

# Beyond the Interface: Critical Perspectives of Sex Work and Sextech



Presented by the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Research Cluster



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## The Conference at a Glance

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<b>Thursday October 17, 2024</b>	
10:00am - 11:00am	Opening Ceremony
11:00am - 12:00pm	Keynote Speaker
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Wellness Hour
2:00pm - 4:50pm	Panel 1: Equitable Sextech: Navigating Power, Technology, and Inclusion in Sex Work
6:00pm - 8:50pm	Panel 2: Legal Landscapes: Rights, Policy, and Regulations in Online Sex Work
<b>Friday October 18, 2024</b>	
10:00am - 12:20pm	Panel 3: Synthesising Desires: The Interplay of AI, Sex Work, and Cultural Regulations
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Panel 4: Arousing Avatars: Examining VR Sex Work in Japan
2:00pm - 4:50 pm	Panel 5: Protecting Sex Workers in the Digital Age
4:55pm - 5:55pm	Wellness Hour
6:10pm - 8:00pm	Panel 6: Chronicles of Change: Preserving Histories and Shaping Technological Futures
<b>Saturday October 19, 2024</b>	
10:00am - 12:20pm	Panel 7: Reclaiming Innovation: Empowerment, Labour, and Resistance in the Digital Sex Industry

12:30pm - 1:50pm	Panel 8: Digital Desirability: Analyzing Client Preferences and Success Metrics in Canadian Classified Ads for Sex Work
2:00pm - 4:20pm	Panel 9: The Digital Landscape: Evolution in Sex Workers' Advertising and Payment Processing
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Wellness Hour
6:00pm - 7:50pm	Panel 10: Erotic Expressions: Subversive Media, Digital Labour, and the Future of Sexuality
8:00pm - 9:20pm	Panel 11: Behind the Red Light: A Cinematic Exploration of Sex Work
9:20pm - 9:30pm	Closing Comments

## Detailed Conference Schedule

<b>Thursday October 17, 2024</b>
10:00am - 12:00pm EST Opening Ceremony
<b>Moderator:</b> Thérèse <b>Tech:</b> Kathleen

10:00am - 10:05am	Welcome and Housekeeping	Kathleen Cherrington
10:05am - 10:15am	Land Acknowledgment	Evania Pietrangelo-Porco
10:15am-10:45am	Memorializing the MMIWG2S	Colleen Ford
11:00am - 12:00pm	Keynote Speaker	Gabriella Garcia
Q and A 12:00pm-12:15PM		

<b>Dr. Lauren Casey</b> (she/her)	<b>12:30pm - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Wellness Hour</b>
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**Panel 1: Equitable Sextech: Navigating Power, Technology, and Inclusion in Sex Work**

2:00pm - 4:50pm EST

**Moderator:** Ashlynn **Tech:** Kathleen

<b>Clare Carmody</b> (she/her)	<b>2:00pm - 2:30pm</b>	<p><b>Why Are There Not Enough Sex Work Professionals at Sextech School</b></p> <p>This presentation dives into a big question: why aren't more sex work professionals leading the top projects coming out of Sextech School? Even though sex work and sextech are closely connected, the most successful ventures often seem to be run by men who aren't sex workers. This raises important issues about who gets included, who's left out, and why. We'll look at why sex work professionals are getting sidelined in these tech spaces, exploring the social and cultural biases at play. This includes how certain prejudices might shape who gets chosen and supported in programs like Sextech School. We'll also discuss what this means for the products and services being developed. Without the input of sex work professionals, these innovations might miss the mark and not fully serve the diverse needs of the community. By bringing in views from scholars, activists, and sex work professionals, we'll highlight why it's crucial to create more inclusive support systems in the sextech industry. Our goal is to push for a more representative and fair ecosystem that values the real-world experiences of sex workers. This talk will contribute to the larger conversation about how technology, sexuality, and business intersect, urging a rethink on what success looks like in sextech. It will encourage attendees to see how a more inclusive environment can lead to better and more ethical advancements in the field.</p>
<b>Zintle Tsholwana</b> (she/her)	<b>2:30pm - 3:00pm</b>	<p><b>The African Sextech Evolution</b></p> <p>Sextech in its broader definition, is "any technology designed to enhance sexuality" and the focus has been on improving sexual experience, pleasure and well-being. Sex Workers are Pleasure Executives, professionals in providing pleasurable sexual experiences for clients. With this in mind, sextech can be used as a tool to diversify types of services to appeal to a diverse group of clients. In terms of digital platforms in the African Sex Work context, sex workers use apps and websites, such as Tinder, Grindr, Sex Trader, Ad Africa and Red Velvet; the purpose of these apps is to advertise</p>

		<p>and communicate with clients to meet in person. In addition, there are “studios” set up where sex workers have access to computers, webcams and internet connection and can engage with clients online. In recent years, many advancements have been made in the field of sextech, such as the use of Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, access to these technologies is a privilege that many sex workers in Africa do not have. Africa as a continent, is advancing at a much slower rate in the Fourth Industrial Evolution, which is the “convergence and complementarity of emerging technology domains, [...] and advanced digital production (ADP) technologies”. African Sex Workers already face multiple layers of inequalities based on factors such as race and socioeconomic status, amongst others. Despite a promising outlook, challenges like limited internet access, cultural barriers, scarce investment opportunities, and stringent regulations are hindering the growth of sextech in Africa. This presentation aims to unpack the following questions: 1. What is sextech in the African context? 2. Should it adopt the same aspects as the West/Global North? 3. How do we bridge inequalities so that African Sex Workers do not fall between the cracks as the industry grows? 4. In advocating for law and policy reform, what are the legal implications of sextech? The overall purpose of the presentation will be to highlight the inequalities that leave African sex workers behind in the advancement of sextech. Furthermore, the discussion will provide recommendations on multisectoral approaches that must be supported in order to bridge the gap, where the result will be an industry where sex workers are protected and have an opportunity to improve their lives.</p>
<p><b>Mx Syd King</b> (he/they)</p>	<p><b>3:00pm - 3:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Accessibility Aids as Sex Tech</b></p> <p>This talk aims to Crip the conversation around SexTech, going beyond the discussions surrounding dating apps and sex toys, it will explore the concept of accessibility aids (that is, equipment designed to make something accessible for a Disabled person) as a form of SexTech. From wheelchairs to sex machines, technology has been used by Disabled sex workers such as myself for years to make life more accessible for us and for our Disabled clients. However, we as Academics routinely look at SexTech through a narrow lens of apps and toys but fail to broaden our perspective to the other types of technology that may not have been designed for sex enhancement but certainly facilitate it nonetheless. It will also highlight my experience of using accessibility aids as SexTech within my work as a full-service and pro-domme sex worker. The goal of this talk is to reframe the way we think of SexTech and to give attendees the curiosity to approach topics like this through a Crippled lens. Crip Theory is an upcoming epistemological approach to academia, often coexisting intersectionally with Queer Theory and Feminist Theory, and is the foundation of my academic background. As a severely Disabled academic, Crip Theory is the lens that I use to approach every aspect of both academia and my daily life, including my sex work. * Accessibility needs: Mx Syd is hard of hearing</p>



