

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 18th annual Carleton University
Graduate Legal Studies Conference

Sociolegal Inquiries in our Global Unknown

May
22 & 23,
2025

Carleton University
Pigiavik (ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ)
Senate Room (6th Floor)



Land Acknowledgment

The Carleton University Graduate Legal Studies Association (GLSA) acknowledges that our activities, located in Ottawa, are on the unceded, unsundered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.

The GLSA acknowledges the historical oppression of lands, cultures and the original Peoples in what we now know as Canada and fervently believes that we all have a role in contributing to the healing and decolonizing journey we all share together.



Why the theme?

We chose the theme "Sociolegal Inquiries in our Global Unknown" to reflect the sense of uncertainty, transformation, and urgency shaping our world today. As crises from climate change and pandemics to political upheaval and technological disruption reshape the global landscape, sociolegal scholars are increasingly called upon to interrogate how legal systems respond, reproduce, or resist these shifts.

This theme invites participants to explore how law intersects with the unknown: the unpredictable, the emerging, and the yet-to-be-imagined. It opens space for conversations about transnational challenges, new forms of governance and resistance, evolving legal norms, and the role of law in navigating uncertainty.

By foregrounding the "global unknown," we aim to center what is unstable and the innovative and interdisciplinary ways that sociolegal scholarship can illuminate, critique, and reimagine responses to these developments.

Organizing Committee

Philippe Boucher
Co-Chair (Logistics)

Jaime Snow
Co-Chair (Schedule & Planning)

Kyle Gordon Cayouette
Co-Chair (Communication)

Abi Hamilton
Committee member

Andrea McKenzie-Howell
Committee Member

Andrea Stuhc-Leonard
Committee Member

Heather Gill-Freking
Committee Member

Narges Qadirli
Committee Member



A special thank you to the ongoing support from the
Department of Law and Legal Studies.



Carleton
University

Department of Law
and Legal Studies

MAY 22 & 23

Carleton University
Pigiariyik (AN 4th & 6th)
Senate Room (6th Floor)

Day one

Thursday, May 22 | 12:45 PM to 4:55 PM + Social @ 5:00PM

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM **Conference Registration**

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM **Opening Remarks**

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM *Panel 1*
Access Beyond Accommodation: Reframing Justice for Disability and Self-Made Care

2:40 PM - 3:55 PM *Panel 2*
Feminist Contestations: Justice, Resistance, and the Politics of Belief

4:05 PM - 4:55 PM *Panel 3*
Mediating Legality: Technologies, Narratives, and the Construction of Law

5:00 PM - onwards **Social Event**

Day Two

Friday, May 23 | 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM **Conference Registration (Day 2)**

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM **Welcome**

9:10 AM - 10:25 AM *Panel 4*
Margins in Motion: Identity, Exile, and Resistance in Global Peripheries

10:35 AM - 11:50 AM *Panel 5*
Futures for the Environment: Climate, Advocacy, and Legal Imaginaries of Justice

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM **Lunch**

12:50 PM - 2:05 PM *Panel 6*
States of Harm: Confronting the Lived Realities of (In)Justice

2:15 PM - 3:40 PM **Professional Development Workshop**

3:50 PM - 4:50 PM *Panel 7*
Reckonings with Coloniality: Indigeneity, Law, and Experiences

4:50 PM - 5:00 PM **Closing**

Day one

Thursday, May 22 | 12:45 PM to 4:55 PM + Social @ 5:00PM

12:45 PM -
1:00 PM

Conference Registration & Coffee

1:00 PM -
1:15 PM

Opening Remarks

1:15 PM -
2:30 PM

Panel 1 – Access Beyond Accommodation: Reframing Justice for Disability and Self-Made Care

Chair: Andrea McKenzie-Howell

Toufic Chehab

“Navigating the Unseen Barriers: A Legally Blind Student’s Perspective on University Accommodations in Canada”

Andrea Stuhec-Leonard

“Getting to the Door: Barriers to Seeking Employment for Individuals with Disabilities”

Jacob Williams

“Lessons from Gender-Affirming DIY HRT: Insights, Advantages, and Epistemological Challenges to Clinical Medicine”

2:40 PM -
3:55 PM

Panel 2 – Feminist Contestations: Justice, Resistance, and the Politics of Belief

