

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society proudly presents:

A Distinguished Lecture Series in honour of ARCSHS 25th and La Trobe University's 50th anniversary celebrations

ARCSHS is turning 25! To celebrate we're hosting a Distinguished Lecture Series showcasing senior academics from Australia and abroad discussing contemporary issues in sexuality, health and the social dimensions of human relationships.

The lecture series will commence in October 2016 with one lecture per month until late 2017. Please join us at the first lecture.

Do Definitions Matter? Data, Law and Decision Making in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Professor Sofia Gruskin J.D., MIA, Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Gould School of Law, University of Southern California. Director, Program on Global Health & Human Rights.

As with any issue where politics are involved, the sexual rights landscape can only be understood by attention to its history. Sexual rights – particularly the definitions and standards promoted by health and development organizations, human rights bodies, governments and advocates – are reflective of larger political currents and social movements locally and at global level. Despite advances in recent years, there have been many setbacks. At the end of 2016, a number of issues present themselves for discussion and debate. Underlying all of them are differences in perspective as to the topics and rights encompassed under the sexual rights rubric, as well as whether sexual rights are primarily to be valued for their own sake, or for their potential to improve health outcomes. Supporting the sexual rights of all populations will benefit from cross-topic, cross-region, and cross-generational learning that engages with the complexities of gender and human rights issues in sexual and reproductive health research, programming and education.

Date: Thursday 6th October 2016, 6.00pm - 7.30 pm

Location: [Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society \(ARCSHS\)](#)
215 Franklin St, Melbourne 3000.

Contact: Wendy Heywood arcschs25lectures@latrobe.edu.au

RSVP essential: [Book now](#)

Sofia Gruskin is Professor of Preventive Medicine in the Keck School of Medicine, and Professor of Law and Preventive Medicine in the Gould School of Law at the University of Southern California, where she is also Director of the Program on Global Health and Human Rights in the USC Institute for Global Health. For nearly three decades, her work has been central to conceptual, methodological, policy and practice development in health and human rights, with a focus on child and adolescent health, gender-based violence, HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and health systems change. She serves on numerous boards and committees internationally and is the principal investigator for UNDP, WHO and UNFPA sponsored projects to strengthen health and human rights. Other partnerships include with the Open Society Foundation, and universities and local organisations in Brazil and Vietnam.



This lecture was organised with support from the UNSW Practical Justice Initiative and the Australia Forum on Sexuality, Education and Health.

Upcoming lectures:

Incipient Individuals? Gender, Sexuality and Subjectivity in Contemporary Oceania

Professor Margaret Jolly, Professor in the School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University



In this talk I will reflect on whether we are witnessing an incipient individualism in contemporary Oceania, what processes might be catalysing that and how differently gendered and sexual subjects are situated in such processes. Social theorists have often plotted a binary between autonomous individuals and relational persons and grounded that in the imaginary landscapes of the 'West' and 'non-West'. Oceania, the sea of islands of the Pacific has been a privileged locale for such arguments. Contemporary transformations consequent on land dispossession, commodity economics, biomedicine, Christianity and human rights discourses have all been implicated in debates about emergent or incipient individualism. Through an analysis of research across several Pacific countries carried out by a team of scholars on our ARC Laureate project *Engendering Persons, Transforming Things* I will argue for the dynamic co-presence of these rival models of the person and reflect on how they are gendered and sexualised in debates about land dispossession, bride price, gender violence, HIV and sexual citizenship.

Date: Wednesday 2th November 2016, 6.00pm - 7.30 pm

Location: [Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society \(ARCSHS\)](#)

215 Franklin St, Melbourne 3000

Contact: Wendy Heywood arcschs25lectures@latrobe.edu.au

RSVP essential: [Book now](#)

40 Years of Gay Activism

Emeritus Professor Dennis Altman AM, Professorial Fellow in Human Security, La Trobe University

Forty years ago homosexual behaviour between men was criminalised in most of Australia, and homosexuality was widely regarded as a psychological and social disorder. Today a majority of Australians support same sex marriage, and the United Nations Secretary General consistently speaks out against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. How do we explain the rapidity of the shifts in attitudes, and what remains of the gay liberationist critique from the early 1970s?



Date: Wednesday 7th December 2016, 6.00pm - 7.30 pm

Location: [Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society \(ARCSHS\)](#)

215 Franklin St, Melbourne 3000

Contact: Wendy Heywood arcschs25lectures@latrobe.edu.au

RSVP essential: [Book now](#)