		and needs closed captioning. Please send in complex questions about this presentation beforehand, or allow Mx Syd King the extra time needed to potentially answer your questions at a later date.
<b>Rowanna Cadman-Bell</b> (she/her)	<b>3:30pm - 4:00pm</b>	<p><b>Artificial Intimacy and False Power Dynamics in Pro Domming</b></p> <p>This paper will draw on personal experiences of the issues faced in pro domme work and seeks to explore the often-misrepresented power dynamics of a Dom/sub relationship with a finance exchange. It will also consider the issues of the increasing accessibility and expectations afforded clients by developments in technology and social media. In this paper I will be using personal stories as case studies to explore these topics. The image of the dominatrix, a powerful, sensual femme fatale keeping the world in check at the end of her cane is a common one, but one that ignores the domme is offering a service, and despite holding the whip is often vulnerable. The nature of the work, often involving physical violence, restraint, potentially dangerous bodily fluids and, particularly if done online, engaging with psychological control and power play, means before a scene careful negotiation is needed. The nature of these negotiations, coupled with the professional responsibility to provide aftercare, can create a sense of deep intimacy on behalf of a client that can lead to the blurring of boundaries. This can also be exacerbated by the choice of language used such as talking about tribute rather than payment in order to maintain the D/s dynamic. When it comes to the blurring of these boundaries the increased connectivity and prevalence of social media can be difficult to navigate, particularly in a community that is still relatively small. There is also an issue surrounding the increasingly artificial nature and prevalence of BDSM pornography and erotica which can lead to unrealistic expectations of what is possible in a scene. The use of make-up for example to enhance the look of bruising, which although could be achieved with extreme play is not overly common, can change the expectation of what the result of an impact scene will be. This can create difficulties in managing a safe environment and put pressure on dommes to work outside their own limits and areas of specialism.</p>
<b>Merel Noorlander</b> (they/them)	<b>4:00pm - 4:30pm</b>	<p><b>Non-Binary Pleasure Playgrounds &amp; Self-Made Sex Tech</b></p> <p>When we look at public areas as various physical and digital queer and sex-positive spaces; what are the different vernaculars, gestures, scents, sounds and colors that we use to communicate with one another? How do these define, evolve, intersect, and influence on a personal and cultural level in the public realm, and the tools that we use? This line of inquiry finds its base with Paul B. Preciado's questions around gender non-confirming; it also further builds on my artistic research that exists physically and digitally, as it relates to contemporary intimacy through technology and fluid ways of being. We'll dive into the process and production of innovative gender-neutral robotic sex</p>

		toys, in depth theoretical, and engaging work, through social design, projection mapping installations and performances, that interweave pleasure playgrounds and objects, set in public or private domains. This 20-minute presentation proposal is built on the theme of this conference (Technological Innovation and Social Change) and addresses the multifaceted relationships between technology, sexuality, commerce, and society. It's connected to my artistic research into physical and digital homemade sex toys with BDSM practitioners /sex coaches/ sex workers / queer and trans community on fluid spaces, transposed into a shared visual language. As part of this research, we will investigate pleasure activism as strategies of joy, a path that empowers many outside the mainstream to enact change. As the base of multidisciplinary art installations, as a medium to be able to share personal stories from social artistic research, as a tool of carefully regulated elaborations after long-term research that combines various disciplines. With these interactive series, I aim for a promiscuous, intersectional thinking of contemporary and future perspectives on global social issues that fracture the dominant models of production, image and bodies.
Q & A	4:30pm - 4:50pm	

### Panel 2: Legal Landscapes: Rights, Policy, and Regulations in Online Sex Work

6:00pm - 8:50pm EST

**Moderator:** Thérèse **Tech:** Jocelyn

<b>Alison Lam</b> (she/her/elle)	<b>6:00pm - 6:30pm</b>	<p><b>Mining Data as Digital Resources: Technocolonialism and the Sex Work Industry</b></p> <p>The term colonialism evokes images of control and power leading to the exploitation of marginalized individuals. While Canadians frequently and rightfully consider colonialism in terms of Indigenous communities, there are many other forms of colonialism. Technocolonialism is becoming increasingly prevalent; as technological advancements such as artificial intelligence and biometrics begin to raise questions on surveillance and privacy, Canadian laws fall behind in maintaining safe spaces for all. The sex work industry, in particular, has always been criminalized by Canadian laws in a way that does not own the criminalization; by claiming to save sex workers, who are predominantly women, it practices a form of saviourism known as benevolent sexism. Now, with the advent of digital surveillance, data mining and age verification technology, extractivism and capitalism are redefined through a technocolonial lens with sex workers, im/migrant sex workers in</p>
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		<p>particular, once again being simultaneously target and casualty of fundamentally flawed legislation. This paper seeks to advocate for full decriminalization and prove that the combination of technological advancement and the Nordic Model in Canada creates a form of technocolonialism that increases harm to those involved in the sex work industry. Using the definition of technocolonialism as outlined in the work of Mirca Madianou, much of the research will be documentary, based on Canadian laws such as the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA), the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR), and Bill S-210. These laws, already questionable in the way they conflate sex work with trafficking, are further implicated when viewed in combination with technology and privatization. The work of Zahra Stardust on surveillance capitalism as it pertains to sex work will also be engaged, and there will be semi-structured interviews involving sex workers and sex work advocacy groups (eg. CASWLR, ANSWER Society, SWAP Hamilton, Swan Vancouver, etc.).</p>
<p><b>Elena Shih</b> (she/her), <b>Amy Xiao</b> (they/them), <b>Arman Deendar</b> (they/she) &amp; <b>Shravya Sompalli</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>6:30pm - 7:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Liberation Atlas: Mapping the Policing of Asian Massage Work</b></p> <p>We would love to join the conference session on "Legal and Ethical Perspectives of Sextech and Sex Work" to present our digital map of the policing of Asian massage work in New York City. Liberation Atlas is a collaboration between Red Canary Song (RCS) and Brown University's Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice Human Trafficking Research Cluster (CSSJ). This mapping project invites viewers to visualize the policing of migrant Asian massage work throughout New York City, alongside powerful oral history excerpts collected by RCS' outreach team. The data points of policing you see have been collected from publicly available datasets of NYPD arrest records and NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) filings via NYC OpenData. They depict the disproportionate policing of Asian women body workers and Asian owned businesses under the codes of prostitution, unlicensed massage, and building code violations spanning 10 years. These data points of policing are overlaid with audio excerpts from migrant massage worker oral history interviews that RCS has collected since 2018. Inspired by the praxis of critical cartography (Kim 2015) and unmapping (Goffe 2023), Liberation Atlas poses itself as an alternative to traditional large data collection and dissemination techniques commonly used by carceral anti-trafficking organizations. These organizations offer their own maps that purport to visualize the "Illicit Massage Industry" stoking xenophobic fears around massage work as a site of human trafficking, leading to policies that demand the criminalization of racialized and gendered low wage work. All anti-trafficking interventions that seek to "rescue" Asian massage workers, have resulted in the increased policing and surveillance of their communities, and their deportation. Liberation Atlas deploys these same mapping skills to draw attention to worker voices and to call for the end of policing. Despite a global shift towards considerations of decriminalization of sex work,</p>

		including in NYC, the aggressive policing of Asian massage workers—ranging from civilian harassment via filming to the auxiliary policing of building code violations—are all visualized here in different ways. We invite you to engage these maps and share them as a way of amplifying the struggle and power of migrant massage worker organizing.
<b>Dr. Zahra Stardust</b> (she/her)	<b>7:00pm - 7:30pm</b>	<p><b>Cultivating Brave Spaces: Alternative Approaches to Sexual Content Moderation</b></p> <p>A suite of legislation incentivises digital platforms to automate efforts to remove sexual content under the guise of ‘anti-trafficking’ and ‘online safety’. As platforms struggle with how to address non-consensual content whilst facilitating consensual sexual expression, Silicon Valley standards are exported around the world, resulting in sex workers being shadowbanned, demonetised and deplatformed. In the shadow of big tech, small-scale, independent platforms are seeking to create alternative spaces, community standards and governance mechanisms. This empirical study examines how such platforms approach governance and content moderation. It involves 12 one-hour semi-structured qualitative interviews with 16 participants from platforms that host sexual content across Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States to understand how they cultivate consent culture, promote user safety, protect user privacy, support diverse sexualities, value sexual content creators and navigate the regulatory environment. The platforms differentiated their approaches in multiple ways, including through their business models, revenue streams, profit sharing and payouts. They were often built upon the insights of sex workers, featured sex worker leadership, and expressed accountability to sex worker communities. They took queer approaches to developing community standards, with conceptualisations of harm and safety that differed from legal or risk-averse standards. Some sought to cultivate ‘brave spaces’ for users to unlearn internalised oppressions, and take an educative, transformative justice approach to content moderation. However, these platforms faced difficult challenges – identifying the limits of acceptable sexual content (where the criminal law had overstepped), modelling cooperative decision-making (as they grew in size and scale), and finding options for less data-intensive verification methods (achieving legal compliance without mass surveillance). A swathe of regulations (incentivising automation, mandating heteronormativity and restricting finance) render it difficult for such projects to even survive, let alone thrive.</p>
<b>Maxine Doogan</b> (she/her)	<b>7:30pm - 8:00pm</b>	<p><b>How the War on Sex Work is Stripping Your Privacy Rights</b></p> <p>The Erotic Service Providers’ Legal Education and Research Project obtained records of all surveillance technologies and related trainings used in the policing of prostitution between January of 2020 and February of 2022 from several California police and sheriff departments, district</p>

