



Promises, Praxes, Paradigms:

Knowing and Acting for Change 30 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

March 28-29, 2025

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

All times referenced are in EDT.

Location: Robert Sutherland Hall, Policy Studies, 138 Union St., room #202 (main floor)

Friday, March 28, 2025

1:30-2:30 Registration and Networking light lunch – Policy Studies, Robert Sutherland Hall, 138 Union St., Kingston, Ont., Room #202

2:30 Conference Opening:

Welcome and Introduction to Goals of Conference

Bitá Amani, Faculty of Law and Co-Director, Feminist Legal Studies Queen's, Queen's University

Dean Colleen Flood's Welcome

2:40 Keynote Address:

The Indigenous Determinants of Planetary Health: Respect of the Feminine

PDF Visitor, Dr. Nicole Redvers, Western Research Chair and Director in Indigenous Planetary Health, Associate Professor; Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

4:00 Break

4:30-6:00 Panel I – Earthly Care: Toward Praxes of Listening, Learning, and Tending

Chair and Moderator: Lindsay Borrows

Lindsay Borrows, "Learning Law from Plants"

Program Changes (current to March 14, 2025)

Jessica Eisen, "The Unwritten Constitution and the More-than-Human World"

Jennifer Nedelsky, "Transforming Constitutionalism from a More-than-Human Perspective"

Pamela Spalding, "Making Space for Indigenous relationships with Plants in Aboriginal Law"

6:00-6:45 Dinner Break

6:45-8:15 Panel II – “Now more than Ever”: Fire - Not on the Side but In the Belly- Conversations on Leadership, Action, and Administration Towards Justice and Belonging with/in Better Futures

Chair and Moderator: Bitu Amani

Bev Baines, Kim Brooks, Nicole Redvers

8:15 Closing Remarks on Day One

8:30: Day 1 Adjourns

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Robert Sutherland Hall, Policy Studies, 138 Union St., room #202 (main floor)

8:15 Registration and light breakfast: Mix and Mingle

8:45 Welcome and Introduction to Day 2

8:50 Panel III The Geo-Politics and Praxes of Women’s Reproductive Rights and Justice

Chair and Moderator: TBC

Danielle Macdonald, Chloe Wong, Leah Sookhoo, Eva Purkey, Erna Snelgrove-Clark, Maria P. Velez, “Praxis of Pandemic Birth: Exploring Women’s Birth Experiences in Kingston, Ontario”

Natalie Holmes, “Colonization Through Canadian Healthcare: Maternal Medical Evacuations” (co-author, Michele Janet McIntosh)

Dana Repka, “Adolescent Decision-Making in Abortion Access: A Comparative Analysis of Argentina and Colombia Through the Lens of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”

Ladan Adhami Dorani, “The Tyranny of the Patriarchal Past into Present: Originalism and Women’s Reproductive Bodies”

10:25-10:40 Refreshment Break

Program Changes (current to March 14, 2025)

10:40 Panel IV: Entanglements of Broken Promises and Remediating Failures of Imagination and Action: (In)Equality and its Standard Deviations Across Time and Space

Chair and Moderator: TBC

Sharry Aiken, “Migrants, Refugees and the Shrinking Right to Equal and Effective Protection in Canada”

Jwalika Balaji “Fixing the Fragments: Mainstreaming Gender and Intersectionality in Indian Equality Jurisprudence” (Online)

Samantha Peters, “Intersectional Justice: Black Feminist Reimagining and Legal Rewriting”

Nancy Coldham, “The Standard Deviation of Broken Promises: A Review of the Unfulfilled Commitments of Women’s Equality Declarations +30 Years Beijing Action Plan”

12:10-12:50 Lunch

12:50 Panel V – The Violence of Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of Violence: Feminist Perspectives and the Materiality of Difference in Adjudicating Women’s Lived Realities

Chair and Moderator: Debra Haak

Debra Haak, “When Violence Against Women is Called Sex: Common Law Limits on Consent to Bodily Harm”

Elizabeth Sheehy, “The Normalization of Strangulation”

Lise Gotell, “On Display: Pornography and the Rough Sex Defense in Canadian Law”

1:55-2:10 Stretch Break

2:10 Panel VI - Credibility and Performativity of Legal Paradigms in Real and Cyber Space: The Burden(s) of and Current Limitations in the Quest for Justice

Chair and Moderator: TBC

Sabrina Khela, “Rethinking the Burden of Proof for Sexual Harassment Survivors and Victims”

Jane Bailey and Penelope Simons, “Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence and the BHR Normative Framework”

Monica Arango Olaya, “Can We Never Escape the Law? Digital Feminism in India” (Online)

Sarah Ailwood, “Did #MeToo matter? Translating Feminist Digital Activism into Law Reform” (Online)

3:45-4:00 Refresh Break

Program Changes (current to March 14, 2025)

4:00 Panel VII: When the Personal is Political and All the World's A Stage: Meaning Making in Sports, Fashion, Theatre, and the Poetics of Heart Felt Movement(s)

Chair and Moderator: TBC

Erin Durant, "The Cost of Exclusion: Gender and Power in Canada's Sport System"

Montana Cardinal "Fashion Law and Digital Culture, a site for female empowerment: An Indigenous settler Legal Feminist Perspective"

Katherine Bischooping, "Behind the Scenes of a Project to Expand the Theatre Canon"

Bahar Karbakhsh, "The Heart of the Matter"

5:30 Conference Wrap Up and Adjournment

Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory. As uninvited guests who live, learn, work, and play here, we acknowledge with gratitude the traditional holders and stewards of this land whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

IMPORTANT EVENT INFORMATION

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We'd like to thank the sponsors of this event, including the Queen's University Principal's Development fund and the Faculty of Law at Queen's University.