

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.(My apologies for the delay with this month's newsletter). Please send information on publications of interest, job postings, call for proposals (in Word format), grants or awards of interest to section members to CRN6newsletter@gmail.com. For books, please provide a link to your publisher's page rather than a summary.

April Newsletter Contents:

- 1) Call for Papers: Irreverence: The Third Annual Critical Femininities Conference
- 2) Call for Proposals: Palgrave Advances in Sex Work Studies Book Series
- 3) CFP: Special Issue of Sexes, "Understanding Resilience among People in Sex Work"
- 4) New Publications of Interest: 5 Book Chapters, 2 Theses/Dissertations, & 37 Articles.

Sincerely,

Alex Nelson & Hailey Maltempi

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Call For Papers

Irreverence: The Third Annual Critical Femininities Conference

The Centre for Feminist Research at York University invites abstracts for the third annual Critical Femininities Conference on the theme of “Irreverence.” The conference will take place virtually on **August 17-20, 2023**.

To be irreverent is to show disrespect where respect is demanded, to be flippant in the face of serious situations, and to satirize what others hold sacred. In western culture, the mother, the virgin, and the queen are figures of femininity that are often held sacred, exemplifying the entrenchment of idealized feminine characteristics such as domesticity, piety, and (hetero)sexual or moral purity. But for decades, irreverence has been woven into camp and poststructuralist approaches to femme theory, which insist that femme is an intentionally ironic performance of this idealized white, cis-heterosexual femininity (Albrecht-Samarasinha 1997; Case 1988; Duggan & McHugh 1996). Irreverent attitudes toward femininity—especially white, heterosexual, and colonial femininities—are also integral to other queer cultures and modes of critique: in recent years, hypersexual and outrageous impersonations of the sacred feminine figures the Virgin Mary and Queen Elizabeth (I and II) have been presented on the mainstage of TV’s *Rupaul’s Drag Race*. In this way, irreverence has wrought countercultural styles of femininities that relate to punk, drag, sex work, working-class, Indigenous, and racialized sensibilities (Bailey 2014; Chepp 2015; McCann 2016; Padan 2023).

As the mainstreaming of femme has converged with postfeminist culture, the exaggerated feminine aesthetics associated with femme and other feminine subcultures are increasingly normalized and celebrated, leading to phenomena like: the success of reality TV stars and social media influencers; the rise of bimbo theory; and the imminent resurgence of Barbie. While such phenomena are often scrutinized as anti-feminist and frivolous, they also create space for queer and femme joy, and potentiate both the conceptualization of gender affirmation and the extension of critical femininity discourse beyond LGBTQ+ contexts. At the same time, these phenomena raise questions about: the appropriation of Black cultures and sex worker aesthetics without recognition or political solidarity; the sexism, racism, and fatphobia embedded in western beauty culture; and postfeminism’s undermining of feminist politics (Banet-Weiser 2018). Roxane Gay’s (2014) “bad feminist” framework offers one way to navigate such contradictions, acknowledging that we may, occasionally, break with feminist dogma in recognition of our flawed humanity and the pursuit of personal joy.

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Importantly, Sara Ahmed's (2010) figures of the "feminist killjoy" and "affect alien" demonstrate that irreverence is not always gleeful or flippant. On the contrary, it can render serious political critique. As critiques of anti-Black racism, settler colonization, imperial capitalism, and cisheteropatriarchy have become a part of mainstream political discourse and more embedded within cultural and artistic institutions, the ways in which irreverence has historically sustained queer of colour critique, art, fashion, and literature have become more visible, drawing greater attention to how irreverence encourages both the critique of white, western, cishet femininity, and a focus on femininities that exist outside of this normative ideal.

With this, we invite submissions on irreverent femininities for our third annual Critical Femininities Conference. Possible themes may include (but are not limited to):

- Drag culture, media, and the recent moral panics surrounding drag shows
- Respectability politics as it relates to queer, trans, poor/working class, Indigenous, postcolonial, racialized, disabled, fat, and/or sex worker femininities and cultures
- Subjugated knowledges and popular and/or low theory/culture/art, including zines, reality television, street art, animated series, and more
- Internet cultures, social media, and online forms, including selfies, memes, and more
- Bimbo theory and aesthetics
- Femme counterpublics
- Feminist, femme, and postfeminist approaches to beauty culture and politics
- Fashion and style, including camp, Y2K, vintage, clowncore, and more
- Appropriation of and/or solidarities with working-class, racialized, queer, Indigenous, and sex worker aesthetics and communities
- Queer and trans BIPOC critiques and cultures of femininities
- Transnational cultures of femininity
- Indigiqueer and Two-Spirit cultures/cosmologies of femininity
- Punk and other sub-cultures and ethos as related to femininities
- Proto-irreverent femininities and/or irreverent feminine lineages
- Decolonial, postcolonial, and Indigenous critiques and cultures of femininities
- Critical interventions and reinterpretations of reverence and the sacred in relation to whiteness, imperialism, colonialization, sexuality, purity culture, sex work(ers), disability, trans femininities, and more
- Queer, Trans, and/or BIPOC art, literature, and performance

