

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Feminism and Legal Theory Project at 30:

A Workshop on the Transformation of Family and the Recognition and Regulation of Intimate Lives

December 6-7, 2013

Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia

The summer of 2013 marks the beginning of the 30th 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 on the footsteps of our workshop on sex and reproduction as an area of early feminist legal scholarship, we will consider the transformation of the “family,” and our approach to intimate entities. Future workshops will focus on gendered violence and the workplace. One overarching question in all the sessions is: 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?

Workshop Contacts:

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Submissions Procedure:

Email a proposal as a Word or PDF document by September 12, 2013 to Yvana Mols at: ymols@emory.edu

**Decisions will be made by September 20th and working paper drafts will be due November 9th so they can be duplicated and distributed prior to the Workshop.

Workshop Details:

The Workshop begins Friday at 4PM in room 575 of Emory Law School (1301 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA). 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 is the answer to who or what constitutes a family different today than it was mid-20th century? How does the answer to that question change across societies and cultures?
- How does the contemporary approach to the family affect our understandings of gender and sexuality? Of other facets of identity?
- What is the relationship of the family to dependency and vulnerability?
- What are the cultural, economic and legal forces shaping the trends in family formation over the past decades?
- What are the expressive and channeling functions of law in regard to the family and intimate relationships and how have they changed over time?
- How can an historical perspective inform the development of feminist legal theory about the family and our intimate lives?
- How are contemporary family and intimacy legal issues conceptualized differently 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 the family and intimacy? Can feminist legal theory contribute to un-muddling them?
- How have the concepts of “equality” and “agency” shaped the development of feminist legal theory and what are the implications of that shaping for contemporary issues concerning family and intimacy? What explains the current politics and past cultural wars around the family and what role has feminist framing played in the shaping of those politics?
- How might feminist insights on the public/private divide contribute to understanding the legal regulation of family amidst the increasing privatization of public goods? How have our attitudes and approaches to children and the family changed over time?
- Where should we locate the balance between parental rights and the rights or interests of the child? How would a rebalancing of those rights alter our conception of the family and its relation to the state?
- What are the limitations of using feminist theory as a basis for the critique and reform of laws governing family and intimacy? What are the strengths of doing so?
- How have expectations about the family’s role in caring for dependency shifted, and how do these expectations match up with the realities of contemporary families?
- Beyond the legal conception of the family, what other disciplines might dictate how we think about the family? How might these other fields helpfully or harmfully refract back upon a legal conception?