

Gender, Wellbeing, and the Politics of Imagination: Law, Culture, Compassion

Bios



Bitá Amani Bio:

Bitá Amani, B.A. (York University, with Distinction), LL.B. (Osgoode), S.J.D. (UofT), Co-Director of Feminist Legal Studies Queen's, is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Queen's University in Kingston, Canada and Adjunct faculty at Osgoode Hall Law School, in Toronto. She teaches courses in intellectual property, information privacy, and feminist legal studies (workshop). She has also taught courses on international aspects of intellectual property governance, and torts. Bitá was a doctoral fellow of the Centre for Innovation Law and Policy and recipient of the Social Science Humanities Research Council of Canada doctoral fellowship. Her dissertation was published as a monograph, *State Agency and the Patenting of Life in International Law: Merchants and Missionaries in a Global Society*, (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2009) and is part of the Globalization and Law Series. She has published in the key areas of intellectual property law. The second edition of her co-edited book, *Trademarks and Unfair Competition - Cases and Commentary on Canadian and International Law* (Toronto: Carswell, 2014, with Carys Craig) was recently published. She has been a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Osgoode Hall, Institute for Feminist Studies, Visiting Scholar, Researcher, and Guest Lecturer at the Centre for International Governance, Leeds University School of Law, and Research Fellow in Residence at the Brocher Foundation, Geneva Switzerland (2008). Dr. Amani has served as policy consultant to the provincial government on gene patenting for the Ontario Advisory Committee on Predictive Genetic Technologies and on the e-Laws project for the Ministry of the Attorney General, Office of the Legislative Counsel (OLC) in Ontario, and on a policy research report for the federal government on Polygamy in Canada: Legal and Social Implications for Women and Children, funded by the Status of Women Canada report. She has also served briefly to the OLC as a legislative drafter. She is called to the Bar of Ontario.



Angela Cameron Bio:

Professor Cameron's research is generally in the area of social justice, with a particular focus on the equality interests of women. Professor Cameron's research areas include criminal law, restorative justice, property law, reproductive technologies law, family law, legal theory, sociological approaches to law, and human rights law.



Debra M Haak Bio:

Debra M Haak is a PhD candidate and Teaching Fellow in the Faculty of Law at Queen's University and a Visiting Scholar at Osgoode Hall Law School. Debra was called to the Ontario Bar in 1996 and has practiced commercial litigation at Gowlings in Toronto since her call. Consistent with her experience as a practicing lawyer, Debra brings a pragmatic approach to her graduate studies. Her doctoral research asks whether a more complete understanding of the harms experienced by sellers, the causes of harm, and the implications of choice on the experience and avoidance of harm might suggest a more nuanced policy response to the problems of prostitution and sex work.



Emanuela Heyninck Bio

Emanuela Heyninck is currently serving her third term as head of the Pay Equity Commission for Ontario, an independent agency of the Ministry of Labour. The Commission enforces the Ontario *Pay Equity Act*, which aims to redress systemic gender compensation issues. In addition to its enforcement and education mandate, the Commission has the authority to research and make recommendations to the Minister of Labour on issues related to pay equity, gender wage gaps and women and work.

In April of 2015, Ms. Heyninck was one of four individuals appointed by the government to the Gender Wage Gap Strategy Steering Committee. The Committee is conducting researching and seeking public input into solutions to close the gender wage gap in Ontario. The Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Minister of Labour in the spring of 2016.

Since 2010, Ms. Heyninck has also served as a part-time adjudicator for the Health Professions and Health Services Appeal and Review Boards. HPARB reviews decisions of the complaints committees of the various regulated health professions. HSARB hears appeals from decisions made by OHIP regarding health insurance coverage.

Ms. Heyninck is immediate Past President of the Society of Adjudicators and Regulators and has served on several of SOAR's committees and on the Board of Director and Executive. She is a member of several Advisory Councils, including Conestoga College and the University of Western Ontario Student Law Clinic and is a mentor at Brescia College. She holds an Hon. B.A. in Italian and French from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Windsor.

Before her appointment she practiced civil, family and administrative law in London, Ontario for 25 years. Her past community involvement has included several terms on the Executives of the London Chamber of Commerce, the London Business and Professional Women's Club, the Middlesex Family Lawyers Association, the Middlesex as well as the Ontario Collaborative Law Group, Hospice of London and Investing in Children.

