectives-2025/>

Call For Papers (deadline: 1 March 2025)

Critical Perspectives 2025 will be held at the University of Victoria on May 14-16th, 2025.

Transforming Justice: A Joint National Conference of Critical Perspectives: Criminology and Social Justice and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies, May 14th to 16th, 2025

The departments of Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Victoria (UVic) and the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies' (CAEFS) Centre for Research into the Processes & Outcomes of Incarceration (CRPOI), in collaboration with the Critical Perspectives: Criminology and Social Justice national committee and the University of Winnipeg's Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies (CIJS), are hosting a conference titled **Transforming Justice, May 14th to 16th, 2025**, at the University of Victoria. This conference is also the launching event for CRPOI, and we invite all attendees to learn more about this national network [here](#).

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CFP: Transforming Justice: (Continued)

Registration is free, and attendance is open to everyone. We particularly welcome participation from people with lived experience of criminalization and incarceration, students, faculty, advocates, activists, community-based practitioners, and other interested community members.

Transforming Justice is the **14th National Conference on Critical Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Justice Studies**. We invite proposals for individual papers, thematic panels, artistic or creative and visual submissions that address the theme described below, as well as proposals that engage more broadly with the critical study of law, crime, order, and social justice.

Transforming Justice will offer a venue for critical dialogue about transforming conceptions of justice and how justice is upheld and undermined under current systems in Canada. Scholars who study the Canadian legal and prison system argue that present practices create and sustain inequalities, as reflected by the large numbers of Indigenous, Black, gender diverse, disabled, socio-economically marginalized, and other oppressed peoples behind bars. Transforming Justice will create space for those working across academic and community settings to exchange ideas and weave diverse understandings of how practices of justice might be transformed across law, policing, sentencing, incarceration, politics, and community organizing.

Carrying forward teachings from diverse Indigenous legal traditions, the conference theme welcomes attendees and presenters to think about justice as something that not only exists in formal criminal justice contexts but in embodied and relational ways within communities. In considering justice as something that we are collectively responsible for, the conference will welcome dialogue about the tensions, opportunities, and barriers that exist when thinking of justice as both a formal state-based apparatus and a principle upheld across social networks and contexts, which in turn shape current understandings and experiences of justice and punishment in Canada.

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CFP: Transforming Justice: (Continued)

Given this expansive view of what justice might look like, participants in Transforming Justice are encouraged to consider the following subthemes:

1. **Artistic Interventions.** This theme welcomes reflections on how art and creativity – broadly understood – can be used to make sense of injustice, build community, and take part in “freedom dreaming” toward justice.¹ We know that art can often be expressive in ways that more traditional academic contributions cannot and welcome submissions that push back against academic colonialism and epistemic violence;
2. **Legal Support and Advocacy.** This theme welcomes submissions focused on knowledge sharing and legal strategies for promoting criminalized and incarcerated peoples’ rights, as well as working against the mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples, discrimination and abuse against trans and Two-Spirit people and disabled people in prisons, and the use of solitary confinement, to name a few;
3. **Building Solidarity Through Education and Research.** This theme welcomes submissions that consider the role of education and research in upholding specific normative understandings of justice and in confronting and disrupting these ideals toward transformation, especially through education and community-engaged research conducted alongside incarcerated people. Education and research in this theme are understood both in terms of formal systems and structures, as well as the informal ways that people and communities can mobilize knowledge against harm, oppression and injustice;
4. **Lived Experience.** This theme welcomes submissions that center the lived experiences of people impacted by criminalization. This sub-theme understands lived experience and expertise as including but expanding beyond incarceration and parole. Methodological and axiological implications of centering lived experience within formal research structures are also welcomed;
5. **Indigenous Sovereignty and Resurgence.** This theme welcomes submissions that take seriously the role that Indigenous communities have had in the ongoing fight for justice in Canada, the living histories of colonial harms in our current carceral system, and the creative, multifaceted, land-based, ceremonial, sacred and governance-led practices of justice led by Indigenous communities across Canada.

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CFP: Transforming Justice: (Continued)

Since we are welcoming a wide range of presentation formats, we ask all prospective participants to be as clear as possible about the nature of their submission. For example, we welcome scholarly, artistic, creative, or visual submissions representing legal, socio-legal, criminological, feminist, philosophical, or historical perspectives on transforming justice. Transforming Justice aims to showcase work from scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds, people with lived experience of criminalization and incarceration, advocates, activists, practitioners, and anyone who wishes to partake in an exchange on transforming justice.

