2019 John Ll. J. Edwards Lecture

The Sexual Politics of Anti-Trafficking Discourse



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Thursday November 28

5:00pm to 6:30pm – Reception to follow 14 Queen's Park Crescent West, Toronto

RSVP edwards2019.eventbrite.ca

If you are a person with a disability and require accommo dation, please contact Lori Wells at 416-946-5824 or email lori.wells@utoronto.ca and we will do our best to make appropriate arrangements.

Named after the founder of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, **John LI. J. Edwards** and sponsored by CrimSL, Faculty of Law, and Woodsworth College, this is an annual public lecture on issues related to criminal law, crime, policing, punishment, and security

The anti-trafficking field has gone from a preoccupation with sex work to addressing exploitation in varied labour sectors, as reflected in the mainstreaming of the term 'modern slavery'. Yet, the expectation that all forms of extreme labour exploitation would attract the equal application of anti-trafficking law has not been realized.

Cultures of 'sex work exceptionalism' persist and are gaining strength around the world.

In my lecture, I ask why. I interrogate the sexual politics of anti-trafficking discourse and examine what this has meant for long-term struggles for a politics of redistribution within the sex sector. I also reflect on how anti-trafficking campaigns play out in postcolonial contexts, and consider what this means for retheorising the sexual politics of anti-trafficking discourse.

