

# *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 nels5271@gmail.com. For books, please provide a link to your publisher's page rather than a summary.

### **January Newsletter Contents:**

- 1) Online Conference Announcement - "Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sextech"
- 2) Graduate Student Volunteers Needed - Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sex Tech Conference
- 3) New Publications of Interest: 4 Books, 6 Book Chapters, 3 Theses & 45 Articles, 1 Book Review, 1 Blog.

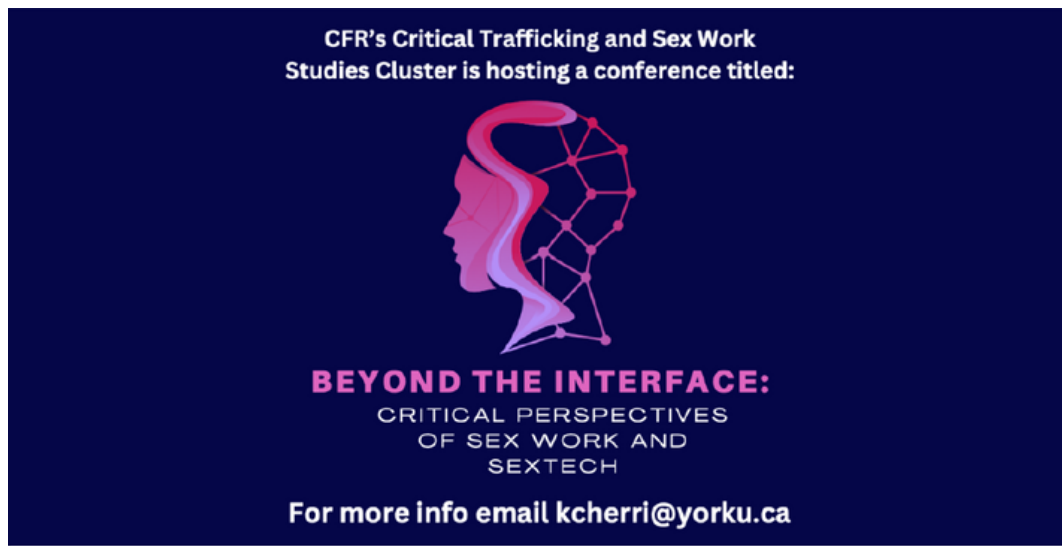
Sincerely,

Alex Nelson & Patricia Fernandez

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## **Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sextech Online Conference, October 2024 - Exact Dates TBD**



This conference theme critically explores the intersections of sex work and sextech, to provide platforms for in-depth discussions on the societal implications of artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), and other digital realms within global sexual economies. The historical trajectory of the human sex trade reflects a dynamic interplay with technological advancements, with the interface between humans and technology, “represent[ing] both escape from the physical body and fulfilment of erotic desire” (Springer, 1991, p. 303). From the expansive world of OnlyFans (Cardoso et al., 2022; Mini & Baishya, 2023; Safaee, 2021) to cyberbrothels, the landscapes of sex work and sextech are continually transforming within the digital world (Gatson et al., 2022). Sex work has always been intertwined with technologies, from advertising with the printing press to modern-day communication methods using apps and the internet (Cole, 2022). Additionally, many sex workers are currently utilizing technology for a host of other reasons, such as to increase their occupational health and safety (Bernier et al., 2021; Jiao, 2021), to provide commercial sexual encounters using virtual reality (VR) with avatars (Lynch, 2010), or to escort clients to sex robot brothels for “digisexual” experiences (McArthur & Twist, 2017; Song, 2020). The historical discourses of sex work and sextech reveal a complex interplay between societal attitudes, legal frameworks, and technological advancements, shaping both

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## **Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sextech Online Conference, October 2024 - Exact Dates TBD (Continued)**

industries' evolution from clandestine transactions to the digital era's intersection of innovation, visibility, and ongoing debates on regulations and ethics.