Submission Procedures

Proposals for papers, panels, or other submission types may be submitted in French or English, no later than March 1, 2025. Proposals should be submitted via Google Forms using this link: <https://forms.gle/samuVe7yL9TEbspr5>. We especially welcome presenters with lived experience of the justice system, emerging scholars, and presentations speaking directly to conference themes. In refereeing submissions, we will also prioritize having a diversity of voices, perspectives, and presentation types on the program. So we may give a lower priority to submissions whose authors are already represented on the program. We are also committed to ensuring a safe environment for criminalized people to engage in the conference, and we ask presenters to use non-stigmatizing language and uphold the humanity of incarcerated and criminalized people.

We will notify all authors with accepted presentations by April 1, 2025. The official program and registration details will be released soon after.

We will be providing simultaneous French/English translation at the conference.

All proposals must include:

- email and affiliation for each participant, including any students, early career researchers, and experts with lived experience of incarceration on the authorship team.
- a title and abstract of not more than 500 words for workshop, panel, and roundtable submissions, which should include the session title and short individual abstracts.
- a title and abstract of not more than 250 words for individual presentations.

Please reach out to patrickfalle@uvic.ca if you have any questions or would like additional information!

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Virtual Sex: Pornography, Immersion, and Erotic Environments

Call For Papers

Online Open Access Journal

“AN-ICON. Studies in Environmental Images”

Edited by Ihsan Asman, Giovanna Maina, and Roberto P. Malaspina.

Deadline for full articles: 15th March 2025

In a letter published in 1969 on *Architectural Design*, Donald Kenzotaki from the Bio-Cybernetic Institute of Tokaida, Japan, details the marvels of his research team’s latest invention. This ground-breaking device, known as “Cybersex,” is engineered to record the multimodal expressions of a sexual encounter, store them on a hard disk, and reproduce the experience for distribution to anyone seeking a multisensory encounter. Users would be able to visit a cybersex studio, select their preferred recording, and initiate a fully immersive experience. The complex computer system would respond dynamically to the user’s body, adapting the visual, tactile, and olfactory stimuli of the recording to ensure an immediate and erotically effective experience.

A contemporary reader of *Architectural Design* at the time might have reacted with amusement and disbelief, recognizing that this account was, in fact, part of *Cosmorama* – a satirical column that playfully speculated on the future potential of emerging technologies. Nevertheless, this fictional description serves as an early articulation of what would become central to a “sexual futurology”: the utopian desire to combine technology and sexuality in ways that transcend “physical” limitations. Kenzotaki’s “Cybersex” anticipated several topoi that would come to define the discourse on mediated sex in the following decades. Concepts such as technical reproducibility, complete multisensoriality, immediacy, and telecommunication have remained at the core of discursive experiments, cinematic portrayals, and rhetorical promises. This set of new technologies claims to enhance sexual experiences with increasing efficacy and erotic satisfaction, combining the rhetoric of “new” media with the indexical instability of the pornographic product.

Among the devices that seem to most effectively embody these long-standing aspirations is Virtual Reality (VR). Since its most recent technological re-emergence (2014-15) (Evans 2018), VR has brought forth new possibilities for both the mediation of sex and the porn industry. Indeed, virtual technologies have created immersive forms that produce both social experiences – such as multi-user sex games – and pure “simulation,” as in the case of pornographic audio-visual products.

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Virtual Sex: Pornography, Immersion, and Erotic Environments

Call For Papers

(Continued)

Most pornographic materials conceived for VR to date are based on a form of virtual augmentation of the POV (point-of-view) subgenre: even though they limit themselves to 180° or 360° videos rather than actual interactive environments, they integrate the strong agency of the first-person shot with the visceral capacities of the body transfer process (Slater et al. 2010). The success of virtual forms of pornography raises urgent issues regarding the aesthetic consequences that such images have on visibility and bodily self-perception: on the one hand, VR redefines the composition qualities and directing strategies of the pornographic image (Evans 2020); on the other, it constructs new horizons of social and political agency (Paré et al. 2019; Wang 2021). VR porn may therefore constitute complex biocultural dynamics concerning the politics of bodies and the gendered perceptions of the self (Taciowski et al. 2020; Zhang and Juvrud 2024). Following a somatechnical (Sullivan and Murray 2014) perspective – stressing the co-constitution between bodies, technologies, and images – VR pornography seems to “excite” with particular effectiveness the primary potentialities and problematics of environmental images (Pinotti 2021), especially in relation to intersectional identity proprioception.