Chair: Abi Hamilton

Danica Nardi-Lamadeleine

“The Presumption of Non-Credibility”

Quimey Martinez Magarzo

“Southern Criminology and Feminism in Argentina: Challenges and Resistances in the Context of Predatory Neoliberalism”

Jaime Snow

“(En)Gendering Risk and the Paradox of Carceral Inclusivity: Making Up Transgender Prisoners in Ontario Correctional Policy”

4:05 PM -
4:55 PM

Panel 3 – Mediating Legality: Technologies, Narratives, and the Construction of Law

Chair: Kyle Gordon Cayouette

Dr. Brian L. Cox

“Law in Conflict: Evaluating Depictions of International Law in Media Coverage on War”

Lauren Sapic

“Manufacturing Justice: How Sports Journalism Constructs Legal Narratives in Scandal and Crisis”

Ali Al Ashoor

“Digital Settler Coloniality: Indigenous Data Sovereignty in AI Chatbots Era”

5:00 PM -
Onwards

Social Event | Irene’s Pub – 885 Bank St, Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4

Continue all the great conversations and join us all at our Conference Social at IRENE’S PUB!

Day Two

Friday, May 23 | 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM

8:45 AM -
9:00 AM

Conference Registration (Day 2) & Coffee

9:00 AM -
9:10 AM

Welcome

9:10 AM -
10:25 AM

Panel 4 – Margins in Motion: Identity, Exile, and Resistance in Global Peripheries

Chair: Jaime Snow

Ash De Visser

“Navigating Post-Deportation: Ethnographic Insights into Reintegration, Language, and Identity in Small-Town Mexico”

Saivani Sanassy

“The Intersections of Self Exile and Ubuntu on Western Capitalist Society as a Method of Survival”

Julie Murray

“Performing the Subject-Self: A Critical Exploration of Sex Workers Resistance and Activism in Canada”

4:05 PM -
4:55 PM

Panel 5 – Future for the Environment: Climate, Advocacy, and Legal Imaginaries of Justice

Chair: Abi Hamilton

Alexandra Toutant

“In the Future We Trust: Fiduciary Duties, Pension Funds, and the Legal Case for Intergenerational Equity”

Sunitha Bisan Singh

“Navigating the sea of exclusions: Feminist Advocacy Journeys at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement”

11:50 AM -
12:50 PM

Lunch

Lunch will be provided and consist of finger sandwiches and snacks.

12:50 PM -
2:05 PM

Panel 6 – States of Harm: Confronting the Lived Realities of (In)Justice

Chair: Philippe Boucher

Ade Olumide

“Police Complaints Transparency: Black and Blue Lives Matter”

Monisha Logan

Shooting the Distressed: Exploring Gun Violence within Wellness Checks

Alexis Keizer

“The Levels of Legal Literacy of Previously Convicted Individuals”

2:15 PM -
3:40 PM

Professional Development Workshop

3:50 PM -
4:50 PM

Panel 7 – Reckonings with Coloniality: Indigeneity, Law, and Experiences

Chair: Andrea Stuhec-Leonard

Philippe Boucher

“Gladue and Mental Health: A Jurisprudential Analysis of Cases Involving Indigenous Defendants Deemed Unfit or Not Criminally Responsible”

Bennett Mitchell

“The Erection of Wood: Representing a Colonial Criminal”

Jeremi Berg

“Indigeneity for Sale: The Peoples of Salmon”

4:50 PM

Closing and Thank you

Thank you to all our presenters, moderators, and attendees for making Sociolegal Inquiries in Our Global Unknown a space of critical thought, collaboration, and resistance. We are grateful for your insights, your energy, and your commitment to pushing the boundaries of sociolegal inquiry.



