

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# The Feminism and Legal Theory Project at 30: Sex and Reproduction – From Privacy and Choice to Resilience and Opportunity?

November 15 - 16, 2013

Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia

*The summer of 2013 marks the beginning of the 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the Feminism and Legal Theory Project. During the 2013-2014 academic year we will be looking at the history and impact of feminist legal theory in a variety of key areas of concern to those interested in the institutionalization, construction, and maintenance of gender and gender differences, as well as broader issues of social and economic justice.*

*Following in the footsteps of early feminist legal scholarship, the first areas for consideration are those of sex and reproduction. Future workshops will focus on gendered violence, the workplace, and the family. One overarching question in all the sessions will be: what is the role for and future of feminist legal theory in a “post-egalitarian” world – a world in which adherence to principles of gender-neutrality and gender-equality dominate legal discussions and distinctions based on gender differences are suspect?*

*The November workshop on sex and reproduction will also mark the formal opening of the Catherine G. Roraback Archive at Emory Law School. The workshop will be dedicated to Katie and her pioneering work on behalf of reproductive rights and justice.*

### Workshop Contacts:

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### Submissions Procedure:

Email a proposal as a Word or PDF document by August 5, 2013 to Yvana Mols at: [ymols@emory.edu](mailto:ymols@emory.edu)

\*\*Decisions will be made by August 16<sup>th</sup> and working paper drafts will be due October 21<sup>st</sup> so they can be duplicated and distributed prior to the Workshop

### Workshop Details:

The Workshop begins Friday at 4PM with a reception in the MacMillan Law Library and the dedication of the Roraback Archive. This will be followed by panel presentations in room 575 of Emory Law School (1301 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA) at 5:15PM.

A dinner in the Hunter Atrium will follow the Friday session. Panels continue on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 5PM and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

### Issues For Discussion May Include:

- How broadly should the concept of “right” be defined in regard to sex and reproduction?
- What are the limitations and strengths of a rights approach to sex and reproduction and are they different for people across the gender spectrum?
- Does the concept of “reproductive justice” offer a more comprehensive approach to issues around reproduction, specifically bringing in questions concerning structural inequalities beyond reproductive biology? What might feminist legal theory have to offer to frameworks of reproductive justice?
- Should there be a positive “right to reproduce” and how would that be anchored in policy and practice? Would it apply to men and transpeople as well as to women – could it be implemented gender-neutrally?
- How can a historical perspective inform the development of feminist legal theory about reproductive politics? How are contemporary issues different from those encountered in the past, and to what extent might they be similar?
- What theoretical muddles exist at the intersection of political and legal approaches to sex, reproduction, and family and can feminist legal theory contribute to un-muddling them?
- How have the concepts of “choice” and “agency” shaped the development of feminist legal theory and what are the implications of that shaping for contemporary issues concerning reproduction?
- What explains the current politics of reproduction and what role has feminist framing played in the construction of those politics?
- Are ideas about reproductive issues shaped by attitudes toward women and sexuality? How have these relationships changed over time?
- How does reproductive technology factor into contemporary feminist legal theory?
- Where do we locate the rights of the child conceived by reproductive technology? How might this inform our approach to identity, biology and the right to know one’s past?
- How does adoption factor into contemporary feminist legal theory?
- What has been the role of religion in shaping the politics of reproduction?
- What are the limitations of using feminist theory as a basis for the critique and reform of laws governing sex and related to reproduction? What are the strengths of doing so?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of thinking about sex and sexuality as well as reproductive issues in universal, rather than gendered or identity terms (ie: using a vulnerability/resilience