In addition to VR, other technologies like AI (Viola and Voto 2023), haptic feedback systems (Ley and Rambukkana 2021), and teledildonics (Reinghold 1990, Liberati 2017) are transforming how sexuality and intimacy are experienced and represented.

In this issue of AN-ICON. Studies in Environmental Images, we invite contributions that critically engage with the intersections of immersion, technology, and sexuality through various methodologies. While VR is a primary focus, we welcome papers that explore other immersive technologies, including AR (Augmented Reality), XR (Extended Reality), AI-driven environments, and social VR, to expand the discussion on how digital environments shape and redefine sexual experiences, pornographies and identities.

Contributions might relate to the following topics:

- Genealogies, media archaeologies, and imaginations of sex and immersive pornography. How technically mediated sex and immersive pornographies have been imagined in the past?
- Social, political, and identity consequences of erotic-pornographic virtual simulation. What social and political effects arise from virtual erotic simulations? How do these simulations impact identity formation?
- Identity performance in Social Virtual Reality. How does social VR influence the performance of identity, gender and race? What opportunities or constraints does it create for exploring fluid identities? How do queer communities use immersive technologies to challenge normative sexualities?

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Call For Papers

(Continued)

- Post-porn perspectives and virtual technologies. How do virtual technologies contribute to post-porn aesthetics? What new forms of sexual representation do they enable that challenge mainstream porn?

- Analysis of VR porn production, directing, and distribution strategies. What are the key challenges and innovations in VR porn production and distribution? How do these strategies differ from traditional pornographic works?

- Political-legal issues: virtual harassment and consent in digital spaces. How do legal frameworks address virtual harassment and consent in immersive environments? What new regulations are needed to ensure ethical interactions in VR?

- Ethical implications of artificial intelligence in virtual pornography. What ethical concerns arise from the use of AI in virtual pornography? How do AI-generated erotic contents affect issues of consent and privacy?

Contributions must adhere to the Journal's editorial guidelines

(<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/anicon/about/submission>

<<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/anicon/about/submission>> s).

Manuscripts that fail to do so will not be considered for peer review and will be desk-rejected.

No payment from the authors will be required.

If motivated by the nature of the research, word count for manuscripts destined to this issue may be extended to a maximum of 10.000 words (footnotes included - final reference list excluded).

Please sign up / login to the Journal's webpage and upload your complete manuscript here:

<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/anicon/about/submissions>

<<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/anicon/about/submissions>>

In case you have any question before submission, please contact:

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New Journal: Gender & Justice

Gender and Justice is an international and transdisciplinary journal dedicated to advancing critical feminist scholarship on justice in the social sciences, and from different methodological perspectives.

The journal aims to showcase innovative contributions that are theoretically-driven and/or empirically-grounded approaches to various forms of gender inequality, injustice and exclusion which influence and shape individuals' lives across diverse and global contexts. The editors' conception of justice is comprehensive. It encompasses economic, social, criminal, distributive, environmental, cultural and political dimensions.

The first issue will publish in the Spring of 2025. The journal is open for submissions! [Learn more about *Gender and Justice*.](#)

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Publications of Interest

For the period from December 15th 2024 - February 15, 2025 We have identified **2 Books, 14 Book Chapters, 10 Dissertations/Theses, 113 articles, 5 Reports & 10 book reviews** that we believe may be of interest to CRN6 members and other sex work researchers.

The complete list of citations and links to these publications are available on the CRN6 website in our Newsletter Archive along with all back issues of the Newsletter. The publications of interest will henceforth be included as a separate PDF in the archive from the newsletter announcements. This is to reduce the work of fitting the citations into the flyer format of the newsletter, which is time consuming and sometimes results in the lost functionality of links. We also hope this will encourage more engagement with the CRN6 website and to identifying more ways that the resource of this website can be utilized for our community.

Link to archive and full citation list: <https://www.sex-work-law-and-society.org/resource>

Sincerely,

Alex Nelson

On Behalf of CRN#6 Coordinators:

Menaka Raguparan, Kate Korgan,

Alex Nelson, Cherisse Francis, Julie Ham