Panel 1 – Access Beyond Accommodation: Reframing Justice for Disability and Self-Made Care

Toufic Chehab
(Carleton University)

“Navigating the Unseen Barriers: A Legally Blind Student’s Perspective on University Accommodations in Canada”

This research explores the effectiveness of accommodations provided to blind students in Canadian universities and their impact on academic success. Drawing from personal experience as a blind student with Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA), the study aims to assess current policies supporting blind students and address systemic inequities in higher education. Despite legislation including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that aim to ensure equal access, blind students often face unique challenges, especially in fields like mathematics, engineering, and science, where accommodations such as lab access remain insufficient. This research challenges traditional medical models of disability and emphasizes how societal and institutional attitudes contribute to exclusion. Drawing on the social model of disability and previous research that demonstrates positive outcomes from investing in accommodations, the study aims to uncover the root causes of these barriers in Canada. The project will involve an analysis of qualitative studies, reports, and academic literature to identify barriers, institutional attitudes, and the lived experiences of blind students. The research will identify gaps in existing accommodations and propose solutions to improve accessibility and inclusivity within university settings. Recommendations will be provided for reforming university policies and practices to better support blind students, fostering greater inclusivity and promoting their academic success. Through this project, the researcher aims to contribute to the dialogue on disability inclusion in higher education and advocate for more equitable educational policies.

Andrea Stuhec-Leonard
(Carleton University)

“Getting to the Door: Barriers to Seeking Employment for Individuals with Disabilities”

Individuals with disabilities experience high unemployment, underemployment and job insecurity. In Canada, 62% of individuals with disabilities are employed, while, 42% of individuals with disabilities are unemployed and have the potential to work. Individuals with disabilities experience barriers in recruitment for employment, accessing accommodations during employment, and maintaining long-term employment. Most research focuses on discrimination during employment and the duty to accommodate. Little attention has been paid to barriers in recruitment and retention. While laws protect against discrimination in the workplace and require accommodations for individuals with disabilities, there are few legal protections during the recruitment phase. This research will focus on the legislative gaps and practical barriers people with disabilities face in seeking employment in Ontario. Specifically, how recruitment practices inadvertently create barriers for individuals with disabilities. The social model of disability allows us to see the hiring structures and practices that are barriers causing disability and that can be changed to create more inclusive hiring practices.

Jacob Williams
(Carleton University)

“Lessons from Gender-Affirming DIY HRT: Insights, Advantages, and Epistemological Challenges to Clinical Medicine”

Do-it-yourself hormonal replacement therapy (DIY HRT) is typically seen by clinicians and the general public as the ‘wrong way’ of accessing HRT, which should be made obsolete. This paper explores what those using DIY HRT believe are the advantages, disadvantages, and possible futures of DIY HRT. Community consultations and a discourse analysis reveal that DIYers believe that both conditions for DIY and clinical HRT should be improved. DIYers place a lot of value on aspects of DIY HRT which are not replicable in clinical conditions. DIYers believe that HRT patients should have ultimate control over their HRT. DIYer also identify their own means for mitigating the risks associated with DIY HRT.

Danica Nardi-Lamadeleine
(Carleton University)

“The Presumption of Non-Credibility”

Inspired by the critical discussions of believability that arose during the height of the #MeToo era, this presentation will explore the work I completed in my Master’s thesis on the presumption of innocence, Section 11(d) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and what it does in the sexual assault trial in Canada. By discussing the jurido-genic nature of Section 11(d) from an anti-carceral feminist perspective, and combined methods approach, I will demonstrate the both essential and vexatious nature of the presumption of innocence. Due-process procedures render a complainant untruthful by the natural effect of rendering an accused person honest, therefore, I argue that Section 11(d) creates and codifies a presumption of non-credibility on complainants. This reflects epistemic injustice and is especially problematic for survivors, because the issue becomes compounded by rape myths and testimonial injustice. My thesis engages in broader arguments around the call for justice beyond judicial convictions and community commitment to change.

Quimey Martinez Magarzo
(Carleton University)

“Southern Criminology and Feminism in Argentina: Challenges and Resistances in the Context of Predatory Neoliberalism”

Southern Criminology emerges as a crucial framework for understanding the dynamics of power, violence, and social control within a global context shaped by predatory neoliberalism. This socio-economic model, by exacerbating inequalities, perpetuates the construction of “others” and enemies, disproportionately affecting populations historically subjected to harm. From a feminist perspective in Argentina, Southern Criminology offers conceptual and methodological tools to examine how neoliberal power structures impact women and LGBTIQ+ individuals within the legal system. In this regard, it is proposed to analyze not only the spaces defined by law and punitive logic (such as recent changes to the gender identity law, comprehensive sexual education, programs addressing violence against women, homophobic hate speech by institutions, among others, all under the presidency of Javier Milei in Argentina), but also the resistances against discourses and practices of exclusion and violence, driven by feminist social organizations and human rights groups, as a praxis for building sovereignty. This critical and contextually grounded perspective is put forth as a way to challenge both global and local orders, proposing emancipatory alternatives in times of crisis and confrontation.