Patricia Hughes Bio:

Currently a freelance write and speaker, Patricia Hughes is the Founding Executive Director of the Law Commission of Ontario (2007-2015) and was formerly the Dean of Law at the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, the Chair in Women and Law at the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law, alternate chair of the Ontario Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal, a vice-chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, counsel in the Policy Development Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General (Ontario) and, prior to receiving her LLB, professor of political science. She has an LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School, a PhD in Political Theory from the University of Toronto and MA and BA from McMaster University. She is a member of the Ontario and Alberta bars. She has written and spoken on constitutional issues, issues relating to women and the law, legal education and law reform, among other areas.



Adelina Iftene Bio:

Adelina Iftene (PhD, Queen's University) is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at Osgoode Hall Law School specializing in prison law, criminal law, and human rights. Her major research projects with aging prisoners lie at the crossroads of law and criminology and they blend social science empirical methodology with legal analysis. The goal is to raise awareness of the needs of older prisoners and identify legal avenues for these individuals to claim their Charter and statutory rights.



Zoya Islam Bio:

Zoya Islam completed her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Gender Studies at Queen's University and graduated in 2012. After working in the non-profit sector abroad and in Canada, she returned to Queen's to do her Masters in Gender Studies. Zoya's research includes, but is not limited to, gender and global development, social policy, globalization, and feminist political economy. She is a seasoned traveller and has an aptitude for speaking multiple languages. Zoya is eager to get involved with community initiatives, charitable organizations, public policy and public sector opportunities. To learn more about her experience and interests, she can be contacted at 8zi@queensu.ca.



Kathleen Lahey Bio:

Kathleen Lahey is professor and Queen's National Scholar, Faculty of Law, Queen's University, and cross-appointed to Gender Studies and Cultural Studies. She teaches taxation, tax policy, property, and equality law. A member of the Ontario Fair Tax Commission working groups on corporate taxation and on women in taxation, as well as the Law Commission of Canada Advisory Group on adult relationships and the FemTax, Law and Society International Legal Feminisms, and TUAQ research networks, she consults widely on tax and economic issues concerning women. Her current research focuses on comparative and domestic gender impact analysis of fiscal policies, and in 2013 she presented her work at the Arctic Council conference in Kiruna, Sweden while a visiting professor at Umea University Forum on Studies in Law and Society. Recent works include *The Alberta Disadvantage: Gender, Taxation, and Income Inequality*, Parkland, 2015, 'Uncovering Women in Taxation,' *Osgoode Hall Law School* (in publication 2015), and 'Economic Crisis, Gender Equality, and Policy Responses in Spain and Canada,' *Feminist Economics* (2013) 19: 3, 82-107 (with Paloma de Villota).



Ruth Lapp Bio:

Ruth has grown food and gathered medicinal plants on her small farm in Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia) for nearly 20 years. For Ruth, caring for the soil and the land, while providing food for her community has been a key component of the creative process in farming. This aspect of creativity, which is really about respect for the living earth, is foundational to her current work as a doctoral student in Cultural Studies at Queens University. Whether through farming or academic pursuits, Ruth seeks to bring to light the connections between the indigenous wisdom and natural processes of soil and land, and the imperative for re-indigenizing human communities.



Dawn Lavell Harvard Bio:

Dr. Dawn Lavell Harvard, Ph.D., was elected President of the Native Women's Association of Canada at the 41st Annual General Assembly, July 11, 2015 in Montreal, Quebec. Dawn is a proud member of the Wikwemikong First Nation, the first Aboriginal Trudeau Scholar, and has worked to advance the rights of Aboriginal women as the President of the Ontario Native Women's Association for 11 years.

Dawn was Interim President of NWAC since February 2015 and was Vice-President for almost 3 years. Dawn is a full-time mother of three girls. Following in the footsteps of her mother Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, a noted advocate for Indigenous women's rights, since joining the Board of the Ontario Native Women Association as a youth director back in 1994, Ms. Harvard has been working toward the empowerment of Aboriginal women and their families. She was co-editor of the original volume on Indigenous Mothering entitled "Until Our Hearts Are on the Ground: Aboriginal Mothering, Oppression, Resistance and Rebirth" and has also recently released a new book, along with Kim Anderson, entitled "Mothers of the Nations."