		<p>attorney’s offices, and parole offices. What we learned should concern everyone: sex workers are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to our governments using surveillance technologies against us. Spotlight and TrafficJam are bots that crawl the web, archiving contents of advertising websites as frequently as every hour and building databases using facial recognition and other technologies to connect ads to social media profiles and more, resulting in sex workers being turned away at border crossings. Police are also using automatic license plate readers, pole cameras, body worn cameras, “phone ripping,” and more to hunt us. Software like CellHawk can be used by officers to quickly make sense of data dumps from cell phone towers, allowing them to see things like whether two phones travel together or when and from where phone calls are made or texts are sent. CellHawk also offers officers the ability to receive alerts when a phone visits a particular area or building. Much of this technology is applied in racist ways (as evidenced in police training materials). Some of it, like facial recognition, is inherently racist. All of these surveillance technologies are used to violate our rights to privacy, bodily autonomy, and to support ourselves through our own labor. Many countries have examples of laws that can be put in place to protect us from surveillance technologies. This short presentation will summarize the findings in our 2023 report, How The War On Sex Work Is Stripping Your Privacy Rights, with a focus on our rights and the needed policy changes.</p>
<p><b>Sarah Hasbini</b> (she/her) &amp; <b>Fatima Qaraan</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>8:00pm - 8:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Perpetrating Stigma and Endangering Sex Workers in Canada: A Critical Analysis of the Socio-Economic and Legal Implications of Bill C-36</b></p> <p>This paper evaluates the impact of Bill C-36, The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, on sex workers’ safety and conditions in Canada. It focuses on how criminalizing the purchase of services and related communication has made work environments, especially online, more dangerous. The study argues that Bill C-36 fails to address the underlying socioeconomic causes driving individuals into sex work while simultaneously criminalizing their methods of obtaining safe and legitimate work. The legislation perpetuates a cycle of marginalization and vulnerability by outlawing safe online communication mediums and promotional channels. It reduces sex workers’ capacity to screen customers, limits their access to support networks, and hinders their ability to seek legal redress. This research highlights the significant impact on online sex work, where the criminalization of advertising sexual services (Section 286.4) has pushed activities underground, compromising workers’ safety and access to essential screening tools. This approach directly conflicts with harm reduction strategies and public health initiatives, potentially violating international human rights policies advocating for the decriminalization and protection of sex workers’ rights. The study will employ a mixed-methods approach to analyze online sex work ads and platforms before and after Bill C-36, review court cases and law enforcement data, and compare jurisdictions with</p>

		different legal approaches. Collaboration with sex worker advocacy organizations will ensure an accurate representation of community experiences. By examining the disconnect between the legislation’s intended protective measures and its real-world consequences, this research aims to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing policy debate in Canada. It advocates for legal reforms that prioritize sex workers’ safety, autonomy, and rights while addressing broader socioeconomic disparities. The study’s findings will support the development of evidence-based policies that align with harm reduction approaches and workers’ rights in Canada.
Q & A	8:30pm - 8:50pm	

**Friday October 18, 2024**

**Panel 3: Synthetic Desires: The Interplay of AI, Sex Work, and Cultural Regulation**  
10:00am - 12:20pm EST

**Moderator:** Thérèse **Tech:** Jocelyn

<b>Delphine DiTecco</b> (she/her)	<b>10:00am - 10:30am</b>	<p><b>New Technology, Same Old Stigma: Media Narratives of Sex Robots and Sex Work</b></p> <p>This qualitative study examines how sex robots and sex work are constructed in relation to one another in mainstream news media. While existing research examines how sex robots are broadly represented in fictional narratives, to date no study examines the relatively prominent association between sex robots and sex work. Via an analysis of 166 news media articles on sex robots and sex work, we reveal how non-sentient robots are regularly imbued with human subjectivity by the very actors who often deny sex workers’ sexual subjectivity and agency. At the same time, we demonstrate how sex robot users are constructed as abusive and exploitative “clients” of workers rather than consumers of sexual commodities. Finally, we reveal how both abolitionist and pro-sex robot coverage denounces and stigmatizes sex work—often arguing in support of eradicating both sex robots and sex work, or for sex robots’ displacement of sex workers. Drawing on sexuality and sex work scholarship, we expose the limits of the above framings and argue that such narratives reify sex work and sextech stigma. We invite future research on the sex work/sexttech nexus to include sex workers and sextech consumers and to further examine the potential socio-legal implications of this study’s findings for sex workers, sex work clients, sextech creators, and</p>
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		consumers.
<b>Lara Karaian</b> (she/her)	<b>10:30am - 11:00am</b>	<p><b>Sex Robot Brothels: Backlash, Bylaws, and the In/Significance of AI to In/Human Sex Work</b></p> <p>This paper examines how “brothel” rhetoric and the fantasy of AI assisted robots are mobilized to regulate sex doll rental services across Asia, Europe, and North America between 2004-2024. Building on previous findings of how robot and brothel rhetoric simultaneously humanize sex dolls and dehumanize sex workers (DiTecco and Karaian, 2022), I consider how municipal governance strategies informed by anti-migrant and anti-Asian regulation of “underground” brothels (commonly known as body rub parlours) underpin this process. More specifically, the paper outlines how anti-sex work activists’ confluences of Asian sex workers with sex trafficking victims and how techno-orientalist confluences of inhuman Asian labourers with robots, inform these regulatory and discursive moves. While artificial intelligence gives rise to ethical debates about sexual consent, labour, and exploitation, I ultimately argue that the historic denial of human intelligence and agency of human sex workers demonstrates the relative insignificance of AI for future sex work debates. Drawing on queer inhumanist insights about the gendered and racial histories of both the human and AI, as well as others’ auto/ethnographic research on Berlin’s Cybrothel and its “Analog AI” sexual services, I consider what queer ethics and futures the frictions between sex doll/sex robot/sex worker might help spawn. This presentation is derived from a forthcoming article published in Porn Studies special issue on AI, Porn, and Sex Work.</p>
<b>Harper Thornhill</b> (she/her)	<b>11:00am - 11:30am</b>	<p><b>Image Angel: The Role of Guardianship Technology in the Future of Digital Sex Work</b></p> <p>In today’s digital landscape, where intimate content is increasingly shared online, the risk of unauthorized distribution and exploitation has become a serious concern. Image Angel was born from a personal experience of violation when co-founder Harper Thornhill’s intimate images were taken and shared without consent. Determined to prevent others from facing similar violations, Harper partnered with AI experts to develop cutting-edge watermarking technology that invisibly protects digital content. Unlike traditional watermarking, Image Angel’s solution activates when content is opened, downloaded, or received, ensuring guardianship without compromising the integrity of the images. By prioritizing privacy, autonomy, and the safety of those who share intimate content, Image Angel addresses the urgent need for ethical solutions in digital spaces, empowering users to maintain control over their personal images. This presentation will explore the importance of Image Angel in safeguarding individuals, particularly within vulnerable communities, and highlight the role of technology in fostering dignity and protection in an increasingly digitised workplace.</p>