Early stages of sextech discourse saw the proliferation of sex toys and love dolls (Döring & Pöschl, 2018; Ferguson, 2010; Ruberg, 2022), for enhancing personal pleasure. During the Victorian times, stereoscopes (Wood et al., 2017, p. 5440), daguerreotype cameras and “machines of the visible” (Comolli, 1980), were utilized to produce some of the first pornographic photos, films, and “dirty postcards” (Williams, p. 1999, p. 86-7), connecting sex work and technology in exciting and innovative ways. The advent of phone sex marked a significant leap (Flowers, 1998), allowing for remote connections and expanding the market beyond physical encounters. Webcam work where “entertainers perform for clients in highly stylized chat rooms” (Jones, 2016, p.228) took this a step further, bringing real-time interaction and personalization into the digital realm. In recent years, platforms like OnlyFans have empowered sex workers to directly connect with online audiences offering “both asynchronous content (e.g. photos, videos) and live content (e.g. webcam shows, chats)” (Stutz et al. 2023, p. 1). Virtual reality (VR) sessions have further blurred the lines between physical and digital intimacy (Evans, 2021), with immersive experiences transcending traditional boundaries, including possibilities for “virtual intercourse with real people” (VIRP), including with sex workers (Bredikhina, 2021; Vincent, 2018). Combining VR and teledildonics (Evans, 2023; Liberati, 2020), adds a sense of touch to the virtual experience between participants without being physically near each other while fostering digitally intimate and immersive encounters. Additionally, the emergence of sex robot brothels (Döring et al., 2020, p. 2; Hanson, 2023, p. 3-4; Su et al., p. 132), represents cutting-edge sex tech, introducing AI into the equation. These establishments explore the intersection of technology and physicality, challenging societal norms and sparking debates on ethics (Danaher & McArther, 2018; Lin et al., 2012), consent (Frank & Nyholm, 2017), regulatory frameworks (Gordon & Pasvenskiene, 2021), data privacy (Conrad, 2023), ownership, security concerns (Stardust et.al., 2023), and the futures of human-AI and VR interactions (Dehnert, 2022; Levy, 2015).

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Throughout this evolution, sextech has not only shaped the tools and mediums of the sex trade but has also influenced societal perceptions, challenged stigmas, and prompted discussions on the intersections of technology and intimacy. As we navigate the intricate histories, it becomes clear that sextech is not just a facilitator of transactions but a catalyst for broader conversations about the intersections of technology, sexuality, commerce, and human-human and human-machine connections (Nixon & DüsterhÖft, 2017; Sanders et al., 2020; Saunders, 2020). In this conference, we hope to explore this dynamic field while discussing our dystopian fears and utopian desires within the ever-advancing fields of sexual technologies and sex work.

Conference themes:

The conference themes and panel ideas have been split into five categories which focus on sex tech in connection to sex work. These five streams are 1) Legal and Ethical Perspectives of Sex Tech and Sex Work; 2) Representation and Inclusivity in Erotic Virtual Spaces; 3) Neoliberal Globalization and Colonialism in Digital Realms; 4) Wellness and Safety in Online Environments; and 5) Technological Innovation and Social Change. Further details about potential topic ideas for each category will be provided in the call for papers (CFP) which will be sent out at a later date.

On behalf of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Cluster,

Centre for Feminist Research, York University

Kathleen Cherrington

“Beyond the Interface” Conference Committee Member

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## **Call For Graduate Student Volunteers**

### **Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sextech Conference**

The Centre for Feminist Research's "Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Cluster" at York University is hosting a conference titled, "**Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sex Tech**" and we are looking for graduate student members to volunteer on the organizing committee! Joining the organizing committee for our ground-breaking conference on sex work and sextech offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, foster meaningful connections with experts in the field, and actively engage in shaping a progressive and inclusive dialogue.

Committee members will be involved in developing the conference's call for papers, choosing the keynote speaker, reviewing the abstracts, helping with IT (the conference will be entirely online via Zoom), writing the funding proposal, chairing/moderating panels, and organizing the conference schedule. As part of this team, you will have the opportunity to gain diverse levels of experience in organizing conferences, and your experience will enhance your CV.

It is the committee's pleasure to receive letters of interest from experienced conference organizers and new conference organizers seeking to develop their skills, and we extend an invitation for you to join our conference organizing team. Please send your CV and a short statement (300 words) outlining your interest and/or experience in the conference theme and organizing duties to [kcherri@yorku.ca](mailto:kcherri@yorku.ca) by February 1st, 2024 @5pm.

More information about the cluster can be found at: <https://www.yorku.ca/cfr/trafficking-and-sex-work/>; additional information about the conference is attached to this email in a separate document.