Michele M. Leering Bio:

Michele Leering, B.A., LL.B., M. Ad.Ed. is a new doctoral student at Queen's Faculty of Law. Her dissertation topic is "Integrated reflective practice': A new vision for legal education and the legal profession." She is on leave as Executive Director/Lawyer from the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC). As a Law Foundation of Ontario Community Leadership in Justice Fellow at Osgoode in 2009, she researched access to justice and explored reflective practice as a core professional competency. She published an article about her action research entitled "[Conceptualizing Reflective Practice for Legal Professionals](#)". For six months in 2013/14 she continued her research in Canada, Australia and the U.K. including an energizing period as a Visiting Fellow at Australian National University.

Feminist Legal Studies Queen's and the Faculty of Law, Queen's University

She has organized seminars/workshops about reflective practice for students and faculty at a number of law schools and community legal clinics in Ontario and Australia. She has presented the Association of Canadian Clinical Legal Educators, Canadian Association of Law Teachers, Global Alliance for Justice Education, and Nottingham-Trent University (U.K.). She is a volunteer consultant to community-based legal services organizations seeking to enhance their work through reflective practice.

As a member of the International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) she has presented on access to justice at conferences in New Zealand (2009 – reaching hard-to-serve communities), and Netherlands (2013 – the critical role of trusted intermediaries). She volunteers with the Open Society Foundation's Justice Initiative and the Ukrainian International Renaissance Foundation to develop community-based legal clinics as a global legal empowerment initiative, organized a study tour, and presented in Ukraine (2010, 2012) and Turkey (2013, 2015), and participated in a paralegal training consultation in Nepal (2014). Her animating research interest is to develop holistic, proactive and responsive service delivery models for legal aid and to empower vulnerable communities. Her interests include legal literacy and legal capability as mobilizing and enabling strategies; rural and remote issues; and partnering with “trusted intermediaries” to further access to justice. Current “on the ground” projects include a libraries & justice initiative, and developing a justice & health partnership model for rural and remote communities.

As a member of the Canadian Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee, she chairs a new subcommittee on legal education. They will consult with key partners including law schools, legal educators and law students about how to engage students in access to justice, explore the concept of an “access to justice consciousness”, and other approaches.



Meg Lonergan Bio:

Meg Lonergan is a second year M.A candidate in the Department of Gender Studies at Queen's University. Her thesis research examines the *Bedford* decision (2013), *The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (2014), discourses which mark sex workers as a population overdetermined to experience violence and marked in opposition to “communities,” and how this deliberate political and policy ignorance contributes to the deaths of sex workers in Canada and in the UK. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science in Joint Honours Criminology and Women's Studies from the University of Ottawa. She is a committed sex worker's right activist and sex radical feminist who is obsessed with *Game of Thrones*.



Norah MacKendrick Bio:

Norah MacKendrick is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Her teaching and research fall within the sociology of gender, consumption, health and food. She is writing a book about the rise of precautionary consumption in the United States that considers how a broken regulatory system, expanding market for green products and active environmental health social movements have encouraged this individualized practice. Her research employs qualitative methodologies, such as grounded theory, in-depth interviews and discourse analysis. Her work appears in *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Consumer Culture*, *Sociological Inquiry* and *Contexts* magazine.



Vrinda Narain Bio:

Dr. Vrinda Narain is Associate Professor at McGill University where she holds a joint appointment in the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies. Her research and teaching focus on constitutional law, social diversity and feminist legal theory. She is the author of two books: *Reclaiming the Nation: Muslim Women and the Law in India* (University of Toronto Press, 2008) and *Gender and Community: Muslim Women's Rights in India* (University of Toronto Press, 2001).



Patricia Peppin Bio:

Patricia Peppin is Professor of Law at Queen's University's Faculty of Law. Her recent research focuses on women's health and law, drug liability and promotion, and consent and capacity. She teaches Health Law, Public Health Law and Torts and was awarded the Law Students' Society Teaching Award in March 2015. She has given presentations on aspects of off-label uses to the National Health Law Conference in Ottawa in 2015, the International Academy of Law and Mental Health Congress in Vienna in 2015, and the Law and Global Health Colloquium at the University College London in 2012.



Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat Bio:

Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat is an Anishinaabe-kwe elder of Wiigwaaskinaga. Anishinaabe is the Ojibwe language word to describe ourselves as a people. Kwe is the word for woman. Wiigwaaskinaga describes the place where the birch trees grow. These words are used for self-identification and for locating our place in the Cosmos.