<b>Evania Pietrangelo-Porco</b> (she/her)	<b>11:30am - 12:00pm</b>	<b>LewdTubing, Digiwhoring, and ‘Real’ Sex Work: Deconstructing the Discourse Around Projekt Melody</b>  Projekt Melody’s popularity is no small feat. However, being the “top Chaturbate girl” has come with its fair share of chatter. Melody is a Canadian virtual content creator- streaming on Chaturbate (a token-based adult webcam platform), Twitch, and YouTube. <sup>1</sup> While initially an independent streamer, Melody joined VShojo (the first talent agency to promote virtual YouTubers) in 2020. <sup>2</sup> Melody’s rise to fame, her online persona, and the ways she altered virtual sex work sparked both intrigue and outrage, raising questions about the state and future in the digital age. “LewdTubing, Digiwhoring, and ‘Real’ Sex Work,” as its title states, deconstructs this discourse albeit from a historical perspective. My presentation adds to existing academic discourses around sex work and sextech by contextualizing Projekt Melody within the conference themes of technological changes, representation, and safety. It takes seemingly new conversations and places them in a border context, showcasing how three primary facets of the Projekt Melody discussion, LewdTubing (“lewd” virtual YouTubing), digiwhoring (digital “whoring”), and definitions of “real” sex work, are not exclusive to the current decade. Projekt Melody is technologically innovative. However, her being a sex working avatar/persona and the technological panics she created are not new in or outside of sex work. <sup>3</sup> The “unrealistic” body standards she seemingly promotes (and the potential for reinforcing stereotypes therein) are likewise not exclusive to Melody, virtual sex work, or entirely caused by either. Lastly, the questioning of Melody’s validity as a sex worker, because her work does not necessarily place her in immediate physical harm, speaks to a long history of internalized whorephobia and whorearchy.
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>12:00pm - 12:20pm</b>	

**Panel 4: Arousing Avatars: Examining VR Sex Work in Japan**

12:30pm - 1:30pm EST

**Moderator:** Evania **Tech:** Kathleen



<p><b>Liudmila Bredikhina</b> (she/her) &amp; <b>Nachi Hanamachi</b></p> <p><b>Jocelyne Allen</b> (she/they) Translator</p>	<p><b>12:30pm - 1:10pm</b></p>	<p><b>Japanese VR Sex Work: The Case of X-Oasis</b></p> <p>This presentation examines X-Oasis, a Japanese ‘virtual reality (VR) sex-work’ (VR風俗, VR fūzoku) service launched in 2020. Promoted as a “VR sex service you can play on your smartphone,” X-Oasis emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering virtual dating and sex with virtual sex workers. The service aims to redefine 'sex,' enabling participants to engage regardless of their biological sex, and providing users with actresses who use avatars that resemble cute anime characters. Guests (customers) can choose their gender and genitalia, scenarios inspired by Japanese pornographic material, and access the service via desktop or smartphone with VR goggles. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the influence of VR technologies on sex work, presents the specificities of mediated intercourse, and explores the opportunities offered by the digital realm for the sex workers. The presentation is based on a 2021 study that involved participant observation of six 40-minute sessions using an iPhone X and Hamswan VR goggles. Additionally, a quantitative survey with five sex workers was conducted in the summer of 2020, followed by a qualitative survey with two workers in March 2021. Interviews with an X-Oasis engineer and co-founder provided insights into methods for stimulating arousal. Findings revealed that X-Oasis developed innovative practices to create touch-like sensations without haptic feedback. Casts train and develop ‘tricks’ to induce sensations of touch and awaken avatar-mediated arousal. Interviews highlighted the advantages of VR sex work, including safety from diseases, the ability to work from home, flexible schedules, possibility to explore other gender identities, and reduced risks of physical aggression compared to traditional sex work. This presentation contributes to de-westernizing studies on virtual sex work and offers a case study of how VR technologies are influencing modern sex work.</p>
<p>Q &amp; A</p>	<p>1:10pm - 1:30pm</p>	

**Panel 5: Protecting Sex Workers in the Digital Age**  
2:00pm - 4:50pm EST

**Moderator:** Jennie **Tech:** Jocelyn

<p><b>Ola</b></p>	<p><b>2:00pm -</b></p>	<p><b>Beyond the Sex Workers Wellbeing Index Report 2024 - How Digital Platforms Can Improve</b></p>
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<b>Miedzynska</b> (she/her)	<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Sex Work Conditions and Reduce Stigma</b>  The "Sex Workers Wellbeing Index Support 2024" report by Erobella, based on a comprehensive European survey, provides a detailed overview of the conditions, challenges, and needs of sex workers. It reveals that while many sex workers report good physical and mental health and receive significant community support, they face substantial challenges, including stigma, discrimination, and legal barriers. The report emphasizes the need for improved access to mental health services, legal information, and regular STI/STD testing. It highlights sex workers' expectations for commercial platforms like Erobella to advocate for their rights, reduce stigma, and provide better support systems. This comprehensive report highlights the conditions, challenges, and needs of sex workers across Europe, aiming to inform targeted support and advocacy efforts. Agenda • Introduction to the Research and Methodology • Sharing the Insights from the Data • Summary Report
<b>SX Noir</b> (she/her)	<b>2:30pm - 3:00pm</b>	<b>Dual Victims of Deepfakes</b>  Deep fakes are videos digitally altered using artificial intelligence to make someone appear as someone else. 90% of deep fakes are non-consensual adult content, typically used for malicious intent. While it's obvious the person whose identity is stolen is a victim, the second victim—often the body of a sex worker, an unwilling participant, is frequently overlooked. Sex workers are often ignored as victims due to societal stigma and shame. Sex work itself isn't inherently dangerous; it's made dangerous by society's perceptions and treatment of sex workers. It's important to note that most deep fake victims are not adult content creators and bear the brunt of the damage. These victims range from everyday people, disproportionately women, to celebrities and politicians like Taylor Swift, Megan Thee Stallion, and AOC. Deep fakes originated from incels, men who hate women, as a way to dox and humiliate their victims, often sharing personal information and putting them in danger. The psychological impact on both victims is significant due to the loss of body autonomy, reputation and safety. While the future of artificial intelligence, sex tech, and sex work holds promise, deep fakes represent technology that must be regulated. As we navigate both digital and physical spaces, body autonomy exists in both. We must fight for the protection and rights of women in the digital realm. With artificial intelligence advancing daily, it's easier than ever to use deep fake technology. Many sites profit from ads on these videos, and when victims reach out to law enforcement, officers often don't know how to handle the situation due to the perpetrators' advanced digital skills that surpass police expertise.
<b>Dr. Lauren</b>	<b>3:00pm -</b>	<b>Creating a Safe Virtual Space for Sex Workers in the Digital Age</b>

