



# *Call for Papers*

## Conference on Gender and the Indian Penal Code

October 6-8, 2022

Although conceived in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 has stood the test of time. This is true not just for India, but for several other ex-colonial societies where the IPC was implemented by the British. In independent India, most substantial amendments introduced to the IPC, from 1980s onwards, have been a result of the Indian women's movement and have thus sought to address and arrest violence against women. These developments foregrounded the importance of analyzing the penal code for its underlying patriarchal values leading to the production of significant feminist (and non-feminist) critical criminal law literature in India. There has been a significant rise in criminal law scholarship on *offences against women* (rape, dowry death, cruelty, adultery etc.) and more recently, on *sexuality*, the principles and doctrines of criminal law have not received sufficient attention from the lens of 'gender'.

In this conference, we invoke gender as a category of analysis in criminal law. Gender is "a primary way of signifying relationships of power" which shapes and constructs all reality. We invite papers on criminal law which do not merely adopt a descriptive approach to gender but employ gender as a methodology. 'Gender analysis of the Indian Penal Code' (borrowing from Ved Kumari's classic essay (1999) on the penal code) cannot be limited to issues and areas which pertain to the relations between sexes (or to sex-specific provisions). It must translate into sustained examination of social and institutional relationships, as also ideological pre-suppositions of gender-neutral methodology of legal research. In this context, IPC needs a new analytical lens.

*How is the penal code gendered in its conceptualisation, formulation and operation? How are (seemingly) neutral, ahistorical, universal legal concepts, principles and doctrines determined by gender? Can we imagine a 'general part' of the IPC without interrogating the abstract, legal subject who invariably remains a male? What is the gender of the reasonable person of criminal law? What*

*is the gender of 'sudden anger' of this reasonable person? What is the gender of the 'hurt' that sets criminal law in motion through sedition, obscenity and blasphemy? How are general (or partial) defences premised on cultural gendered beliefs about how men and women (ought to) behave? What are the developments in the jurisprudence of sexual consent? How do provisions of IPC become instruments of sexual governance? How do we deconstruct the arguments of 'misuse' of criminal law provisions?*

To engage with some of these (and more) questions of Indian Penal Code, the Indian Law Institute is organising a three-day conference from 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022. This Call for Papers invites researchers and teachers of criminal law so that we can re-engage in debates on the intersection of gender and criminal law, specifically on the history/ drafting/ implementation/ revision/ working of the penal code.

### **Venue**

The Conference will be hosted at the Indian Law Institute, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.

### **Submission Deadline**

- *Submission of abstract (500 words):* 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- *Communication of acceptance:* 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- *Submission of full paper (4000-5000 words):* 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Kindly follow the ILI Citation Format available at <https://www.ili.ac.in/cstyle.pdf>. Submission should be sent to [ilicriminallawconf@gmail.com](mailto:ilicriminallawconf@gmail.com) with Subject "Paper Submission\_Name of Candidate".

### **Registration Details**

*Participants:-*

- Research Scholars: INR 500
- Academicians: INR 750

### **Faculty Coordinators**

Dr. Latika Vashist, Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Dogra Sood, Prof. (Dr.) Anurag Deep

### **Student Coordinators**

Avantika Tiwari, Isha Anupriya, Reshma Suresh (Ph.D. Scholars, Indian Law Institute)