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Call For Papers

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Submission Guidelines

Submissions can take the form of sole-authored or co-authored academic papers, experimental or artistic presentations, including autotheory, personal narrative, artist talks, visual art and film, poetry, music, storytelling, life-writing, and performance. We welcome submissions from graduate students, emerging and established scholars, artists, and those working beyond the university. Please send submissions to criticalfemininities@yorku.ca by **May 10, 2023**.

For single presentations:

Please submit a 250-word abstract that indicates your main argument or focus and the format for your presentation and a 100-word bio (50-word bio for multiple authors). Single presentations should be 15-20 minutes in length and will be organized into thematic panels.

For panel presentations:

Please submit a 250-word abstract that indicates the main theme and format of the panel presentation and 50-word bio for each presenter (minimum of 3 panelists). Group presentations should be no longer than 60 minutes to allow time for Q&A.

Click for bibliography

on behalf of the Critical Femininities Research Cluster

Centre for Feminist Research, York University

Irreverence CFP | Annual Conference | Femme Scholars Series | Website

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Call For Proposals: Book Series **Palgrave Advances in Sex Work Studies**

Note: Proposal submissions from projects led or co-authored by sex workers especially welcome

About this book series

This series takes a broad and interdisciplinary view of the sex industry, prioritizing transnational and intersectional work and marginalized sex workers. It seeks to center underrepresented groups such as Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; transfeminine, transmasculine, and non-binary people; LGBTQIA+ sex workers; people with disabilities; and workers outside of the US and UK. Books in the series cover a wide range of sex industries including camming, full-service sex work in a range of contexts e.g. street-based, brothel work, and escorts), hostessing, phone sex, pornography, pro-dommes, stripping, sugar relationship, and other forms of individual sexual entrepreneurship online. They are attentive to lateral whorephobia which points to the privileges of certain forms of sex work over others and how sex workers practicing privileged forms of erotic labor often look down upon workers in more stigmatized sectors. This series also discusses criminal justice approaches to sex work and seeks titles that explore the complexities and wide range of sex worker experiences in the whorearchy to reflect the multiple positions, experiences, and perspectives of those within the sex work community.

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Series Editor

- Teela Sanders,
- Angela Jones,
- Elena Shih

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Call For Papers: Special Issue of Sexes "Understanding Resilience among People in Sex Work".

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Cecilia Benoit and I are Guest Editors for a forthcoming Special Issue of Sexes, **"Understanding Resilience among People in Sex Work"**.

The concept of resilience—the capacity to withstand or overcome major stress or hardship—is becoming increasingly prevalent in research that focuses on structurally marginalized groups, including people in sex work. This Special Issue aims to publish original work on resilience among sex workers, whereby they conserve their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health despite exposure to material hardship, health vulnerabilities, and psychosocial difficulties due to prejudice, stigmatization, and discrimination.

We would like to invite you to consider submitting a paper to the following Special Issue. The deadline for manuscript submissions is **30 September 2023**.

As a special invitation, if submitted before 31 March 2023, a discount of 100% will be applied to the article processing charge (0 CHF instead of 1000 CHF) . You will receive this special discount simply by indicating "100% special discount invited by the Guest Editor" in your cover letter.

The Call for Papers can be found here:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sexes/special_issues/12N3227LVV

The benefits of publishing in the Special Issue are as follows:

- Submissions with free format;
- Publication in a journal on diverse topics in sexuality with a growing international readership;
- Rapid and helpful reviews, regardless of whether or not the paper is ultimately accepted;
- Reliable publishing services, with a median processing time of less than 48 days;
- Free English editing services after acceptance;
- High availability and visibility: open access articles are universally and freely accessible in an easily readable format immediately after publication. Studies have shown that open access articles are viewed and cited more often than articles that are published behind a paywall;

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Call For Papers: Special Issue of Sexes
"Understanding Resilience among People in Sex Work".

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are happy to provide feedback on your paper abstract/proposal if that would be helpful for you.