<p><b>Casey</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>3:30pm</b></p>	<p>In the context of digital sex work, the demand for immediate and accessible support services has become critically important. Traditional coaching and therapy services, which often necessitate pre-scheduled appointments, fail to address the urgent and dynamic needs of sex workers. This presentation addresses this gap by introducing an innovative approach to providing real-time coaching services for sex workers. As a former sex worker, I possess a unique understanding of the specific challenges and vulnerabilities experienced by individuals in this industry. My initiative seeks to create a safe and supportive virtual environment where sex workers can access immediate assistance, guidance, and resources. By utilizing digital platforms, this service offers real-time coaching that includes mental health support, safety strategies, legal advice, and career development. This approach is grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the sex work community's needs, derived from both personal experience and extensive research. The presentation will discuss the methodologies employed in developing this service, including user feedback and iterative design processes, to ensure it meets the specific requirements of sex workers. Key findings indicate the significant positive impact of real-time coaching on sex workers' mental health, safety, and professional growth. The immediacy of support has been shown to reduce feelings of isolation, enhance self-advocacy, and provide critical assistance during emergencies. The implications of this work extend beyond individual support, advocating for broader systemic changes in the design and delivery of services for sex workers. By presenting this model, the aim is to inspire further innovations in service provision and to contribute to ongoing efforts to decriminalize and destigmatize sex work.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Thérèse Bernier</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>3:30pm - 4:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Co-designing a Digital Health Tool to Deliver Occupational Health and Safety Strategies for Sex Workers</b></p> <p>In Canada, legal restrictions under Bill C-36 increase a sex worker's occupational health and safety (OHS) risks by forcing the sex worker to work alone, placing the sex worker at risk for violence in the form of assault, robbery, and non-negotiated sex acts. Other OHS risks experienced by sex workers are harassment, social isolation, and inadequate access to health services. To counteract these OHS risks, sex workers have been using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to exchange tips and information. Through three interrelated studies, this presentation will seek to understand how sex workers in Eastern Canada are currently using ICTs to access OHS information and manage OHS risks. Using a community-based research approach, and guided by the social ecological model, qualitative research methodologies were applied to gather insights as to whether the OHS information available via ICTs meets sex workers' needs and explore sex workers' suggestions for improvements in accessing OHS information. The first study (a scoping review)</p>

		<p>covers 12 countries, including Canada, and discusses the individual and institutional OHS risk mitigation strategies that sex workers access via ICTs. In the second study, 22 Eastern Canadian sex workers were interviewed. This study delivers a deeper understanding of the role ICTs play in a sex worker's ability to find an online community where they can learn and exchange OHS strategies, and provides insights into the fragility of these communities, as the usage of ICTs for this purpose is prohibited by law. In the third study, a subset of sex workers from the previous study co-designed the digital prototype of a tool that could satisfy their needs for a central repository of OHS information. The overall vision for this digital OHS tool is a sex-worker friendly space. In designing their own OHS tool, sex workers apply their lived experience in mitigating the risks present in their profession.</p>
<p><b>Arik Brückner</b> (him/he)</p>	<p><b>4:00pm - 4:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>The Missed Opportunity of Paid Companionship: A Reflection on Loneliness, Technology, Paid Intimacy, and Sex Work</b></p> <p>30% of the world's population is estimated to be affected by or suffering from some form of loneliness. Stigma is preventing society from integrating paid companionship (and paid intimacy) into society. The alleged reputational risk is leading to an adverse selection of entrepreneurs in the industry nurturing a vicious circle. This presentation is based on 1.5 years of research leading to the foundation of CHOICE to redefine paid companionship and its role in society. The aim is to give a brief overview of safety, innovation, inclusivity, and policy as a potential foundation for a future society where paid companionship and paid intimacy receive the recognition it deserves through de-stigmatization and technological enablement. This contribution is highly relevant to the conference since it combines the experience of building technologically advanced systems with first-hand research among a population of 700 sex workers through phone calls, and approx. 7 '500 exchanged WhatsApp messages. It includes interactions with government entities such as Ofcom and the Independent Porn Review in the UK as well as exchanges with the city of Zurich and founding members of Europe's largest representation of sex workers, the BesD in Germany). It also shares first-hand test results of data privacy breaches and security incidents as well as an analysis of court decisions in Switzerland. It tries to show how technology could have prevented safety incidents or helped the prosecution of perpetrators after the incident. It also discussed current trends in policymaking and where judiciary reform is falling short in terms of the protection of minors and general safety. The contribution to the discourse is offering potential areas for debate that are substantiated with statistics, surveys, and real-life examples as well as technological implementations.</p>
<p>Q &amp; A</p>	<p>4:30pm -</p>	

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<b>Dr. Lauren Casey</b> (she/her)	<b>4:55pm 5:55pm</b>	<b>Wellness Hour</b>
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**Panel 6: Chronicles of Change: Preserving Histories and Shaping Technological Futures**  
6:10pm - 8:00pm EST

**Moderator:** Ashlynn Tech: Jocelyn

<b>Amy Lebovitch</b> (she/her), <b>Danielle Allard</b> (she/her), & <b>Shawna Ferris</b> (she/they)	<b>6:10pm - 6:40pm</b>	<p><b>Digital Initiatives and Community-Driven Methods to Preserve and Promote Activists Histories Project</b></p> <p>Sex worker activism in Canada has a long and diverse history. As participants at this conference will be well aware it spans decades, generations, and complex geographies. In 2012 &amp; 2013, it achieved globally-celebrated precedent-setting legal victories (Canada [Attorney General] v. Bedford, 2013; Canada [Attorney General] v. Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence Society, 2012 ). Also a reality is the loss of sex work activist documents, artifacts, and archival records, and the stories that those records tell us about the activists who came before us and those who are active today. Until recently the histories of these radical activisms have been just as marginalized as sex workers themselves. A challenge to activist archiving and knowledge sharing is that the extreme violence to which sex work activists across the continent respond is also visited upon them. Serious, too, is the reality of activist burnout in these dire contexts, which also affects activists' longevity in sex work activism. Currently based in Canada, the Sex Work Activist Histories Project (SWAHP) is partnering with sex work activists to record and share the radical knowledges, activist expertise, and alternative histories created by sex work activists. Bringing together the expertise of activists, archivists, and researchers, SWAHP is collaborating to create, analyse, and promote the rich knowledges of sex work activists. These knowledges are about community building and support; engagement in anti-violence, anti-colonial, and social justice activism; as well as engagement in sex work activism and decriminalization. In a presentation that responds to Conference Theme 2, and the invitation to “showcase examples of activism and resistance” in the digital realm, we propose to introduce the Sex Work Database, a digital archive of</p>
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		sex worker activism from across the country. We will highlight examples of digital records and the important histories they remember, introduce our recently-launched digital (Hi)storytelling Project; and discuss the community-led collaborative methods that make SWAHP possible.
<b>Mandy Goodhandy</b> <b>a.k.a. Amanda Taylor</b> (she/her)	<b>6:40pm - 7:10pm</b>	<p><b>Online Adult Work from the Early Days to the Present Days</b></p> <p>Amanda Taylor (aka Mandy Goodhandy), a respected member of the trans community in Toronto, has been using the Internet for 30 years to promote her online presence as a sex worker and entrepreneur. In her presentation, Amanda will describe her experiences with online escort advertising circa 1994. In those early days, not many trans people, who were also sex workers, were online. Internet service providers accepted Amanda's business. However, billing services and credit card companies did not, as they were averse to accepting online businesses that dealt with adult content. With a bit of online sleuthing, Amanda found an unprejudiced billing service. Amanda used the Internet to her advantage as a sex worker and built an adult website, complete with AOL-style chat rooms, where she created her online persona, Mandy Goodhandy. Through her online presence, Mandy became an original social media influencer, before the term even existed. When Web 2.0 became available, Mandy started promoting herself with the use of social media and currently receives her admirers on online platforms such as OnlyFans. In her presentation, Mandy will discuss strategies she has developed to keep herself safe online and offline, adding new strategies and refining existing ones as technology evolved, whether it be screening potential clients with telephone technology (e.g., caller ID) or blocking ugly mugs online. Mandy observes: "People in the sex trade industry have become very careful and very intelligent regarding their online safety." Through her work, Mandy discovered that trans people were very well received online once people understood we existed. The population of trans people online and offline boomed to new records. It was all about educating the masses of our existence and why we existed. More often than not, this education comes from sex workers and people in the adult industry.</p>
<b>Alexandra Friedman</b> (she/her/hers)	<b>7:10pm - 7:40pm</b>	<p><b>SexTech TO and Toronto's Burgeoning Sextech Community</b></p> <p>My presentation will be about the business I founded, SexTech TO, including what I have accomplished so far, and what I hope to achieve with the business in the future. I have organized &amp; hosted 4 events in SexTech TO's first year, and I will talk about each event. Three of the four were social/professional mixers, each with guest speakers presenting on a specific topic under the sextech umbrella, followed by unstructured time for guests to mingle and network. The first mixer focused on disability, sexuality, &amp; technology, the second was on the future of porn, and the third was a discussion on the history and future of sex toys. The fourth event was a Sex Ed Salon in</p>