Jaime Snow
(Carleton University)

“(En)Gendering Risk and the Paradox of Carceral Inclusivity: Making Up Transgender Prisoners in Ontario Correctional Policy”

Mobilizing feminist theory in tandem with Ian Hacking’s ‘making up people’ framework, I examine the gendered logics that are foundational to the ways in which the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services’ (MCSCS) constructs, manages, and makes up transgender prisoners in Ontario, Canada. I review MCSCS policies as top-down applications of power with a specific consideration of underlying assumptions related to gender to offer an Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis of Ontario’s Transgender Inmate Management Policy. Such work responds to the continued proliferation of anti-trans narratives as well as the broader lack of research on Ontario corrections and transgender prisoners. I contend that transgender prisoners in Ontario are made up by conflicting policy characterizations that precariously position them as fluctuating between two diametrically opposed subject positions: at-risk and risky. These characterizations support the MCSCS’ broader effort to (re)frame incarceration as a ‘caring’, ‘inclusive’ practice, making it easier and supposedly safer to incarcerate transgender individuals. Policy reforms, which focus on providing accommodations to trans-prisoners, perpetuate the idea that this population requires special correctional intervention while failing to see the institution as in need of abolition. Such accommodations, which aim for ‘inclusion’, represent a paradox as they mandate explicit forms of exclusion that entail additional practices of surveillance, regulation, and control as a means of ‘protection’. I argue that it is not a progressive reform to advocate for ‘inclusion’ in a space that actively functions to warehouse and discard vulnerable populations. By emphasising risk and vulnerability, MCSCS policies fail to challenge broader cultural constructions of trans-prisons as always-already deceptive, further entrenching the carceral system as a vital instrument of crime control without considering viable alternatives, including decarceration.

Dr. Brian L. Cox

(Carleton University, Cornell Law School)

“Law in Conflict: Evaluating Depictions of International Law in Media Coverage on War”

Media coverage of the conduct of armed hostilities plays a vital role in global public discourse, and discussion of compliance with international law features prominently in this reporting. Although correspondents and their editorial teams are not generally expected or required to be subject matter experts on topics they cover, the specialized nature of international law involving armed conflict poses a significant challenge to developing informed and objective media coverage of armed conflict. This presentation adopts a multidisciplinary approach to evaluating the methods and content of media coverage on war.

From the discipline of international law, the presentation clarifies doctrinal aspects of the law involving armed conflict that are frequently depicted in media coverage. From the discipline of applied military operations, the presentation describes standard target development and engagement processes that are also regularly represented in media reporting. These legal and operational aspects of the conduct of hostilities are applied to existing media coverage on war to assess whether prevailing reporting accurately portrays the law involving armed conflict in the applied context. After clarifying several areas for improvement, the presentation concludes by suggesting techniques that can be implemented to mitigate these common limitations on the effectiveness of media coverage on armed hostilities.

Lauren Sopic

(University of Victoria)

“Manufacturing Justice: How Sports Journalism Constructs Legal Narratives in Scandal and Crisis”

Media representation plays a defining role in shaping legal narratives, often privileging sensationalism and institutional protection over substantive legal accountability. This paper examines how sports journalism constructs and reinforces legal discourse in reporting on sporting crises, using the Hillsborough Disaster (1989) and the Graham James Scandal (1997) as comparative case studies. Through archival triangulation, agenda-setting theory, and narrative ethics, this research explores how media distortions influence public perceptions of justice, shifting legal meaning from an objective process to a mediated performance of institutional legitimacy.

By employing a micro-historical approach, this study investigates how editorial framing, survivor testimony, and legal records interact to sustain dominant narratives about crime, victimhood, and institutional accountability. The Hillsborough Disaster exemplifies how the media's early criminalization of victims delayed justice, while the Graham James case illustrates how silence and underreporting within sports journalism enabled systemic abuses to persist. These cases highlight the ethical and methodological shortcomings of sports media in shaping public trust and legal redress.

