



Sex, Law, and the Legal Form: The Sexual Contract Revisited

Monday 2nd December 2024, 4.30pm

Meeting Room G, SLSJ Building

Joint Liverpool Public Law Unit (LPLU) and Feminist Legal Research and Action Network (FRAN) event.

Despite, or perhaps because of, its championing by feminists, the rise of consent to prominence in both criminal rape law and the social imaginary over the last 50 years can be said to be a project of neoliberal governmentality that is focused on fostering particular forms of self-mastery and sexual agency by transforming intimate relationships into contractual ones. In turn, the prominence of consent as a legal standard obscures the role of legal form and status property in determining the parameters of sexual violence law. Through case studies of consent apps and campus sex education, this talk will address the contemporary law of consent and its construction of social relations in the 21st century. What, if anything, is the role of law in meeting our emancipatory demands to be free from sexual harm? Is it doomed to refigure these demands for the purposes of promoting market values and Individual responsibility?

Jenny Logan is a PhD candidate in Law at Birkbeck College, University of London, where she researches the law and political economy of US sexual violence. Jenny is an attorney and has been a visiting professor at the University of Oregon School of Law; and an advocate and organizer for the rights of immigrants, incarcerated persons, and houseless and low-income tenants. Jenny's writing has appeared in *Feminist Legal Studies*, *Frontiers in Medical Sociology*, *Theory and Psychology*, and the *Journal of Housing and Community Development Law*. Jenny currently teaches at SOAS, University of London and the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research.



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