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## Loving Laws: Making sense of sentiment in the retention of laws criminalizing same-sex sex in the English speaking Caribbean

Time: 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Location: GSWS Conference Room (3810 Walnut St.)

Please join us for lunch and discussion with Tracy Robinson  
*Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, at Mona;  
Former Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)*

I and many others have been involved in strategic litigation in the English speaking Caribbean that challenges the constitutionality of laws criminalizing same-sex sex. Many of us rely heavily on forms of legal reason, to question laws that criminalize same sex sexuality. The popular historical rationalist critique that nationalists in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean are defending laws that are the product of colonialism has remarkably little traction where these laws still exist. Our approaches tend to ignore the emotional content of public reason and the deeply affective relationship of many Caribbeans to laws criminalizing same-sex sex, what I call one of loving laws. In this presentation, I will consider some of the networks, relations and processes that have contributed to the affective politics surrounding criminalization in the Caribbean, including the modernization of criminal law and practice in the late 19th century, constitutional practices of continuity and 'saving' laws as well as gendered and sexualized international legal rhetoric.

RSVP

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