"Sex Robots, Digisexuals, and Deepfakes: AI, Affect, and Sexual Ambivalence in the Digital Age "
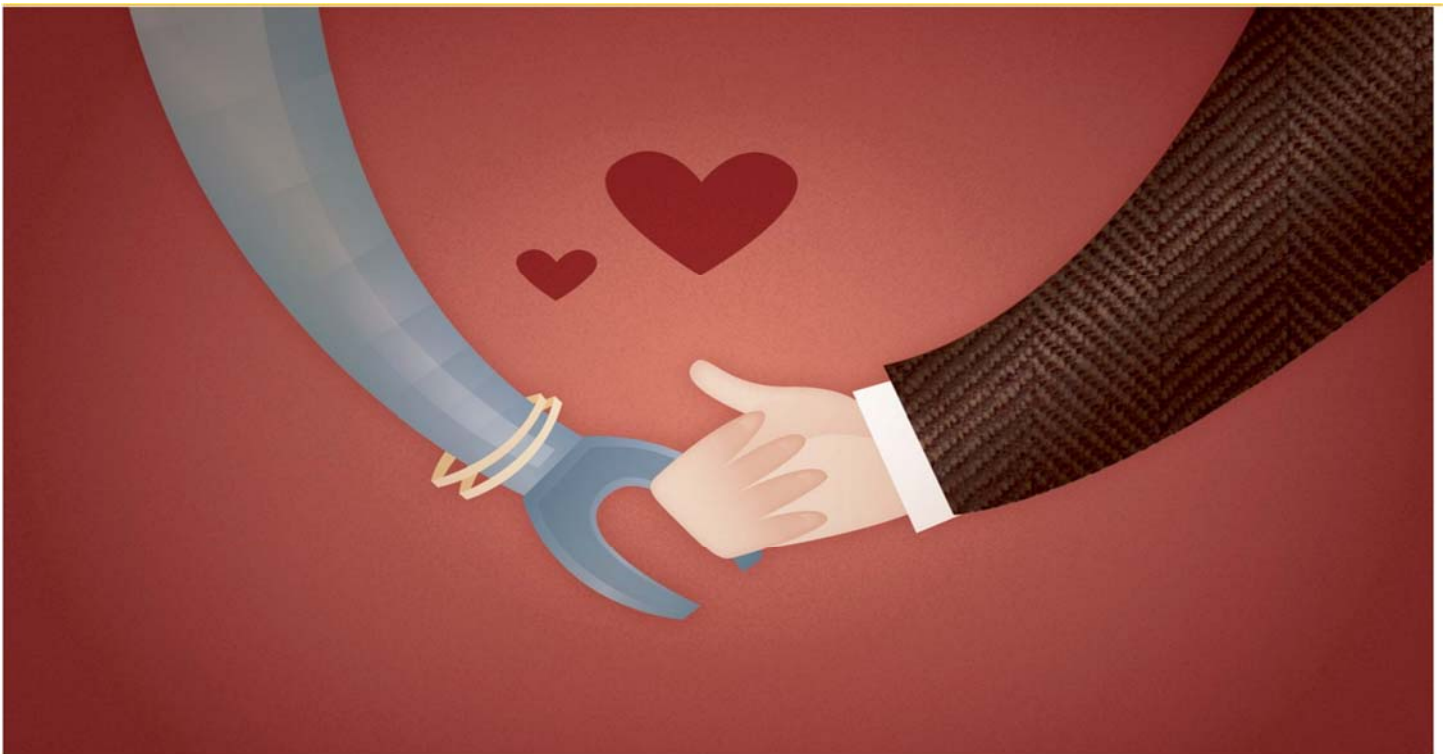

ILLUSTRATION: KAITLIN O'TOOLE

It is now widely acknowledged that virtual and non-virtual worlds are not discrete entities. Experiences within virtual reality (VR) "can be claimed as practically real: that is, they are not 'just' fantasies, they have an authority which would not apply to overtly 'fantastic' activities such as day-dreaming" (Ferreday, 2009, p. 50). Similarly, sex involving Artificial Intelligence (AI) has given rise to new sexual ontologies such as sex robots, new sexual subjectivities, such as digisexuals, and new representational practices, such as deepfakes. This talk explores how VR and AI blur the distinctions between virtual/real, fantasy/reality, illusory/actual, mind/body, subject/object, emotional/physical, distasteful/dangerous, and pleasurable/harmful. I consider the ontological and affective dimensions of sex 3.0 and the potential legal implications of developments in sextech.

Speaker: Dr. Lara Karaian

February 14, 2018   14:30 – 16:30

Dunton Tower, Room 1811

Pauline Jewett Institute
of Women's and
Gender Studies