Consent: A capacious and contentious concept in feminist, legal, philosophical, and queer contexts

Date(s)	Friday 1st (12:00) - Saturday 2nd November 2013 (18:30)
Contact	**Workshop Leader: Professor Lisa Downing (/staff/profiles/french/downing-lisa.aspx)**
Download	**Add to Calendar (/research/activity/ias/workshops/2013/consent.aspx?ical=true)**

'Consent' is one of the most heavily debated concepts in feminist activism and academia, in law and social policy-making, and in sexual sub-cultural politics. The remit of the concept of 'consent' is very broad, including questions of medical ethics and varied legal applications of 'informed consent'. This workshop, however, will deal with the usefulness and limitations of the concept of specifically sexual consent, interrogated from a range of academic disciplinary perspectives and by participants with varying degrees of commitment to, or skepticism of, the ethos of consent.

The workshop draws on the expertise of a range of Birmingham scholars, from postgraduate researchers to senior professors, as well as inviting selected world-leading international scholars working on the problem. In addition, professionals from the legal and psychiatric fields, and activists and writers who have made public interventions into the debates around 'rape culture' and 'consent culture', will be invited to contribute. It is expected that the workshop will lay the groundwork for a raft of external funding bids and will establish the cross-University Sexuality and Gender Studies Network at Birmingham as a leading national and international centre for research and agenda-setting on the question of sexual consent.

Internal attendees:

- **Michele Aaron (#contensis)**
- Katie Barker
- **Dr Emma Foster (#contensis)**
- **Professor Marie Fox (#contensis)**
- **Dr Rosie Harding (#contensis)**
- **Dr Kate Ince (#contensis)**
- **Dr Imogen Jones (#contensis)**
- **Dr Iain Law (#contensis)**
- **Dr Sheelagh McGuinness (#contensis)**
- Henrietta Phillips
- **Dr Joanne Sayner (#contensis)**
- **Dr Jill Steans (#contensis)**
- **Professor Heather Widdows (#contensis)**

External attendees:

- Clark Baim (Trainer and Psychotherapist, Birmingham Institute for Psychodrama)
- Martin Baxter (University of Exeter)
- Dr Lara Cox (University of Paris)
- Professor Tim Dean (SUNY Buffalo)
- Alex Dymock (activist for Backlash and PhD candidate in Law at University of Reading)
- Professor Joseph Fischel (Yale University)
- Myles Jackman (criminal barrister, UK)
- Werner Leys (forensic psychotherapist working with sex offenders, Ghent, Belgium)
- Amber McAuley (PhD Candidate, Policing Research Team, University of Central Lancashire)
- Dr Paul Reynolds (Edge Hill University)
- Ms Kitty Stryker (San Francsico: writer, activist, blogger, co-founder of “Consent Culture” project)

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