

# DR. KAMARI M. CLARKE

## Law at the Nexus of Politics: Humanitarian Sentimentality in the Rule of Law Movement

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 | 4:10-6PM

Jackman Humanities Building 100A (170 St. George)



The #BringBackOurGirls hashtag that was popularized by politicians and celebrities in spring 2014 brought global attention to the 200 school girls kidnapped by Muslim militants, Boko Haram. However, the girls are still missing and the mass mobilization around this social action has failed. In the fields of international law and human rights, questions concerning the role of humanitarian sentimentality or emotion have been dismissed as highly personalized and not appropriate topics for international politics. As a result, little is known about the way that affective attachments are held and mobilize social action in international legal domains, especially in Africa.

This lecture will explore the ways that sentimental strategies are being deployed in relation to justice discourses and will detail the way that feelings of anger inspire protest as a space for dialogue and how desire for social change solidifies various legal trajectories at the neglect of others. The goal will be to examine how relationships between affect and political engagement can be understood as both a source of and an obstacle to struggles for justice, ultimately calling for a rethinking of the potential for specific affects of compassion to inspire international rule of law action in Africa.



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