On behalf of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Cluster  
Centre for Feminist Research  
York University  
Kathleen Cherrington  
[kcherri@yorku.ca](mailto:kcherri@yorku.ca)  
Conference Committee Member

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## Publications of Interest

### Books

Weitzer, R. (2023). *Sex Tourism in Thailand: Inside Asia's Premier Erotic Playground*. New York, USA: New York University Press. [LINK](#)

Patiño Rabines, P. (2023). *The Aesthetic and Political Practices of Trans Women in Peru*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. [LINK](#)

Wadley, J. (Ed.). (2024). *The Professional's Guide to Sexuality Consultation: An Exploration of Entrepreneurship, Strategic Planning and Business Influence*. Routledge. [LINK](#)

Hung, J. (2024). *Legalising Prostitution in Thailand*. Springer, Singapore. [LINK](#)

### Book Chapters

Ashurst, A. (2023) Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in the UK. In *Crime, Criminality and Injustice An Interdisciplinary Collection of Revelations* (pp. 185 - 196). Anthem Press, [LINK](#)

Mathur, S. (2023). Where Labour is Performed: The Public/Private Dichotomy and the Politics of Stigma in Bhumika and Mandi. In S. Chaudhuri & R. Samaddar (Eds.), *ReFocus: The Films of Shyam Benegal* (pp. 64-82). Edinburgh University Press. [LINK](#)

Molnar, L. (2023). Conducting Criminological Practitioner Research with Sex Workers in Switzerland. In: M. Díaz Fernández, A., Del-Real, C., Molnar, L. (eds) *Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies*. Springer, Cham. [LINK](#)

Palmay, I. (2023). The Gendering of Trauma in Trafficking Interventions. In: Zurbriggen, E.L., Capdevila, R. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Power, Gender, and Psychology*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. [LINK](#)

Camiscioli, E. (2023). "Theme G: Prostitution: A missed opportunity?". In *Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. [LINK](#)

Fouladvand, S., Ward, T. (2023). Criminal Law Categories as Ideological Constructs: The Case of Human Trafficking. In: Scott, D.G., Sim, J. (eds) *Demystifying Power, Crime and Social Harm. Critical Criminological Perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. [LINK](#)

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## Publications of Interest

### Thesis/Dissertations

Nonie Kalra, N. (2023) Understanding the Implications of South Asian Cultural Context on the Experiences of South Asian Diaspora Sex Workers: A Qualitative Study (Master's Thesis) University of Miami. [LINK](#)

Hickson, D. J. (2023). A Critical Analysis of Canada's Sex Work Discourse and Policy: From Federal to Local (Master's Thesis). The University of Winnipeg. [LINK](#)

Prakash, P., & Singh Malik, D. N. (2023). Emerging Dimensions Of Sex Workers And Prostitution In Cyberspace: Regulatory Challenges And Liabilities Of Intermediaries (Doctoral Dissertation, Galgotias University). [LINK](#)

### Articles (1 of 5)

Shircliff, J. E., et al. (2023). Does Workplace Discrimination Contribute to Sex Work for Trans and Nonbinary Workers? *Social Problems*. [LINK](#)

Hegarty, B. (2023). A queer footnote: The Anthropology of Containment. *American Ethnologist*. [LINK](#)

Baldrick-Morrone, T. (2023). Women, Sex, and Privative Violence in the Council of Elvira Canons. *Church History and Religious Culture*, 103(3-4), 340-358. [LINK](#)

Siegel, K., María Cabán, Brown-Bradley, C. J., et al. (2023). "I Want to Be Really Clear": What Male Sex Workers Want to Clarify With Prospective Clients Before Agreeing to Meet for Sex. *Aids Education and Prevention*, 35(6), 452-466. [LINK](#)

Cesar, S.M. (2023) Criminalization of Sex and Biopower. *LOGOS: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 16, 71-90. [LINK](#)

Sudirham, & Sari, T. B. (2023). Decriminalization of sex work. *Journal of Public Health*. [LINK](#)

Reynolds, C. (2024). "This is Not a Slippery Slope" Versus "The Queer Sex Panic is Just Beginning": Discourse About FOSTA-SESTA in Ideologically Diverse U.S. Mass media, 2017-2023. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 0(0). [LINK](#)

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### Articles (2 of 5)

Hammes, A. (2023). "SWERF Necropolitics: Three Sites of Feminist Mistranslation and the Politics of Feminist Exclusion." *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* 23 (Fall): 52-69. [LINK](#)