		<p>collaboration with After Sex Ed, which was a social mixer with four guest educators in attendance offering intimate, informal conversations on their areas of expertise in sex &amp; sexuality. All four of these events were incredibly well-received by attendees, proving that there is a thirst for this type of community building in Toronto. In terms of where I'd like to take SexTech TO into the future, I have several plans and ideas that I'm working toward. I am planning Toronto's first ever in-person sextech conference, complete with presentations from experts, educational workshops, porn screenings, vendors, and more. I would also like to bring a Porn Festival back to Toronto - with a focus on ethical, indie, and diverse productions - as there has not been a Toronto porn festival since Good For Her ran their last one in 2018. I am also aiming to grow SexTech TO into a professional development organization, to help bring sextech jobs and job seekers together under one platform. I believe my presentation would be a great fit under the Technological Innovation and Social Change theme, as SexTech TO is building community and transforming the sextech industry by putting Toronto on the map as a hub of talent and innovation.</p>
Q & A	7:40pm - 8:00pm	

**Saturday October 19, 2024**

**Panel 7: Reclaiming Innovation: Empowerment, Labour, and Resistance in the Digital Sex Industry**  
10:00am-12:20pm

**Moderator:** Rajeshwari **Tech:** Jennie

<p><b>Thapelo Mqehe</b> (his/him)</p>	<p><b>10:00am - 10:30am</b></p>	<p><b>Online Platforms and the Future of Sex Work for Male Black Sex Workers: Perspectives of the Township and the Means of Survival</b></p> <p>In the context of South Africa, male black sex workers in the townships who are on OnlyFans and do not identify as homosexuals but are willing to engage in it face a unique set of challenges and experiences in navigating their sexualities. Historically, South Africa has a complex relationship with sexuality, shaped by colonization, apartheid, and ongoing social and economic inequalities. As such, the experiences of these individuals reflect broader issues of identity, agency, and empowerment within the country. This abstract aims to explore the historical context, impact, and the experiences of male black sex workers in South Africa, shedding light on the challenges and</p>
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		<p>opportunities they face in a society with deeply ingrained stigmas and prejudices. In South Africa, the history of male black sex work dates back to the apartheid era, where economic deprivation and limited job opportunities pushed many individuals into the industry. The townships, characterized by poverty and social marginalization, became hubs for sex work, with many black men engaging in it as a means of survival. However, the stigma attached to homosexuality in the conservative society often prevented these individuals from openly identifying as such, leading to a complex interplay between sexual orientation and economic necessity. In recent years, the emergence of online platforms like OnlyFans has provided an opportunity for male black sex workers to market their services and connect with clients in a more discreet and secure manner. These platforms offer a level of anonymity and control that traditional street-based sex work does not provide, allowing individuals to set their own boundaries and negotiate their terms of engagement. For male black sex workers in the townships, OnlyFans can be a way to supplement their income, assert agency over their bodies, and explore their sexualities in a safe and controlled environment. OnlyFans has provided male black sex workers in townships a platform to sell adult content and earn a living, challenging traditional notions of sexual identity. Despite economic empowerment and sexual agency, they face discrimination and violence, with limited support and legal protections. Intersection of race, sexuality, and class complicates their experiences, emphasizing the need for a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by this marginalized group.</p>
<p><b>Aurelia Wilson</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>10:30am - 11:00am</b></p>	<p><b>OnlyFans and the New Economy of Sex Work; Digital, Creative, and Emotional Labor</b></p> <p>This project uses online documents to examine the experiences of digital sex workers operating on the subscription-based platform OnlyFans. The website, which offers exclusive adult and family-friendly content to users for a monthly subscription fee, drew prominent attention to itself during several waves of pandemic lockdowns (2020-2022) as many individuals created accounts on the platform as a safe way of earning an income remotely by creating sexual content and selling sexual services virtually. The exponential growth in popularity of OnlyFans has changed how individuals access and create pornography, as well as how sexual services are bought and sold, encouraging an imperative need for more research focused on the employment risks, benefits and needs of digital sex workers who are employed independently by OnlyFans and whose income is dependent on a variety of precarious factors including aesthetics, virality, algorithm design and mental health. This paper uses first-person narratives collected from YouTube videos (Annie, 2023; Cole, 2021, LenaThePlug, 2020) and blog entries (Valentine, 2022) to examine the forms of labor required by digital sex workers operating under a gig-economy model of employment, and highlights this model of employment's impact on sex workers' rights, protections and work environments. These frank and often raw voices of content creators are the focus of this study, which highlight the emotional,</p>



		<p>digital, entrepreneurial and aesthetic labor involved in being a sex worker online and maintaining a livable wage doing so. Considering that this presentation focuses on the labor required of sex workers on OnlyFans, as well as the impacts converging forms of labor have on the health and safety of the profession, it aligns with the conference's themes of ethical spaces for sex work, as well as wellness and safety in virtual spaces. Understanding sex workers' experiences with labor and which aspects of life come to be commodified in the pursuit of profit and subscriber growth is a crucial step in determining steps to ensure safer and more ethical workplace practices.</p>
<p><b>Diana Bellón</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>11:00am - 11:30am</b></p>	<p><b>Epistemic Justice in Webcam Modeling Research in Colombia: Exploring Models' Experiences</b></p> <p>The presentation can contribute to the categories "Legal and Ethical Perspectives of Sextech and Sex Work", the policies and regulations or "The Representation and Inclusivity in Virtual Spaces", highlighting the knowledge of digital sex workers in Bogotá-Colombia. It presents who is included or silenced currently in the discussions about the topic, and what are the demands and aspirations of the workers according to their realities and intersectionalities. The study focused on giving epistemic justice to webcam models in Bogotá, Colombia. It presents the knowledge of webcam models that are being unjustly silenced because they belong to the digital sex industry, therefore it highlights their voices and invites them to talk about what is important to them, positions them as experts and values their knowledge and experiences, challenging the hegemonic discussions that are being held on the subject. In this way, through a qualitative methodology with an approach of epistemic responsibility and a feminist standpoint epistemology, the research looked for how the webcam models in Bogotá understand their work and what are their demands and aspirations. The main results showed how the webcam industry and social stigmatization by belonging to the sex industry, in combination with other social or identity categories, silence the immense diversity among the people working as webcammers in Bogotá, and what is conditioning their experiences; evidencing the need for a polymorphous approach to contextualize the positive and negative experiences in this work. Additionally, their meanings, experiences, work conditions, needs, demands, aspirations, and proposals about how webcam modeling should be approached and regulated in the country. All the participants claimed epistemic justice without reproducing it, and demanded for flexible regulations that allow them to work according to their desires, needs and social categories.</p>
<p><b>Kaytlin Bailey</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>11:30am - 12:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Sex Workers Are and Have Always Been Early Adopters</b></p> <p>I propose a single presentation arguing that, in addition to elevating those most impacted by</p>

		<p>criminalization and stigma, we also reclaim sex workers' role as entrepreneurs, and innovators. Much of sex worker advocacy is rightfully focused on harm reduction and raising the negotiating power of the most vulnerable, many of whom do not have access to technology platforms. However, throughout history some sex workers have always been pioneers and early adopters with access to the latest technological innovations. We have been at the forefront of every major financial, technological and cultural innovation. The internet is no exception. Sex workers helped popularize and establish internet commerce. We are always innovating out of necessity to protect our privacy. Many sex workers are multi-disciplinary entrepreneurs, creating, distributing, advertising and monetizing their own content. And many of us use these skills to distribute information and find new ways to organize, often anonymously, online. NUM, National Ugly Mugs in the UK helps connect sex workers to bad client lists and ways of reporting abuse outside the criminal justice system. Sex work has been a tool that people, especially women, have used throughout history to make money, leave abusive relationships, and start businesses even when banking, technology, and investment platforms were not widely accessible to women at all. Today there are platforms and tools created by women with lived experience in the sex industry designed to help the next generation do this work safely. Tryst and Assembly Four work to provide a platform for sex workers to advertise. In order to shift policy towards the decriminalization of sex work, we must change the stories we tell about the oldest profession and remind policy makers that all kinds of people have engaged in this work to fund successful careers. Changing minds is critical for driving the culture and legislative breakthroughs required to secure human rights and opportunities for sex workers. Art media and storytelling are powerful levers for shifting beliefs and breaking down taboos.</p>
Q & A	12:00pm - 12:20pm	