This paper contributes to socio-legal methodology by demonstrating how interdisciplinary research—blending legal history, media studies, and critical theory—can uncover the deeper intersections between law, media, and justice. In an era where digital platforms amplify scandals in real time, this research underscores the need for greater scrutiny of journalistic ethics in legal representation.

Ali Al Ashoor

(Carleton University)

“Digital Settler Coloniality: Indigenous Data Sovereignty in AI Chatbots Era”

Questioning the reliability of the information provided by the generative artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot ChatGPT has been widely discussed, yet its potential effects on Indigenous Peoples' history, cultures, and identity need more consideration. Online data about Indigenous Peoples predominantly reflects Western perspectives that marginalize Indigenous worldviews, authorizing digital colonial space that consolidates and perpetuates the colonial narrative.

Regurgitating colonial biases and stereotypes is highly anticipated, nevertheless, the impingement upon Indigenous Peoples goes beyond that. Understanding the space in which power relations influence the representation of Indigenous Peoples requires an analytical approach to examine the multidimensionality of the socio-cultural impacts of generative AI tools on Indigenous Peoples, in an era where corporations and governments are racing to dominate the AI market, without considering the context of colonialism. In this paper, I propose the concept “Digital Settler Coloniality”. It is an analytical framework that assesses the space in

which the reproduction of the representation of Indigenous Peoples takes place. The space I referred to is the connectedness and interconnectedness of colonial structure, power relations, generative AI tools, and the users of generative AI in reproducing and reconstructing the representation of Indigenous Peoples. It aims to understand the dimensions of the reproduction of the representation of Indigenous Peoples, the role of the AI users within those dimensions, and how it affects and breaches Indigenous data sovereignty. Digital Settler Coloniality highlights the urgency of recognizing and legalizing Indigenous data sovereignty, and the significance of Indigenous engagement in developing AI models.

Panel 4 – Margins in Motion: Identity, Exile, and Resistance in Global Peripheries

Ash De Visser
(Carleton University)

“Navigating Post-Deportation: Ethnographic Insights into Reintegration, Language, and Identity in Small-Town Mexico”

Deportation disrupts lives, severing individuals from their communities and forcing them into unfamiliar social, cultural, and linguistic landscapes. This ethnographic study examines the lived experiences of men deported from the United States to Mexico following incarceration, focusing on the challenges of reintegration in a country many barely remember. Based on in-depth, narrative-driven interviews with two men in Bahía de Banderas, Nayarit— with plans to interview at least two more— this research explores the intersections of language, identity, and reintegration in the post-deportation context.

By using ethnographic interviews, this study foregrounds participants' voices, allowing for rich, detailed narratives that reveal the complexities of post-deportation life. Interviews focus on concrete experiences—such as their first days in Mexico, their relationships with family and local communities, and the ways they navigate linguistic and cultural expectations—rather than abstract notions of belonging. The study also examines how deported individuals construct their identities in response to social perceptions, particularly through the use of terms like *Chicano*, *Mexicano*, or *gringo*, and how Spanish language proficiency (or lack thereof) shapes their reintegration. The role of humor, informal social bonds, and community networks in easing or complicating their transition is also explored.

A key finding from the initial interviews highlights the psychological toll of deportation, including trauma from detention and removal proceedings, as well as ongoing encounters with law enforcement and informal power structures, such as the cartel's role in enforcing local justice. Themes emerging from the data include the politics of deportation policies, the emotional and material stressors of forced displacement, and the contrast between state and non-state mechanisms of control and adaptation. With additional interviews planned, this study aims to expand its scope and deepen its analysis of the diverse and often contradictory experiences of post-deportation life. It contributes to broader discussions on transnational migration, criminalization, and state-imposed mobility restrictions. By centering the experiences of deported individuals, this research highlights the nuanced ways in which structural forces intersect with personal histories, offering a critical lens on contemporary migration policies and their human consequences.