Cheers,

Andrea Mellor, PhD

Cecilia Benoit, PhD

Co-Guest Editors

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Publications of Interest

Book Chapter

Darnell, C. (2023). When sex, health, and stigma collide: Counselling people who sex work (and their partners). In *Relationally Queer*. Routledge. [\[LINK\]](#)

Mukamana, L., Uwihangana, C., Byukusengea, E., et al. (2023) Ubuntu Philosophy for Socio-Economic Integration of Female Sex Workers in the Rwandan Community. In *The Ununta Practitioner: Social Work Perspectives*. The International Federation of Social Workers. [\[LINK\]](#)

Longstaff, G. (2023). "Chapter 9 'Self, Self, Self': Masculine Modes of Sexual Self-Representation and the Disruptive Politics of Jouissance on OnlyFans.com". In *Disrupted Knowledge*. Brill. [\[LINK\]](#)

Patnaik, S. (2023). Exploring the Contested and Controversial Nature of the Sex Industry in India: Experiential Encounters by Sex-Workers from the Periphery. In: Ojha, A., Jaiswal, P. (eds) *South Asian Women and International Relations*. Palgrave Macmillan. [\[LINK\]](#)

Levitt, L. (2021). SexWork/Gig Work: A Feminist Analysis of Precarious Domina Labor in the Gig Economy. In *The Gig Economy*. Routledge. [\[LINK\]](#)

Theses/Dissertations

Bacio, M. (2023). Masculinities at work. Male-to-male internet escorting in Italy and Sweden. [Doctoral Thesis (monograph), Department of Gender Studies, University of Milan]. Lund University (Media-Tryck). [\[LINK\]](#)

Boyd, Justine (2023). Does the law matter? A comparative news media analysis of representations of sex work across three jurisdictions. Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. Thesis. [\[LINK\]](#)

Articles (1 of 5)

Goldenberg, S. M., Buglioni, N., Krüsi, A., et al. (2023). Housing Instability and Evictions Linked to Elevated Intimate Partner and Workplace Violence Among Women Sex Workers in Vancouver, Canada: Findings of a Prospective, Community-Based Cohort, 2010–2019. *American Journal of Public Health*, 113(4), 442–452. [\[LINK\]](#)

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Publications of Interest

Articles (2 of 5)

Ben-Ze'ev, A. (2023). Is Casual Sex Good for You? Casualness, Seriousness and Wellbeing in Intimate Relationships. *Philosophies*, 8(2), 25. [\[LINK\]](#)

K. Camille Hoagland, Halle L. Rotruck, Jace N. Moore & Joshua B. Grubbs (2023) Reasons for Moral-Based Opposition to Pornography in a U.S. Nationally Representative Sample, *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*, [\[LINK\]](#).

Araújo, C.M. (2023) Sex, Lives and Videotape: The Transhistoricity of an Itinerant Visual Archive, *African Studies*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Saiz Echezarreta, V., Fernández Romero, D., & Alvarado López, M. C. (2021). Prostitution and trafficking in the Spanish digital press: a comparative analysis of news production. *Cuadernos.info*, (50), 158-181. [\[LINK\]](#)

Tirpude, R. (2022). The role of gender discrimination in provoking transgenders to get into prostitutions. *International Journal of humanities, Law and Social Sciences*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Mellor, A., & Benoit, C. (2023). Understanding the Diversity of People in Sex Work: Views from Leaders in Sex Worker Organizations. *Social Sciences*, 12(3), 191. [\[LINK\]](#)

VS, A., Babu, J, Ashifa, K.M. (2023). Legalization Of Sex Work in India: Perspectives on Changes in Socio-Economic and Living Conditions of Female Sex Workers. *Journal of Survey in Fisheries Sciences*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Stevenson, L. (2023). Imagining decriminalization of sex work in Canada. *Appeal*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Zemlak, J. L., Alexander, K. A., Wilson, D., & Sherman, S. G. (2023). Contraceptive decision-making through the lens of social determinants of health among female sex workers: A qualitative descriptive study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, jan.15651. [\[LINK\]](#)

Brannon, R. (2015). NOMAS Policy Positions on Issues of Prostitution. *National Organization for Men Against Sexism*. [\[LINK\]](#)

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Publications of Interest

Articles (3 of 5)

Macleod, C. I., Reynolds, J. H., & Delate, R. (2023). Violence Against Women Who Sell Sex in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Scoping Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 152483802311608. [\[LINK\]](#).

Big-Alobo, S. (2023). A Moral Analysis of Prostitution. *Journal of Social Interactions and Humanities*, 2(1), 45-54. [\[LINK\]](#).

