

Call for Papers

Beyond Critique?

a one day interdisciplinary postgraduate & early career scholars
conference in the broad areas of law, gender and sexuality

Friday 27th April 2007
Westminster University, London

Critique is an essential component of academic work in the law, gender and sexuality field – we are all trained in critical thinking and encouraged to critique existing practices and structures as well as the work of others. But is the job of academics simply to critique existing practices and structures? Can we, as academics, imagine new ways of living and new kinds of social and legal structures? The aim of this one-day postgraduate and early career scholars' conference is to discuss, in light of your own research, questions such as:

- What is there beyond critique?
- Can we go beyond imagining and arguing for new practices to contribute to their practical introduction/ implementation?
- What underpins and authorises imaginative and creative academic thinking (experience, other texts, the arts, research, conversation and dialogue, 'brain-waves')? How do we go about doing imaginative work?
- What gives 'beyond critique' credibility/ legitimacy so policy-makers, activists and legal professionals will pay new ideas attention?
- The mainstream legal academy often sees its role as proposing legal reforms - a stance rejected by legal critique - does going beyond critique simply lead us back to proposing reforms, ie, back to legal positivism? If this is something to avoid, how can it be avoided?
- How do we integrate, combine or straddle the different parts of our lives so our non-academic experiences and commitments (political, emotional, social) inform our academic work?

We aim to provide a supportive and friendly environment for postgraduates and early career scholars to present their work, meet fellow researchers and benefit from interdisciplinary exchange. **Please send a title and abstract (150-250 words) to Rosie Harding (rh83@kent.ac.uk) by Friday 12 January 2007.**

This conference is part of the 2007 PECANS workshop on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th April 2007 @ the University of Westminster, London. Day one of the two day workshop will include three sessions for postgraduate students and early career academics on:

- The writing process
- Career pathways for early career scholars
- How (not) to be a job applicant, with performances from **Didi Herman** and **Joanne Conaghan**.

For more information, see the PECANS website at <http://www.clgs-pecans.org.uk> or email Rosie Harding on rh83@kent.ac.uk