Amoah, J.O. & Mensah, J. (2024) Modern slavery and social protection in Northern Ghana: A decolonised perspective. *Journal of Economic Criminology*, 3, [LINK](#)

Shah, P., Kabuti, R., Alicja Beksinska, et al. (2023). Childhood and adolescent factors shaping vulnerability to underage entry into sex work: a quantitative hierarchical analysis of female sex workers in Nairobi, Kenya. *BMJ Open*, 13(12), e078618–e078618. [LINK](#)

Theiler, E. & Vieillard, V. (2023). The Construct of Sex Work in France: A Qualitative Analysis of the Development of a Sex Work Policy. *Science of Law*, 36(1), [LINK](#)

Babu, H., Wanjiru, R., Mamtuti Paneh, et al. (2023). Surviving pandemic control measures: The experiences of female sex workers during COVID-19 in Nairobi, Kenya. *Global Public Health*, 19(1). [LINK](#)

Mann, P. S. (2023). Exploring the Complex Relationship between Prostitution and Human Trafficking. *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Review*, 4(5), 57-72. [LINK](#)

Antić, M., Krnić, R. & Brajković, T.S. (2023) Survival Sex (Work) in Croatia. *Croatian Political Science Review*, 60 (4), 137-158, [LINK](#)

Ratecka, A. (2023) Sex Work Policy in Poland and Its Impact on the Lived Experience of Sex Workers. *Croatian Political Science Review*, 60 (4), 35-60, [LINK](#)

Radačić, I. & Antić, M. (2023) Sex Work in Post-Socialist Europe. *Croatian Political Science Review*, 60 (4), 7-10, [LINK](#)

Desilva, J.M., McGuire, E.K., & Balkenbusch, C. (2023). Toleration of Sex Work in East-Central Indiana, 1880–1900. *Indiana Magazine of History* 119(4), 331-376. [LINK](#).

Lee, E. (2023). Erotic Remembrance in (Digital) Vigils for Asian Migrant Massage/Sex Workers #Songyang and #8liveslost. *Feminist Formations* 35(3), 82-101. [LINK](#)



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### **Articles (3 of 5)**

Yiu, W.S.N, Levitt, L., Ye, K. et al. (2023) Challenging dominant narratives, interrupting objectification, and queer creativity: Queer sex worker art in Los Angeles, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, [LINK](#)

Radačić, I., Antić, M. & Adamović, M. (2023) Sex Workers' Professional Experiences in the Interplay of Structure and Agency in Croatia. *Politička misao*, 60 (4). [LINK](#)

Metcalfe, K.B., Cormier, L.A., Lacroix, P.J. et al. (2023) "I Was Worshiped and in Control": Sugar Arrangements Involving Transactional Sex from the Perspective of Both Sugar Babies and Sugar Benefactors, *The Journal of Sex Research*, [LINK](#)

Kennedy, L. (2023, December 23). What was the effect of PCEPA on Canadian sex work advertising?. [LINK](#)

Kaul, A.K., Gemanam, C.I., Habib, M. et al. (2023). Empowering Lives of Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) in India - The Role of NGOs in Promoting Safe Sex Practices. *International Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(12), 113-117. [LINK](#)

Sarkar, T. (2023) Legalisation of Prostitution in India: Is it a Blessing or Curse? *Justice and Law Bulletin*. 2(2). [LINK](#)

Petz, J. F., Nguya, G., Nguba, M. B., et al. (2024). 'At the end of their relationship, that man offered her a house': Qualitatively exploring Congolese women's agency in navigating sexual relations with UN peacekeepers within the context of a patriarchal setting in eastern DRC. *Global Public Health*, 19(1). [LINK](#)

Natalis, A., Purwanti, A., & Asmara, T. (2023). Determining Appropriate Policies for Prostitution Reform in Indonesia. *Journal Of Southeast Asian Human Rights*, 7(2), 176-213. [LINK](#)

Hill, L., & Hefner, M. K. (2024). Successes and Challenges in Implementing a Human Trafficking Screening Tool in a Local Detention Center. *Journal of Applied Social Science*, o(o). [LINK](#)

Jeffersson Brasil Pires Dos Santos. (2023) The Moderating Role of Self-Esteem on The Relationship Between Income and Adverse Health Outcomes Among Brazilian Transgender Sex Workers. *OSF Registries*. [LINK](#)