Saivani Sanassy
(Carleton University)

“The Intersections of Self Exile and Ubuntu on Western Capitalist Society as a Method of Survival”

James Baldwin left America for 10 years to escape homophobia and racism, mainly racism. I left Canada for 6 months and continue to be pulled away. James Baldwin saw the 21st century in the middle of the 20th and even assumed the age of Trump during his self exile. Following in his footsteps I left Canada to escape colonial thinking; homophobia, transphobia, perfectionism, racism, ableism just to find out that it follows you. The essential difference in the Global South are the embodied teachings of Ubuntu, that came out of the struggles of South African apartheid, which challenge Western ideas of individualism. Building on Ubuntu and Gerald Vizenor's "Survivance" we see that we live not for ourselves but for each other and the next seven generations. When we tie self exile to the notion of Ubuntu we have a paradoxical relationship that combines the same values. An equal balance of both notions can lead us to a place of greater freedom than an escape from the West. Since capitalism leads to an early death the balance between non-Western nations teachings and knowledge are important in

dismantling this vicious cycle. To reach freedom in our society we must collectively work towards expanding our collective understanding, I aim to achieve this through the teachings of both Indigenous Scholars and writers from the Black Liberation Movement.

Julie Murray
(University of Ottawa)

“Performing the Subject-Self: A Critical Exploration of Sex Workers Resistance and Activism in Canada”

The contemporary movement for sex workers’ rights emerges from a lengthy and complex legal history of sex workers challenging dominant discourses that frame ‘prostitution’ as a public nuisance, moral offense, and as violence against women; putting forth that sex work is a legitimate form of labour. The existing literature effectively demonstrates how sex workers and sex work activists resist oppressive and reductive discourse via community-based initiatives, lobbying efforts, and strategic litigation such as the successful constitutional challenge against Canada’s prostitution laws in 2013 (*Canada (Attorney General) v Bedford*, 2013). However, there is significant gap in understanding how sex workers and sex work activists enact resistance through embodied performance. More specifically, this thesis aims to explore the ways in which sex workers and sex work activists resist stigmatic assumptions and dominant discourse through symbolic communication and attire during protests. For this purpose, this thesis builds a conceptual framework that puts resistance literature in conversation with key theoretical insights from Michel Foucault and Judith Butler. Having collected 143 publicly accessible images of sex worker rights protests in Canada between 2013–2023, I employ a qualitative visual content analysis to examine how sex workers and sex work activists enact resistance through what I call the *performance of the subject-self*.

Panel 5 – Futures for the Environment: Climate, Advocacy, and Legal Imaginaries of Justice

Alexandra Toutant
(University of Ottawa)

“In the Future We Trust: Fiduciary Duties, Pension Funds, and the Legal Case for Intergenerational Equity”

This paper argues that the fiduciary duty of pension plan trustees includes an obligation to consider intergenerational equity, ensuring that investment decisions account for the long-term interests of both current and future beneficiaries. As institutional investors managing retirement savings, pension funds wield significant influence over financial markets and have a duty to safeguard beneficiaries’ financial security. Given the increasing risks posed by climate change, trustees must recognize that failing to consider environmental sustainability in investment strategies may jeopardize long-term returns and undermine the stability of pension funds. The principle of intergenerational equity, which holds that present generations have a responsibility to preserve resources and opportunities for future generations, is well established in international law and emerging in Canadian jurisprudence. This paper explores its relevance to pension governance, demonstrating that fiduciary duties—traditionally understood to include the duties of care, loyalty, and impartiality—align with intergenerational equity. It examines legal precedents, regulatory frameworks, and financial risk analyses that support the integration of climate-related considerations into pension investment strategies. Further, the paper contends that continued investment in fossil fuels contradicts fiduciary obligations, exposing pension funds to financial risks associated with stranded assets, regulatory shifts, and climate-related litigation. As pension funds have a multi-generational investment horizon, their fiduciary duties must evolve to reflect changing societal and economic realities. Recognizing intergenerational equity within fiduciary duty is not only a legal and ethical imperative but also a necessary step to ensure pension fund sustainability in a climate-constrained world.

