



JURIDISKA INSTITUTIONEN

Call for papers

Relational Responsibility and Autonomy in Criminal Law

Hybrid Workshop on 20 May 2025 at 2-5 p.m. (CET)

“As we re-envision legal structures of accountability, responsibility, protection, security, and political freedom, we can no longer rely on the flattened, bounded fiction of the individualized person that our legal tradition has taught us. The inadequacy of individualism becomes especially apparent when we attempt to understand legal responsibility for harm in societies shaped by deep structural inequalities. Our embeddedness in complex networks of relation—social, institutional, ecological—makes traditional concepts of agency and blame increasingly implausible.” (Nedelsky 2025)

Rethinking Criminal Law in the Age of Relationality

Contemporary criminal law is fundamentally structured around liberal notions of individual autonomy and personal responsibility. Yet this model is increasingly out of step with the complex social, institutional, and ecological contexts within which criminal harms occur. As theorists from a range of disciplines have shown, the effort to assign or bound legal responsibility in the face of such relational complexity challenges the very foundations of criminal liability.

This workshop invites papers that explore the **intersection of autonomy and collective responsibility in criminal law**. We seek contributions that question, complicate, or reimagine the individualized subject, particularly in contexts where responsibility is distributed, relational, or structurally conditioned.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Relational or structural accounts of autonomy in criminal liability
- Collective and institutional dimensions of responsibility for harm
- Limits of individual blame in the face of systemic or historical injustice
- Legal responses to harms embedded in corporate, bureaucratic, or state contexts
- Feminist, postcolonial, or critical legal approaches to criminal responsibility
- Theoretical tools for conceptualizing shared or diffused culpability

Submissions may engage theoretical, doctrinal, or interdisciplinary approaches. Contributions from legal philosophy, criminal law theory, critical legal studies, feminist jurisprudence, and sociology of law are warmly encouraged.

Workshop Details

Date & Time: 20 May 2025, 14:00–17:00 CET

Format: Hybrid - Online and at the Department of Law, Gothenburg University

Language: English

Organizers: Prof. Jennifer Nedelsky and Ass. Prof. Moa Bladini on behalf of the Criminal Law Group at the Department of Law, Gothenburg university.

Publication Opportunity

Selected contributions will be invited for inclusion in a **peer-reviewed anthology or special issue**. More information will be provided at the workshop.

Abstract Submission Deadline: 5 May 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 6 May 2025

Submit Abstracts (300–500 words) to: moa.bladini@law.gu.se