



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

Women and International Law Program

A Workshop on Comparative Family Law:
What is the Global Family?
Family Law in Decolonization, Modernization and Globalization

American University Washington College of Law
Friday & Saturday, March 20-21, 2009

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

3:00- 3:10 Welcome

Dean Claudio Grossman and Ann Shalleck, Washington College of Law

3:15-4:15 The Evolution of Family Law in the United States and in the World

Opening remarks, Duncan Kennedy, Harvard Law School and Janet Halley, Harvard Law School

4:15-5:30 Framing Comparative Family Law

This introductory panel offers a frame to begin our conversation on methods, genealogies, hidden agendas and policy implications of CFL.

Chair: Ann Shalleck, Washington College of Law

- Fernanda Nicola, Washington College of Law
- Kerry Abrams, University of Virginia School of Law
- Sylvia Kang'ara, University of Washington Law School
- Isabel Jaramillo, Universidad de los Andes
- Kerry Rittich, University of Toronto

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:00- 10:30 Post-colonial Family Law: Colonization, De-Colonization

Questions: What is the traditional role that family law plays in colonization/decolonization and nation building by creating a local culture or transplanting western ideas? Does your work offer alternative genealogies or unmask hidden agendas to traditional accounts of family law? What is comparative about the methodologies or analyses that these questions invoke?

Chair: Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Washington College of Law

- Yun-Ru Chen, Harvard Law School
- Rawia Aburabia, Washington College of Law
- Havva Guney, Harvard Law School
- Macarena Saez, Washington College of Law
- Bianca Gardella Tedeschi, Università del Piemonte Orientale

10:45- 12:15 Modernization and Tradition in the Identity of the Family

Questions: In what ways does family law in academic projects or regulatory policies of the modern state represent a crucial element of legal and/or social modernization? In what sense do these questions move us to compare family law or other legal regimes that implicate the family?

Chair: Janet Halley, Harvard Law School

- Michelle McKinley, University of Oregon
- Lisa Jabaily, Washington College of Law
- Lisa Kelly, Harvard Law School
- Philomila Tsoukala, Georgetown Law School
- Maria Rosaria Marella, University of Perugia

12:15- 1:15 Lunch

1:15- 3:15 The Economic Family

Questions: What are the economic uses of family law institutions? What are the distributive outcomes of regulatory regimes on family members? What is the relation between domestic and international legal orders: for instance, how do international trade and economic development policies enlist the family as a site of economic regulation? Does asking these questions help us to compare?

Chair: Kerry Rittich, University of Toronto

- Ann Shalleck, Washington College of Law
- Daniela Kraiem, Washington College of Law
- Claire Smearman, University of Baltimore
- Adrienne Davis, Washington University in St. Louis
- Barbara Stark, Hofstra University
- Kathleen Lahey, Queen's University

3:30- 5:30 Comparative Rights/Identity Discourses in Family Law as Public Policy

Questions: How is the family increasingly politicized? We would like panelists to think about individual rights orientation, criminalization of behaviors and more broadly about the constitutionalization of the family. What are the emerging rights/identity discourses in comparative constitutional law or criminal law relating to the family? Can we imagine a comparative critique of rights?

Chair: Pamela Bridgewater, Washington College of Law

- Rachel Rebouche, Washington College of Law
- Libby Adler, Northeastern University
- Pascale Fournier, Ottawa School of Law
- Aya Gruber, Florida International University
- Jennifer Reich, University of Denver
- Ummni Khan, Carleton University

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