Sunitha Bisan Singh
(Carleton University)

“Navigating the sea of exclusions: Feminist Advocacy Journeys at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement”

This year marks the 10th year the Paris Agreement was negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This paper aspires to review the feminist literature from academic and non-academic to understand how the feminist journeys at the UNFCCC navigated through the sea of exclusion. The question is to investigate how feminist advocacies inform environmental governance in the Anthropocene particularly when it is wrought with ambiguous as well as vague obligations and varying implementation. The dominant practice in environmental related solutions to address the universally attributed climate change problem is not only produced through masculinist perspectives but is also arguably neoliberal in nature. The knowledge production that is framed within a scientific or technocratic application is being strongly critiqued for its male perspectives and domination. The universal framing of climate as a global problem is concerning as it reflects a masculine (re)production of power. As Munro and other feminist scholars had pointed out, there are the many ways of exclusion, marginalization and silencing that is produced by public institutions. Significantly, feminist scholars have pointed out historically, it has been shown that public discourses due to the nature of dominant male representation points that these spaces are ill-equipped to incorporate other perspectives. The aspiration of this paper is to recognize how feminists navigated through the treats of exclusion within the Paris Agreement negotiations.

Panel 6 – States of Harm: Confronting the Lived Realities of (In)Justice

Ade Olumide
(Carleton University)

“Police Complaints Transparency: Black and Blue Lives Matter”

On February 3, 2025, the CBC titled a story “Judge hammers Ottawa cops for lying under oath, misleading court”. The officer convicted for the death of George Floyd, had over 20 prior complaints. A Floyd matter government reported the problem that despite “a history of dishonesty” “problematic officers will continue to police the streets”. The same problem continues in Canada / UK / USA, the solution is an open court principle (constitutional doctrine that gives the public access to court proceedings).

The Court in *Toronto Star* 2018, found that section 2 of the Charter freedom of the press means that administrative tribunals are subject to open court. The press is mentioned in the constitutions for Canada, the USA, the European and the UN conventions. The presentation will answer constitutional law and criminology questions like:

1. Ontario responded to *Toronto Star* 2018 with the *Tribunal Adjudicative Records Act*, 2019 that excluded about 99% of police complaint administrative tribunals. *Is Ontario violating a court order?*
2. Do federal, provincial and municipal government have a section 2 and 15 of the Charter positive obligation for online searchable portals, that media can engage to expose government violations of criminal negligence laws that prohibit the disproportionate effect of the lack of timely removals of officers with a history of dishonesty on racialized individuals and female officers?

Majority of police officers should be commended, in Washington, only 4.4% of officers caused all sustained complaints.

Monisha Logan
(Carleton University)

“Shooting the Distressed: Exploring Gun Violence within Wellness Checks”

In 2018, it was found that 42% of those who died during police-involved fatalities were mentally distressed. While the tethering of gun violence and mental health has been previously explored by many, these discussions have often focused on mentally distressed individuals as perpetrators of violence. Very little is known about those who have been victimized. Discussions around responses to mental health-related calls has gradually grown within mainstream discourse, with many calling for changes to current protocols around wellness checks. However, the continual stories of fatal wellness checks remind us that there is more to this

issue. This paper focuses on how the utilization of weaponry during wellness checks exacerbates problematic narratives around race and madness. In using the case of Ejaz Choudry, I argue that the use of violence during these interactions exemplifies a misreading of racialized experiences of madness and in turn legitimize state actions to eliminate othered bodies.

Alexis Keizer
(Carleton University)

“The Levels of Legal Literacy of Previously Convicted Individuals”

Every action a person takes in society is governed by the law. It could be assumed that given this permanent and ever-present relationship with the law, there would be some degree of understanding of these basic laws and the processes that go with them. However, there is significant research to suggest that this is not only untrue, but that levels are concerning low. Research from around the world consistently finds that legal literacy levels are low. While there is some slight disparity for different demographics and different areas of law, research demonstrates that the ability, in general, to understand and apply the law is concerning low for most people.

This current project investigates a person’s ability to understand the law. This is described as legal literacy in the present research. Through qualitative semi-structured interviews, people with previous criminal convictions were interviewed to see if those who have previously engaged with the criminal justice system on a substantial level were able to understand the process and the laws that they engaged with. Those who have been convicted of a criminal offence offer a unique lived experience in that they have had their knowledge of the criminal justice system tested in a real-life situation; their life outcomes ultimately depended on their ability to know and understand the laws and procedures of the criminal justice system. By discussing the process, from arrest all the way to their final release, I was able to explore first-hand accounts of individuals’ experience testing their legal literacy.

