



Sydney Social
Sciences and
Humanities
Advanced
Research Centre

When

Monday and Tuesday,
27-28 August 2018
9.30am-5pm

Where

Menzies Common Room
Women's College
University of Sydney
15 Carillon Avenue

Invited Speakers

Hannah Landecker (UCLA)
Anna Grear (Cardiff)
David Delaney (Amherst)
Britta van Beers (VU, Amsterdam)
Bronwyn Parry (King's College, London)
Margaret Davies (Flinders, Adelaide)
Samuel Taylor-Alexander (Monash, Melb)
Courtney Addison (Monash, Melb)
Miquel Vatter (Flinders, Adelaide)
Catherine Mills (Monash, Melbourne)
Margrit Shildrick (Stockholm)
Catherine Trundle (Wellington)
Cressida Limon (Western Sydney)
Karen O'Connell (UTS)
Isabel Karpin (UTS)
Marc de Leeuw (UNSW)
Cameron Stewart (Sydney)
Rebecca Scott-Bray (Sydney)

Invited Discussants

Thomas Lemke (Goethe, Frankfurt)
Shobita Parthasarathy (Michigan)
Halam Stevens (Nanyang, Singapore)
Jennifer Hamilton (Hampshire)
Vincenzo Pavone (IPP, Madrid)
Ayo Wahlberg (Copenhagen)
Torsten Heinneman (Hamburg)
Catherine Waldby (ANU)
Brad Sherman (Queensland)
Fleur Johns (UNSW)
Maurizio Meloni (Deakin, Melb)
Robert Van Krieken (Sydney)
Neil MacLean (Sydney)
Nadine Ehlers (Sydney)
Sasha Callaghan (Sydney)

**Space for attendees is limited, please
rsvp at <https://bit.ly/2M5plzL>**

BRAVE NEW LAW

Legal Personhood in the New Biosciences

27-28 August 2018



Workshop description

The workshop starts with the premise that the new biosciences and their attendant technologies are currently testing the nature and structure of natural personhood as well as their related notion of personal rights. Hence, complex issues are emerging in the intersection of law and biology, an area of law that is quickly expanding and displaying highly composite problems that challenge existing legal regimes. Key questions include: What do the new biosciences do to our social, cultural, and legal conceptions of personhood? How does our legal apparatus incorporate new legitimations from the emerging biosciences into their knowledge systems? And what kind of ethical, socio-political, but also scientific consequences are attached to the establishment of such new legalities?

One objective is to examine these problems by looking at materialities, the posthuman, and the relational in the (un)making of legalities. Even so, another important objective of the workshop is to critically assess the “newness” of these legalities, and to compare them with earlier investigations of natural personhood.

Anthropological theory and feminist jurisprudence has long argued that the notion of personhood is foremost attached to Euro-American and phallogocentric notions of the person as being individuated and bounded. Might not this conjuncture be another instance of how society continues to reify and personify persons and things?

By bringing together legal scholars, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, cultural theorists, and political philosophers, the aim of the workshop is then to also evaluate the novelty and (alleged) urgency of the contemporary problems in law and biology. This latter will situate the present situation of legal personhood in a broader anthropological and historical context.