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### Articles (4 of 5)

Singer, R. B., Barrow, J., Johnson, A. K., et al. (2024). Centering PrEP: Utilizing ADAPT-ITT to inform group PrEP care for sex workers in Chicago. *BMC Public Health*, 24, 56. [LINK](#)

Richelle, L., Kacenenbogen, N., Kornreich, C., & Aron, M. (2024). Expectations and needs of people with illicit substance use disorders in general practice: a qualitative study in Belgium. *Research Square*. [LINK](#)

Brown, T., Peerapatanapokin, W., Siripong, N., et al. (2024). The AIDS Epidemic Model 2023 for Estimating HIV Trends and Transmission Dynamics in Asian Epidemic Settings. *J AIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 95(1S), e13-e23. [LINK](#)

Beattie T. S., Adhiambo W, Kabuti R, et al. (2024) The epidemiology of HIV infection among female sex workers in Nairobi, Kenya: A structural determinants and life-course perspective. *PLOS Glob Public Health* 4(1): e0001529. [LINK](#)

Nwokolo, L. C., Irameh, T. O., Obu, S. I., et al. (2024). Liquid-based Cytology Profile of Street Sex Workers in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. *International STD Research & Reviews*, 13(1), 1-12. [LINK](#)

Greene, J., & Ervin, W. (2024). The cost of crossing gender boundaries: Trans women of color and the racialized workplace gender order. *Gender, Work & Organization*. [LINK](#)

Parmanand, S. (2024). Shape-shifting and Strategic In/visibility: Comparing Sex Work Activism in Singapore and the Philippines. *TRaNS: Trans -Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*, 1-18. [LINK](#)

Zhao, M. (2024). "Ready worker two": Gendered labor regime of platform-based game work in China. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). [LINK](#)

Elhaw, D. A. E. M., & Rabee, P. I. (2023). From Slavery to Modern Slavery, Trafficking in Human Beings (Challenges and Solutions) At the Regional and International Level. *Migration Letters*, 21(S1), 271-300. [LINK](#)

Abdella, S., Demissie, M., Worku, A., et al. (2023). HIV treatment cascade among female sex workers in Ethiopia: Assessment against the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. *PLOS ONE*, 18(12), e0294991-e0294991. [LINK](#)

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### Articles (5 of 5)

Angkawidjaja, M. A., Wardhana, A. P., & Dahliana, A. (2023). The Association of Demographic Factors Among Ex-Female Sex Workers and Non-Female Sex Workers in Ex-Localization Area. *Jurnal Psikiatri Surabaya*, 12(2), 156–161. [LINK](#)

Ramos, S. D., & Du, S. N. (2023). Facilitators and Barriers to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Uptake Willingness for Full-Service Sex Workers: A Social-Ecological Approach. *Sociological Inquiry*. [LINK](#)

Higgins, I. C. A., Goldenberg, T., Gomez, H., et al. (2023). Family rejection, acceptance, support and health among transgender women sex workers living with HIV in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. *International Journal of Transgender Health*. [LINK](#)

Lichtwarck, H. O., Mbotwa, C. H., Kazaura, M. R., et al. (2023). Early disengagement from HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis services and associated factors among female sex workers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: a socioecological approach. *BMJ Global Health*, 8, e013662. [LINK](#)

Shuva, N. Z., Taisir, R., & Mallick, P. S. (2023). Information behavior and HIV/AIDS/STI awareness among Bangladeshi female sex workers: Do informational programs help? *Information Development*, 0(0). [LINK](#)

Rahman, K. A. (2023). Modelling the Spread of HIV/AIDS in India Focusing Commercial Sex Worker. *International Journal of Modeling and Optimization*, 13(3), 81–88. [LINK](#)

Ghebreyesus, T. A., Allotey, P., & Narasimhan, M. (2024). Advancing the "sexual" in sexual and reproductive health and rights: a global health, gender equality and human rights imperative. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 102(1), 77–78. [LINK](#)

### Blog

McLean, H. & Tigchelaar, A. (2023) Intervention — “Feminist Fecundity and the Garden Hos: A Video and Q&A about Feminist Performance-Based Research” *Antipode Online*. [LINK](#)

### Book Reviews

Haley Zettler (2024) Book Review: The Compassionate Court? Support, Surveillance, and Survival in Prostitution Diversion Programs, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, [LINK](#)