**Panel 8: Digital Desirability: Analyzing Client Preferences and Success Metrics in Canadian Classified Ads for Sex Work**  
12:30pm - 1:50pm EST

**Moderator:** Tuulia **Tech:** Sam

<p><b>Susan Davis</b> (she/her), <b>Annie Temple</b></p>	<p><b>12:30pm - 1:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Playing the Name Game</b>  Previous studies that considered factors associated with success in sex work used measures such</p>
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<p>(she/her), &amp; <b>Sean Strygg</b> (he/him)</p>		<p>as hourly rates to identify more successful workers. However, such indicators are only an indirect measure of client interest. This study considers a prominent classified advertising venue in Canada that provided statistics on how often ads were viewed, providing a potentially more direct measure of client preferences. Daily views were calculated for a collection of 62582 classified ads generated by 12477 advertisers between July 9, 2023 and August 9, 2023. Factors associated with daily views and language use in ads were considered. During this period, ads were viewed a median 128 times per day per ad (IQR 64-248, mean 195, SD 234). Male advertisers received ~50% fewer views. Significant findings were that spending more on advertising was not found to result in more daily views. BIPOC advertisers could be associated with more or fewer views compared with White advertisers with Asian and Black advertisers having fewer views and Hispanic, Middle Eastern, First Nations, and Indo Canadian having more. Advertisers with large numbers of daily views were much more likely to restrict clients based on race and age than advertisers with fewer daily views. Further work is needed to understand the relationship between ad views and actual ad response. Some assumptions about sex buyers' race based preferences were shown to be accurate while others were not, suggesting that these preferences are not adequately accounted for by existing theory. Also highlighted is class separation among sex workers with increased views being associated with greater ability to set boundaries during client interactions.</p>
<p>Q &amp; A</p>	<p>1:30pm - 1:50pm</p>	

**Panel 9: The Digital Landscape: Evolution in Sex Workers' Advertising and Payment Processing**  
2:00pm - 4:20pm EST

**Moderator:** Rajeshwari **Tech:** Kathleen

<p><b>Sam Saunders</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>2:00pm - 2:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Tarts in the Archive: Locating Autonomy in Sex Workers' Advertisements from 1990s London</b></p> <p>This research seeks nuance in a critical visual analysis of sex workers' paper ephemera to gain a deeper knowledge of the design techniques implemented within sex workers' advertisements from 1990. Sex workers largely remain uncredited for their involvement in creating an entire genre of 'accidental art' and their contribution to the British phenomenon of 'carding', though their images were highly sought after, appearing in numerous private and public archival collections. Historically, sex work ephemera has been researched in sociological and typographical capacities that are</p>
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		<p>tethered to anti-sex work ideologies, reducing the imagery to by-products of the sex industry. The paper proposes an alternative framework to locate autonomy in the production of tart cards, offering a unique look at sex workers' creativity and lived experience through the context of print and home-desktop publishing. The paper argues that tart cards are a critical vessel for discussing themes of technology and communication within the sex-working community as they are pieces of social history that demonstrate how sex workers navigated censorship issues and whorephobia. The presentation contributes to the wider understanding of sex workers' aesthetic and visual culture, self-representation, advertising and branding strategies that are often absent from feminist discussions about the sex industry. A critical visual analysis of sex workers' imagery reveals how sex workers were actively engaging with and retaliating to Sex Worker Exclusionary Radical Feminist (SWERF) ideologies.</p>
<p><b>Noelle Perdue</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>2:30pm - 3:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding Payment Processing: History, Policy and Censorship</b></p> <p>I've been working as a speaker about the porn industry for a couple years now and would love to contribute if you're interested in having me. I have a background in porn writing and production, but now focus my work on writing about and researching how the porn industry affects socioeconomic affairs (mostly around tech and policy) and vice-versa. I would love to give a talk on the history of pornography, and how so much of our current technology has been influenced- or developed- by the adult industry, only to be later pushed out of using the very technologies it helped create. The talk would focus on digital media technologies and would more specifically explore the impact of the adult industry on the development of online payment methods like credit card processing, originally used by adult industry performers and studios for monthly membership/subscription sites (another current norm originally created by the adult industry). We would then look at the current relationship payment processors and image distribution platforms have with the adult industry- going into "high risk" industry classification, what that actually means for adult industry companies and creators, the power credit card companies have on what is allowed on versus censored on platforms, and the impact that this discriminatory practice has had on safety and security within the industry. There is so much talk about censorship and financial insecurity in and around the adult industry, and I think it would be helpful for people to understand the background and practical classifications of how these processes were created, and how (from a legal perspective) they are getting away with such blatant discrimination against sex workers and sex work-related platforms. I find- as someone in the adult industry- that much of the information around credit card processing is blatantly incorrect, contributing to a lack of understanding that creates the type of chaos and confusion that only benefits those in power. I want to empower both creatives and consumers to understand the mechanics of discrimination, so they can better fight against them.</p>

<p><b>Bella Robinson</b> (she/her/hers)</p>	<p><b>3:00pm - 3:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Technology and Sex Workers' Rights Frameworks</b></p> <p>FOSTA/SESTA went into effect in 2018, effectively removing many US sex work advertising, screening, and networking resources from the Internet. In 2022, COYOTE surveyed 227 people (332 people started the survey, 227 finished it) who had worked in the sex industry before and after FOSTA. Broadly speaking, we found that FOSTA increased force, fraud, and coercion against sex workers from other actors within the sex trade, and violence from clients and perpetrators posing as clients. At the same time, FOSTA created more vulnerability to violence by reducing income, increasing homelessness, decreasing peer support, and decreasing access to safety information. FOSTA negatively impacted public safety by pushing advertising sites overseas where police are less able to subpoena information from them and by making sex workers and sex trafficking survivors much less likely to report serious crimes, like assault or child pornography, to police. In other words, the real world effects of FOSTA are completely contrary to its stated intent. In this presentation, Bella Robinson will review the data reported in COYOTE's Four Years of FOSTA report.</p>
<p><b>Annie Temple</b> (she/her) &amp; <b>Susan Davis</b> (she/her)</p>	<p><b>3:30pm - 4:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>The Challenges of Providing Adult Classifieds to Canadian Sex Workers</b></p> <p>Adult classifieds websites are an integral part of the business of sex work. They are the easiest tool to find clients and for clients to find us. They enable us to be very clear about our screening techniques, our boundaries, our expectations, and what we offer. But adult classifieds websites have been under attack, as we've seen with the closing of adult classifieds websites like Craigslist and Backpage. Then there is the treatment of sex workers by sites that currently exist. They make a lot of money off sex workers posting our ads. Yet, they are difficult to access support from and they keep raising rates with no sign of appreciation of sex workers for our patronage or concern for our welfare, as we face a struggling economy in Canada. My partners and I at The Naked Truth wanted to create a sex-worker run Adult Classifieds website, so that we could provide the kind of service we think sex workers deserve. The goal was to start out free and then charge affordable rates to manage and maintain the site. Any profits would be used to run programs and services that we are unable to get funded through traditional means. We thought we would just need to build the website and our dream would begin to be realized. We didn't anticipate the challenges that we've experienced. Interestingly, so far, none of our challenges have involved police intervention. I believe that is because of the relationship built between sex workers and police during the inquiry that led to the Forsaken report. My presentation will cover the reason we started the website, our process, the challenges we've faced, and where we are now.</p>