For government purposes, Marie is a status "Indian" registered with Whitefish River First Nation, part of the Robinson Huron Treaty, located at Birch Island, Ontario. Birch Island is an indigenous community located on the North shore of Lake Huron, just north of Manitoulin Island, in Northeastern Ontario.

Marie lives "off-the-grid" on traditional indigenous territory within the borders of Whitefish River First Nation, harvesting wood from the land for fire-wood, accessing lake water for domestic use, and in a "tiny house" in the shelter of a cedar grove. Privacy, security, and personal safety are of prime importance.

Marie is a single parent to Benjamin, the son of an Anishinaabe of the Pitawanakwat clan, and deceased United States Army veteran.

Marie holds a BA from Trent University in Aboriginal Studies; an MBA from Queen's University; and a CELTA from Cambridge. Her work as a university instructor, evaluation researcher, academic department head, training services entrepreneur, and as an ESL instructor, has taken her to locations in Northwestern Ontario, Northern Manitoba, Northeastern Ontario, and in Japan. She currently lives quietly on traditional indigenous territory.



Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg Bio:

Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg PhD, MES, holds a Diploma in Physical Therapy (McGill University), a Masters in Environmental Studies (York University) and a PhD (University of Toronto). An education and film consultant, she researches, writes and speaks on environmental health, equality, social, economic and environmental justice, peace and energy issues. She has worked with the National Film Board, school boards, non governmental organizations, health professional and policy groups on these issues. She was principle research consultant and associate producer of the documentary video, **Exposure: Environmental Links to Breast Cancer** and researcher/writer of the accompanying guidebook Taking Action for a Healthy Future. She has led numerous training trainers workshops using these materials as educational tools. She researched and produced **Toxic Trespass**, a documentary on children's health and the environment as a co production with the National Film Board of Canada and has co-written the accompanying educational resource guide, Taking Action on Children's Health and the Environment.

Volunteer Education Coordinator of the Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN), she teaches **Environmental Health, Transformative Higher Education and Policy Change: Education for Social and Ecosystem Healing** at OISE/UT. She is affiliated with Prevent Cancer Now; the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition Environmental and Occupational working group; Stakeholders' Group of Canadian Cancer Society (Ontario Division), Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, the Cancer Prevention Group of the Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto (1995 -2005);, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Physicians for Global Survival, Greening OISE/UT, Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE), Sustainability Advisory Committee (OISE/UT) since 1993 and others.

Author, "Feminist Perspectives on Breast Cancer, Environmental Health and Primary Prevention: The Case for the Precautionary Principle" in Canadian Women Studies: An Introductory Reader, Third Edition, Inanna Publications and Education Inc. (2015).

Co editor (with George Dei and Budd Hall) of Indigenous Knowleges: Multiple Readings of Our World, University of Toronto Press (2000).

Her awards include:

Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, a Governor General of Canada Award;

United Nations Environmental Program Award (UNEP) for Environmental Stewardship

Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Award for Cancer Prevention.

Biophilia (Love of Life) Award of the Jazzpur Society of Windsor

2005 Woman of the Year Award, American Biographical Institute

The Rosalie Bertell Award for Exemplary Public service 2009

The Tom Perry Award for Peace Education and Activism, Physicians for Global Survival 2010

The International Holistic Tourism Education Award for the Promotion of the International Peace Garden Program on Peace and Sustainability 2011

Award to Toxic Trespass, at the Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLIFF) "Best Health and Safety Documentary" from the Ontario Workers Health and Safety Centre (2009).

She is mother of Pamela Rosenberg Vennin and Matthew Jay Rosenberg and grandmother of Rosie Annabelle, Sydney Helena and Magali Elianne Vennin



Sule Tomkinson Bio:

I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas. My current research examines the intersection of front-line migration control and adjudication of non-citizens' rights claims in Canada and elsewhere. I completed my doctoral studies in the Department of Political Science at the Université de Montréal. My dissertation, "Contextualizing discretion: micro-dynamics of Canada's refugee determination system" is based on the first empirical study of refugee hearings in Canada. It is a critical analysis of Canada's refugee status determination system. It has been awarded the University of Montreal's Pierre Le François Award for the best dissertation defended in the Department of Political Science in 2014-2015. I also hold an MA degree in Theory and Practice of Human Rights from University of Essex completed with a Chevening Scholarship of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.