

Organized by the Latin American Studies Association
Sexualities, and Gender and Feminist Studies Sections
Pre-Conference

Gender, Sexuality and Struggles for Justice in Latin America: Legal, Political and Social Dimensions

*Sponsored by
Washington College of Law Impact Litigation Project, and
American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies*

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Room 602
Washington, D.C. 20016

**May 29, 2013
9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

Over the last twenty years, legal activism has become a dominant tool for advancing gender and sexuality rights in the Americas. A region usually known for its Catholic religiosity and patriarchal institutions has expanded gender and sexual rights in an unprecedented manner as we have seen the enactment of anti-violence and anti-discrimination legislation, gay marriage and the world's most progressive gender-identity law. What accounts for this phenomenon? What explains the uneven success of this legal approach to social justice issues? And, what has it actually meant for the concrete struggles of gendered, sexualized, and racialized social groups?

Convened by the Latin American Studies Association's (LASA) Gender and Feminist Studies, and Sexualities Studies Sections, and sponsored by the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the Impact Litigation Project at American University Washington College of Law, this third co-organized Pre-Conference brings together scholars, activists and legal practitioners from across the hemisphere to discuss these questions raised by Latin America's transformations of gender and sexuality rights. Particular attention will be given to the possibilities and limitations of legal activism for the pursuit of social justice and equity issues.

AGENDA

Welcoming Remarks

9:00 am - 9:30 am

Horacio Sivori,
Centro Latinoamericano en Sexualidad y Derechos Humanos,
Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Constanza Tabbush, Investigadora - CONICET
Instituto Interdisciplinario de Estudios de Género
Universidad de Buenos Aires

Panel I: Legal struggles

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Parallel and often prior to mainstreaming into public policy and specific legislation, women's rights, marriage reform, and LGBT rights have been secured by pioneer strategic litigation and jurisprudence. As with other social movements, both longstanding legal doctrine and emerging arguments have been mobilized by timely alliances among social and legal activists and experts, politicians, and other scholars; while conservative opponents also exercise their own understandings of current legal and scientific frameworks. In this panel, legal scholars and activists engaged with feminist and LGBT causes in Latin America will offer an overview of several decades of legal activism, addressing both what it means to litigate cases with gender and sexuality perspectives and what impact these perspectives have on legal changes throughout Latin America.

Victor Madrigal, Attorney with the Inter American Commission of Human Rights, LGBT rights Unit.

Mauricio Albarracín, Colombian attorney with Colombia Diversa

Macarena Sáez, Faculty Director, Impact Litigation Project at WCL

Stefano Fabeni, Heartland Alliance (TBC)

Moderators:

Constanza Tabbush, Universidad de Buenos Aires and
Jordi Diez, Associate Professor, University of Guelph

Panel II: Social Justice, (In)equalit(ies), and Rights as Practice: Learning from Lived Experience

11:15 am - 1:00 pm

The second panel of our pre-conference focuses on the workings of social justice as lived gendered, classed, sexualized and racialized relations. It explores the entanglements of diverse groups with legal discourses of rights, and the possibilities and limitations of legal guarantees of equality and access. Who is protected, how and under what conditions?

Gabriela Arguedas, Escuela de Filosofía, Universidad de Costa Rica

Leslie Rosario Moncada, Latina Support Services Coordinator, EMPOWERHOUSE, Washington D.C., and member of Madre Tierra, Virginia, a Latina immigrant women's human rights organization.

Dilcia Margoth Molina, Coordinadora, Proyecto de Género y Salud, La Clínica del Pueblo, Washington, D.C., and founder of Madre Tierra, Virginia.

Pamela Calla, Clinical Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, NYU

Moderators:

Verónica Schild, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario and
Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Professor, Rutgers University

Lunch (provided to all participants)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Discussion Session: A Dialogue Across Differences: possibilities and limitations of legal activism for the pursuit of social justice and equity issues

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A final session will open the floor to debate, revisiting and addressing cross cutting issues. Both panelists and audience members are encouraged to participate.

Participants: TBA

Moderators:

Elisabeth Jay Friedman, Professor, University of San Francisco and
Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui, Associate Professor, Rutgers University

Closing Remarks

4:00 pm-4:30 pm

Verónica Schild, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario
Jordi Diez, Associate Professor, University of Guelph

**Registration is free but required – please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration.
For further information, contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education,
202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu.**