Siegel, K., Chen, A. & Schrimshaw, E.W. (2023). Dating and Hookup Apps and Websites as Facilitators of Entry into Sex Work. *Sex Res Soc Policy*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Booth, C. (2023). Exploring higher education student sex work and current interventions: A scoping review. *Public Health Institute Journal*, 8-8. [\[LINK\]](#)

Hee-Soon, Y. (2019). North Korean Women and Girls Trafficked into China's Sex Trade. *Journal of Trafficking and Human Exploitation*, 3(1), 159-178. [\[LINK\]](#).

Dallas, T.A., Elder, B.D. Mean-variance scaling and stability in commercial sex work networks. *Soc. Netw. Anal. Min.* 13, 55 (2023). [\[LINK\]](#)

Anderson, L. S. (2023). Let's Talk About Sex (Work): The Irony of Partial Decriminalization of Sex Work. *PA J. L. & Social Change*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Benoit, C., & Mellor, A. (2023). Decriminalization and What Else? Alternative Structural Interventions to Promote the Health, Safety, and Rights of Sex Workers. *Social Sciences*, 12(4), 202. [\[LINK\]](#)

Velez, C., & Audet, C. (n.d.). Indoor Female Sex Workers' Experiences of Counselling: A Hermeneutical Phenomenological Exploration Les expériences du counseling vécues par des travailleuses du sexe en établissement. *Une exploration herméneutique phénoménologique*. [\[LINK\]](#)

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Articles (4 of 5)

Visconti, W. (2023) Myth, memory and Maison close: representing sex work on screen, *French Screen Studies*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Webber, V. (2023) Sex exceptionalism and erasure in porn health protocols, *Culture, Health & Sexuality*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Gautam, S. K. (2014). The Courtesan and the Birth of Ars Erotica in the Kāmasūtra: A History of Erotics in the Wake of Foucault. *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 23(1), 1–20. [\[LINK\]](#)

Watson, S.D. (2023) Conspiracy Theories and Human Trafficking: Coercive Power, Normative Ambiguity and Epistemic Uncertainty, *Journal of Human Trafficking*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Breathnach, C., & Murphy, R. (2023). Fine lines: Locating commercial sex work in official data, Dublin 1901 and 1911. *Urban History*, 1–22. [\[LINK\]](#)

Curtis, M. G., & Boe, J. L. (2023). The Lived Experiences of Male Sex Workers: A Global Qualitative Meta-Synthesis. *Sexes*, 4(2), 222–255. [\[LINK\]](#)

Otterman, L.S. (2023). New Zealand's Approaches to Regulating the Commodification of the Female Body. *Bioethical Inquiry*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Chen, J., Deng, F. Dhillon, D. Healthcare Barriers of Sex Work. (2023). *The Meducator*, 43. [\[LINK\]](#)

Giannadaki, I (2023). Sexual Labor in the Athenian Courts. *Mediterranean Studies*: 121–124. [\[LINK\]](#)

Jones, M. (2023). The international legalization of sex-work: Protecting sex workers from abuse and exploitation through increased regulation and decreased stigmatization. *Michigan State International Law Review*. [\[LINK\]](#)

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Articles (5 of 5)

Bhalerao, R., & McCoy, D. (2023). An Analysis of Terms of Service and Official Policies with Respect to Sex Work. [LINK]

Mahajan N, Kohli S, Aggarwal S. (2023). Assessment of COVID-19 impact on commercial sex workers in India: A formative research by media scanning. *Indian J Community Med.* [LINK]

Goldenberg, S. M., Pearson, J., Moreheart, S., et al. (2023). Prevalence and structural correlates of HIV and STI testing among a community-based cohort of women sex workers in Vancouver Canada. *PLOS ONE*, 18(3), e0283729. [LINK]

Bano, S., Rahat, R. & Fischer, F. (2023). Inconsistent condom use for prevention of HIV/STIs among street-based transgender sex workers in Lahore, Pakistan: socio-ecological analysis based on a qualitative study. *BMC Public Health* 23, 635. [LINK]

Kiyingi, J., Witte, S. S., Nabunya, P., et al. (2023). Predictors of mobility among women engaged in commercial sex work in Uganda using generalized estimating equations model. *International Journal of STD & AIDS.* [LINK]

Wilson EC, Turner CM, Dhakal M, Sharma S, Rai A, Lama R, et al. (2023) Stigma as a barrier and sex work as a protective factor for HIV testing among trans women in Nepal. *PLOS Glob Public Health* 3(3): e0001098. [LINK]

Biello, K.B., Chan, P.A., Holcomb, R. et al. PrEPare for Work: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of an Intervention to Optimize HIV PrEP Outcomes Among Male Sex Workers. *AIDS Behav* (2023). [LINK]