

International Workshop Program

*The Police and Sex Work
then and now*

August 13 & 14 2019
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Organisation:

Mira Fey, *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)*,
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Registration: Free of charge. Send your name and, if applicable, organisation to
the organisers asap, but no later than **August 1st**.

Location:

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, Berlin

The exact venue will be communication to registered participants only.

Tuesday, 13.08.2019

10:00-11:30 Pre-Conference event in co-operation with the
anti-trafficking review

Rights, Repression and Resistance: Sex workers and the law.
Presentation of Anti-Trafficking Review issue 12, 'Sex Work'

Sharmila Parmanand, University of Cambridge
Alexandra Tigchelaar, Concordia University
Calogero Giametta, Aix-Marseille University

13:15-14:00 Welcome and Introduction

14:15-15:45 Panel 1: *Sex workers' experiences with police – threat
and protection?*

Inbal Wilamowski – The Hebrew University in
Jerusalem
*The Legitimacy of the Police Through the Eyes of
Prostitution Survivors/Sex Workers in Israel*

Theresa Herrmann – York University
*An investigation of sex worker inclusion in the practice
of agencies that have a focus on the sex industry*

30 min break

16:15-17:45 Panel 2: *Canada and the policing of sex work(ers)*

Menaka Raguparan – Carleton University
*Racialized and Indigenous Indoor Sex Workers
Encounters with Law Enforcement*

Alexandra Tigchelaar – Concordia University
*Sex Work, the Police, the Media and Montreal: A
Vexed Relationship*

30 min break

18:15-19:45 Keynote

Alison Clancey and Frances Mahon (SWAN Vancouver)
*Immigration enforcement of migrant sex work in
Canada*

Wednesday, 14.08.2019

10:00–11:30

Panel 3: Policing sex work in the 1960s and 1970s

Priska Komaromi – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
*Policing prostitution and femininity under Hungarian
'consumer socialism': the case of Anna and her
associates, 1972*

Annalisa Martin – Birkbeck, University of London
*Policing sex in the West German city: Commercial sex
in Hamburg and Cologne in the long 1960*

Lunch break

12:30–14:00

Panel 4: Changing spaces of prostitution over time

Liana Kupreishvili – IOS Regensburg
*Didube-Chigureti quarter 'former' red-light District of
Tbilisi*

Benjamin Abt – Université de Genève
*Spaces of male sex work in Switzerland 1985-2000
and the role of police between threat and security*

30 min break

14:30-16:00

Panel 4: Ethnographic research of policing sex work

Julia Leser – University of Leipzig
*Performing the body of normalcy: vice squad officers
as 'moral bureaucrats'*

Anna Di Ronco – University of Essex
*Local collaborative prostitution governance and the
policing of sex work: evidence from two European
cities*

30 min break

16:30-18:00

Panel 5: Repression and resistance

Amanda De Lisio – Bournemouth
University/University of Toronto
*Negotiating Military Urbanism in the Olympic City: Sex
Work and Securitisation in Rio de Janeiro*

Lise Woensdregt – VU Amsterdam
*"We will show them we are human like anyone else":
Repressive police practices and sex workers'
positioning in Nairobi*

30 min break

18:30-20:00

Crossings: The stories of migrant sex workers

Intro to the movie by Benjamin Abt, screening and
discussion



Rights, Repression and Resistance: Sex workers and the law

Presentation of *Anti-Trafficking Review* issue 12, 'Sex Work'

Tuesday, 13 August 2019

Humboldt-University, Berlin

10:00-11:30 am

Sex work remains a contentious issue among feminists and human rights activists, some of whom see it as a form of labour, and others as a form of violence against women. The frequent conflation of sex work with human trafficking in the past two decades has increased the marginalisation and stigmatisation of sex workers and led to violent intrusions by state and non-state actors in their lives. At the level of legislation, most states continue to favour repressive policies that lead to further human rights abuses against sex workers.

Despite these negative developments, there has been growing international recognition that the decriminalisation of sex work is the best policy to protect sex workers' human rights and promote access to justice and healthcare. This policy model is now supported by major global organisations working in the fields of health, human rights, women's rights and LGBTI rights. The sex worker rights movement is also growing stronger and making itself heard.

This event will share recent research on some of the current challenges – and successes – of the sex worker rights movement, published in the [latest issue of the journal *Anti-Trafficking Review*](#) on "Sex work". Speakers will reflect on the discourse preceding the adoption of the "Swedish model" in France and Canada and its consequences for sex workers, as well the impact of the "war on drugs" on sex workers in the Philippines. The presentations will be followed by a discussion/Q & A session.

Speakers:

Sharmila Parmanand, University of Cambridge

Alexandra Tigchelaar, Concordia University

Calogero Giametta, Aix-Marseille University

Facilitated by: Borislav Gerasimov, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women / *Anti-Trafficking Review* & Sonja Dolinsek, Humboldt-University, Berlin