Panel 7 – Reckonings with Coloniality: Indigeneity, Law, and Experiences

Philippe Boucher
(Carleton University)

“Gladue and Mental Health: A Jurisprudential Analysis of Cases Involving Indigenous Defendants Deemed Unfit or Not Criminally Responsible”

The Supreme Court of Canada in the Gladue decision (1999) recognized that judges have a responsibility to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody. The Supreme Court held that judges have a duty to consider Gladue information in the form of 1) systemic or background factors that influenced criminal behavior and 2) alternative sentencing sanctions related to their Indigenous culture. Gladue information can contextualize the infractions committed by Indigenous offenders due to the history of settler colonialism and encourage judges to choose alternatives to custody. Despite this decision, the rates of Indigenous people detained skyrocketed up to 33% in federal detention (Zinger et al., 2023). However, only 3.9% of people in custody found Not Criminally Responsible on Account of Mental Disorder (NCRMD) were identified as Indigenous (Nicholls et al., 2023). We have a limited understanding of how and to what extent Gladue information is provided to Review Board for Indigenous people Unfit to Stand Trial or NCRMD (Nelson and Wilson, 2017).

25 years after the Gladue decision, a first Gladue report was ordered in December 2024 by the Québec Review Board for Mental Disorders. As a Gladue report writer, I have been mandated to complete this report. In this presentation, I will analyze the jurisprudence on the relevance to present Gladue information to Review Boards. Through intersectional socio-legal perspectives, I will analyze the (non-)transformation of judicial decision-making in criminal sentencing process for Indigenous people. I will underline the challenges surrounding the use of Gladue information by judges in cases of mental disorders.

Bennett Mitchell
(Carleton University)

“The Erection of Wood: Representing a Colonial Criminal”

My paper explores the intersections between legal persecution, queer and indigenous identities, and public representations. A 2021 open letter written by the Toronto-based Church and Wellesley Business Improvement Area (BIA) cites archival research that connects Alexander Wood to “The Society for Converting and Civilizing the Indians and Propagating the Gospel among Destitute Settlers in Upper Canada” and a legal scandal surrounding his abuse of power as justification for the removal of a statue erected in his honour. The BIA’s argument that Wood was complicit in the atrocities of the Residential School system is a gross oversimplification, as primary materials like *Little Pine’s Journal: The Appeal of A Christian Chippeway Chief on Behalf of His People* suggest that ‘The Society’ was actually started at the behest of Indigenous leaders. A more extensive archival process that explores materials related to Wood’s legal scandal, speeches from the statue’s unveiling, and the writings of the Indigenous peoples connected to and affected by ‘The Society’ demonstrates both the complexity of the situation and the value of the statue.

By contrasting the views of Wood and ‘The Society’ present in these materials with the open letter written by the BIA, my paper will demonstrate the complexity of criminality and queer identity in colonial Canada and the care with which one must represent it. At the time of its erection, people viewed Wood’s statue as significant due to his persecution, not in spite of it. Yet, a mere seventeen years later, an overly simplistic archival reading of Wood’s colonial activities led to a recasting of this persecution as a justified fight against the abuse of power.

Jeremi Berg
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“Indigeneity for Sale: The Peoples of Salmon”

This research project aims to investigate the claims of Indigenous identity made by the group known as the Peoples of Salmon from BC, focusing on the potential for pretendianism and its intersection with the sovereign citizen conspiracy theories. Specifically, whether the Peoples of Salmon’s use of their Indigenous identity as a guise to push their sovereign citizen ideals. This research will explore how the groups monetary open membership model may contribute to race-shifting and the exploitation of Indigeneity. The methodology involved will be a thematic and content analysis of the Peoples of Salmon’s online presence, including their websites, manifestos, social media (Odysee, Telegram, BitChute) and video documentation. Furthermore, the research will investigate the backgrounds and claims of group leaders, Popois (David Jefferies) and Maathlaatlax, and their claims of Indigenous identity and connection to Indigenous bands. The analysis will draw on the concept of race-shifting, pretendianism, sovereign citizen groups and Indigenous Sovereignty, by using Leroux’s theory on race-shifting and Taplin, Holland and Billing’s theory on how complexities in attaining Indigenous titles can lead to recruitment into sovereign citizen super-conspiracy groups. This research is significant given the rise of such groups and the potential for exploitation and appropriation of Indigeneity.

