



Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium

HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND JUSTICE: International and Comparative Perspectives



February 15, 2025



Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

**The Ved Nanda Center for
International & Comparative Law**

Leonard v.B. Sutton Colloquium **Human Rights and Reproductive Justice:** **International and Comparative Perspectives**

February 15, 2015

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Ricketson Law Building

Room 165

8:30 - 9:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 Welcome Remarks

Bruce Smith, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Kelley Loper, Director of the Ved Nanda Center for International & Comparative Law

9:45 Keynote Address
The Discriminatory Dimensions of Reproductive Health

Rebecca J. Cook, Professor Emerita & Co-Director,
International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law
Program, University of Toronto

Moderator: Nancy Leong, Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship & Provost Professor, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

10:30 Break



10:45 Panel 1: Reproductive Rights within Constitutional Frameworks: Legal Interpretations and Their Implications

Moderator: Rashmi Goel, Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Synthesis Theorisation

Gauri Pillai, University of Bristol Law School

Empowering Women's Rights: Unleashing the Multilevel Power of Feminist Constitutionalism in Abortion

Melina Girardi Fachin, Federal University of Paraná

The Constitutional Fight for the Complete Decriminalisation of Abortion: Nepal and the Rights-Based Approach in Comparative Perspective

Mara Malagodi, Warwick Law School, University of Warwick

Q&A Session

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Panel 2: Reproductive Rights Through the Lens of Regional Human Rights Protection Instruments

Moderator: Rebecca Aviel, Professor of Law and Maxine Kurtz Faculty Research Scholar, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Inter-American Reproductive Autonomy

Rosa Celorio, George Washington University Law School

Abortion and the European Court of Human Rights

Fiona de Londras, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham

(Un)Breathing Life into the Maputo protocol: A Critique of the African Commission's decision on maternal mortality

Satang Nabaneh, University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Q&A Session



2:45 Break

3:15 Panel 3: Advancing Reproductive Justice: Ensuring Bodily Autonomy and Equity in Access to Healthcare

Moderator: Alan Chen, Thompson G. Marsh Alumni Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

From the Right to Choose to the Virtuous Victim: Advocacy for Reproductive Autonomy in the United States

Carole Petersen, William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa

This is Not a Tango - Latin America Conscientious Objection Clauses in Healthcare

Agustina Ramón Michel, Law School of the University of Palermo

Intersex Rights & Reproductive Justice

Holning Lau, University of North Carolina School of Law

Q&A session

4:45 Concluding Remarks

5:00 End

5:15 Reception– Room 412, University of Denver Sturm College of Law



Speakers Biographies

Rosa Celorio is the Burnett Family Associate Dean and Distinguished Lecturer for International and Comparative Law and Policy at the George Washington University Law School. Previously, she worked for more than a decade as a Senior Attorney for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), where she held several leadership positions, including the supervision of all the legal work performed by the specialized Rapporteurships on women, LGBTIQ+ persons, Indigenous peoples, racial discrimination, and children. She has worked in the fields of international human rights law, intersectional discrimination, and gender issues for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN Women) and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She teaches and writes frequently on women's rights, gender, human rights, and international law issues. Among her recent publications are *The New Gender Perspective: The Dawn of Intersectional Autonomy in Women's Rights* (Chicago Journal of International Law, Spring 2024) and *Women and International Human Rights in Modern Times: A Contemporary Casebook* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022).

Rebecca J. Cook is Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Medicine and the Joint Centre for Bioethics, and Co-Director, International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program, University of Toronto. She has served on various advisory boards, including for the World Health Organization, and continues to serve as the ethical and legal issues co-editor of the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. She has authored or co-authored amicus briefs on international and comparative reproductive health law for various apex courts, including those in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and the US, and the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Her most recent edited publications include *Frontiers of Gender Equality: Transnational Legal Perspectives* (UPenn Press, 2023), *Abortion Law in Transnational Perspective: Cases and Controversies*, co-edited with J. Erdman & B. Dickens (UPenn Press, 2014).

