

Ethics, Law and Pregnancy in Ireland Network (ELPIN) **(Hosted by the School of Law, University College Cork, Ireland)**

For more than 30 years, legal and medical responses to pregnancy and childbirth were constrained by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of Ireland which protected the right to life of the 'unborn' and profoundly limited the pregnant subject's agency and health. Following the repeal of the Eighth Amendment, it is time to re-examine all aspects of pregnancy and childbirth from a position which highlights the importance of agency, autonomy and dignity.

ELPIN will engage academics across different disciplines, as well as women's health/reproductive rights advocates, and health professionals. Its broad range of participants will best capture the complexities of pregnancy and childbirth and will provide participants with the skills and knowledge to best address emerging ethical and legal questions.

PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP 1

Friday 7th February 2020

Moot Court Room: Room AL 1.52, Aras Ni Laoi, UCC <https://www.ucc.ie/en/discover/visit/maps/>

This first workshop will identify ways in which pregnant subjects are and have been framed culturally, ethically, philosophically and legally to date, and aims to explore possibilities for reframing the pregnant subject in a post-repeal Ireland.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 – 10.15 | Welcome and Brief Introductions |
| 10.15 – 11.30 | <u>SESSION 1:</u> Understanding the metaphysics of pregnancy
Presenter: Professor Elseijn Kingma, University of Southampton
Discussant: Dr Joan McCarthy, University College Cork
Chair: Professor Mary Donnelly, University College Cork |
| 11.30 – 11.45 | Break |
| 11.45 – 1.00 | <u>SESSION 2:</u> Finding ways to punish the failed mother: criminal law and newborn child death
Dr Emma Milne, University of Plymouth
Discussant: Dr Ruth Fletcher, Queen Mary University London
Chair: Dr Claire Murray, University College Cork |
| 1.00 – 2.00 | LUNCH (Room AL G.O1, Aras Ni Laoi) |
| 2.00 – 3.45 | <u>SESSION 3:</u> Research Roundtable. Opportunities for networking and sharing current research initiatives and agenda. All network members to contribute 5 mins on current and future research plans.
Co-Chairs: Professor Mary Donnelly and Dr Claire Murray |
| 3.45 – 4.00 | Break |
| 4.00– 4.45 | <u>SESSION 4:</u> Planning for remaining workshops and development of explainers for web publication. Closing comments on the first workshop.
Co-Chairs: Dr Claire Murray, UCC and Professor Mary Donnelly, UCC |

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Website: www.ucc.ie/en/elpin

GUEST SPEAKERS

Professor Elselijn Kingma, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Southampton

Elselijn's main research interests are in philosophy of medicine (concepts of health and disease and the epistemology of Evidence Based Medicine); applied ethics (rights, interests and obligations in pregnancy and birth); and metaphysics (the metaphysics of pregnancy, identity and personhood). She has published on these topics in philosophy journals, medical journals, and the popular press, and offers research-based advice to policy makers, professional organisations and other groups involved in the care of pregnant women. With Dr Fiona Wollard, Elselijn spearheads the department's research strength in the Philosophy of Pregnancy and Early Motherhood. Elselijn is Principal Investigator on a five year, 1.2 million Euro ERC Starting Grant 'Better Understanding the Metaphysics of Pregnancy'. She also heads a public policy project on the rights and obligations of pregnant & birthing women in the Dutch context and, with Fiona Woollard, she managed a research project 'Taking Pregnancy Seriously in Metaphysics, Ethics and Epistemology'.

Dr Emma Milne, Lecturer in Criminology, School of Law, Criminology and Government, University of Plymouth

Emma's research interests are in feminist criminology and social and legal regulations of women, particularly in relation to sex and reproduction. Her PhD considered criminal justice responses to women suspected of causing the death of their newborn children. She analysed contemporary examples of criminal court hearings relating to infanticide, child cruelty, abortion and concealment of birth. The wider context of Emma's work is a consideration of social controls (including criminal justice regulations) on all women, notably in relation to pregnancy and reproductive function. Specific research interests include gender and crime, motherhood and pregnancy, women's reproductive rights, regulation of women's sexuality and bodies, infanticide/ neonaticide/ maternal filicide, feminist criminology, women offenders and violent women.