Fiona de Londras is the Barber Professor of Jurisprudence at Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham (UK). She is a human rights lawyer with a specialism in reproductive rights and has acted as advisor and researcher to politicians involved in abortion law reform in Ireland, the UK and Gibraltar. She led the law and policy research for the WHO's 2022 Abortion Care Guideline.



Melina Girardi Fachin is the Dean of the Law School and an Associate Professor at the Federal University of Paraná, Brazil. She holds a Ph.D. in Constitutional Law with a focus on Human Rights and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. Her research interests include the intersection of constitutional law and human rights, as well as feminist constitutionalism.

Holning Lau is the Willie Person Mangum Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He is also a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at UCLA's Williams Institute. He also chairs the UNC SOGIESC Human Rights Initiative, in which he works with students on pro bono projects concerning LGBTQI rights. He has served as a consultant on LGBTQI rights to organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the International Commission of Jurists. His research focuses on international human rights and comparative constitutional law pertaining to gender, sexuality, and family life.

Mara Malagodi is an Associate Professor in Law at Warwick Law School, University of Warwick, UK. She is a comparative constitutional lawyer and socio-legal scholar with a linguistically-informed specialism in South Asian law and politics, human rights law, gender and law. Dr Malagodi is the co-Editor in Chief of *Constitutional Studies*, the journal of the International Association of Constitutional Law. Dr Malagodi is, among numerous other publications, the author of *The Constitutional System of Nepal* (Hart forth. 2025), a co-editor of the Hart series *Asian Comparative Constitutional Law* and the volume *Gender, Sexuality and Constitutionalism in Asia* (Hart 2024).

Satang Nabaneh is the Director of Programs and Research Professor of Law at the University of Dayton Human Rights Center. She is affiliated faculty in the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and a Global Fellow at the Centre on Law & Social Transformation. Her research encompasses global human rights architecture, sexual and reproductive health and rights, democratization, and autocratization. She was named one of 10 exceptionally talented African scholars to watch in 2024 by The Africa Report. She is the author of *Choice and Conscience: Lessons from South Africa for a Global Debate*, (PULP, 2023).

Carole J. Petersen is the Cades Foundation Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is a former Director of the University of Hong Kong's Centre for Comparative and Public Law. She has authored and edited numerous publications on human rights in Hong-Kong. Her recent publications on reproductive rights include *Women's Right to Equality and Reproductive Autonomy: The Impact of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 45(2) *University of Hawaii Law Review* 305 (2023); and *The*



Impact of the Pandemic on Reproductive Autonomy and Gender Equality: Perspectives from the Sustainable Development Agenda, Law and Development Review (2024).

Gauri Pillai is a Lecturer-in-Law at the University of Bristol Law School, UK. She was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence and Assistant Professor of Law at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. She was awarded her PhD by the University of Oxford where she was Managing Editor of the Oxford Human Rights Hub. She researches, writes and teaches on comparative constitutional law, discrimination law, human rights law and reproductive rights and justice. Her monograph on constitutional reproductive rights in India is forthcoming with the Cambridge University Press.

Agustina Ramón Michel is an Adjunct Professor at the Law School of the University of Palermo, where she teaches gender and health law and policies, and an Associate Researcher at the Department of Health of CEDES (Center for the Study of State and Society), Argentina. She is currently the Principal Investigator of WHO's multicountry study on abortion policies in five Latin American countries. She has published extensively in this field and has contributed to the drafting of several legal documents on abortion in Latin America. She is a member of the executive committee of the Argentinian chapter of the International Society of Public Law (ICON) and the Red Alas, a network of law academics and scholars working on gender and sexuality in Latin America. She recently co-edited two books: *La objeción de conciencia en el área de salud* (Siglo del Hombre, Uniandes, 2024) and *Autonomía y Feminismos* (Didot, 2022)

Please scan the QR code to access the presenters' abstracts.