Q & A	4:00pm - 4:20pm	
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Arlene Pitts (she/her)	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Wellness Hour
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**Panel 10: Erotic Expressions: Subversive Media, Digital Labour, and the Future of Sexuality**

6:00pm - 7:50pm EST

**Moderator:** Rajeshwari **Tech:** Jennie

Lauren Levitt	6:00pm - 6:30pm	<p><b>Sex Worker Digital Zines: Building Community, Political Organizing, and Self-Representation</b></p> <p>Sex workers create subcultural content as a form of self-expression and self-representation. They utilize such content to build community, push back against hegemonic narratives about sex work and sex workers, and organize politically. Digital media, like social media, podcasting, and electronic zines, offer sex workers an opportunity to create such content and distribute it on a mass scale. This paper focuses on one form of sex worker digital media, electronic zines. Digital zine-making allows sex workers to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences from their own perspectives and in their own voices. While scholars of zines usually acknowledge that digital zines exist, they typically focus on physical zines in their analysis, frequently comparing electronic media negatively to physical zines. Sex worker zines challenge this distinction between the digital and the physical. Some physical zines by sex workers start as blog posts, and some are also available in digital format. Moreover, physical sex worker zines are frequently digitized and made available through electronic zine archives. Finally, although digital sex worker zines are made with different technology and are more easily distributed, like physical zines they create affective community and have political effects. Through textual and visual analysis of 10 digital sex worker zines, I show how these zines build community through their address to sex workers and other sympathetic readers. Moreover, I reveal how they engage in community organizing by sharing information and how they push back against dominant narratives about sex work, for example by complicating the discussion surrounding sex work and sex trafficking. Finally, I illustrate how,</p>
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		through self-representation, sex workers whose voices are often excluded from both the mainstream media and the mainstream sex workers' rights movement resist the erasure of their identities and experiences.
<b>Jelena Vermilion</b> (she/her) & <b>Andrea Zeffiro</b> (she/her)	<b>6:30pm - 7:00pm</b>	<p><b>This Internet is Built on (Y)our Backs</b></p> <p>Sex workers have been at the forefront of pivotal innovations in the development of the contemporary internet, such as the development of formats like jpegs and animated gifs, bulletin boards, video streaming, encrypted online payments, and banking. In short, sex workers have built the internet as we know it. However, the subsequent erasure of the intellectual and emotional labour of sex work(ers) from Internet histories, coupled with the persistent criminalization of sex workers who use digital technologies for professional purposes, have contributed to deficiencies in broader claims made about core issues related to the Internet, including but not limited to privacy, surveillance, security, accessibility and profitability. Our presentation will reflect on our collaborative project that documents and mobilizes knowledge about sex workers in Hamilton through zine-making as experts with lived experiences and expertise to reshape mainstream cyber security, safety and surveillance. The underrepresentation and exclusion of sex workers' experiences in cyber security have obstructed awareness of how members of the profession experience security, safety and surveillance, the innovative and ingenious workarounds adopted to mitigate risks and threats, and the multifaceted ways in which members of the profession are targets of invasive and unwarranted surveillance, often under the guise of security. We implement zines as a participatory action research tool to achieve our project's goals. Zines are do-it-yourself print and digital publications representing the ideas, values, experiences, and identities of communities undervalued, underrepresented, or misrepresented in mainstream cultures. We will share preliminary findings from our project and consider how centering the experiences and insights of sex workers' application of digital technologies in their professional contexts is an opportunity to provide counter-narratives to internet histories while imagining the future internet as a space created by and for sex workers. To this end, our contribution reflects the conference theme and panel category, 'Representation and Inclusivity in Virtual Spaces.' *Accessibility needs: Please allow Jelena extra time to repeat herself and process audio.</p>
<b>Kathleen Cherrington</b> (she/her)	<b>7:00pm - 7:30pm</b>	<p><b>Media XXXploration: Journeying Through Pornography's Innovations and Social Transformations</b></p> <p>In my boardgame project, "Porn Trivia," I invite participants into conversations about the intersections of pornography, sexuality, media, and human sex work. Through the integration of</p>

		<p>digital art, activism, education, and entertainment, this project aims to unravel the complex threads of sex-positive feminism and inclusive dialogue to spark meaningful conversations and challenge dominant narratives. Embedded within this project are three research questions that serve as guiding pillars for our discourse: What is porn? I contend that porn is a socially constructed phenomenon that has evolved across various spaces and times. Through the dynamic gameplay of "Porn Trivia," participants are prompted to deconstruct preconceived notions of pornography, engaging in critical dialogue surrounding its historical, cultural, and societal dimensions. How can creative modes of resistance challenge whorephobia? Central to our exploration is an interrogation of whorephobia and its pervasive influence on societal attitudes towards morality, censorship, sexuality, and gender. "Porn Trivia" serves as a platform for creative resistance, empowering participants to challenge stigmatization and pathologization faced by sex workers and consumers alike. By fostering safer spaces for discourse, the game seeks to disrupt entrenched systems of oppression and advocate for the rights and dignity of all individuals involved in the porn industry. How do sextech advancements intersect with human sex work? Building upon critical porn studies, this presentation will delve into the symbiotic relationship between sextech innovations and the realities of sex work. Participants explore the ways in which technology has reshaped the landscape of sexual labor, highlighting issues of agency, consent, and labour rights within sextech-driven economies. Together, these research questions serve as guiding beacons, illuminating the complex intersections of sextech, human sex work, and critical porn studies. Through the interactive medium of a "Porn Trivia" board game, this presentation challenges assumptions and envisions equitable futures for all stakeholders in the realm of sexuality and technology.</p>
Q & A	7:30pm - 7:50pm	

**Panel 11: Behind the Red Light: A Cinematic Exploration of Sex Work (Film Screening)**

8:00pm - 9:20pm EST

**Moderator:** \*Soma Snakeoil **Tech:** Kathleen

<p><b>Antonia Crane</b> (she/her), Jen</p>	<p><b>8:00pm - 9:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Whoring the Gaze</b></p>
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<p><b>Jen Elizabeth</b> (she/her), <b>Soma Snakeoil</b> (she/her), &amp; <b>Kimberly Soriano</b> (she/they)</p>		<p>This panel focuses on the queerness of the sex worker gaze using film as a medium for our advocacy and art. We are a panel of frontline sex worker advocates, sex workers, scholars, filmmakers and artists who offer a vital perspective that has long been missing from digital spaces, particularly film and TV: the queer sex worker gaze. While dominant cultural narratives often show sex workers as conniving, self-destructive and brittle victims, we offer three vibrant films made by, for and about our lives: three unique films which all contain shades of hope, resistance, protest, reflection, humor and community. By telling our stories our way— in two documentary-style shorts and one narrative short film, the whore gaze queers heteronormative culture by its specific provocation. Our films command acknowledgement of our agency and our sovereignty. Filmmaking is world building: we have built our internal and external worlds in the digital space, from sound engineering to writing, acting and directing, the production of our films call attention to our ongoing fight for a seat at the table to demand our long overdue human rights, labor rights and queer liberation. Sex Work is Work, Lady Los Angeles and Die-In are films that educate, exhilarate and provoke: [1] Sex Work is Work is a one-minute film by activist filmmaker Adam Trunell documenting his friendship with sex worker and sex worker advocate, Soma Snakeoil. The scene takes place on a bridge in Los Angeles on International Whore’s Day (June 2nd). [2] Lady Los Angeles is an award-winning short film written and directed by sex worker, stripper unionizer, author and activist, Antonia Crane. Lady Los Angeles is about a young Latinx trans woman who makes her rent in post-SESTA/FOFSTA Los Angeles in a story with no heroes and no victims. [3] Sex Worker Die-In depicts sex worker groups protesting at Los Angeles City Hall against policies criminalizing their work, demanding decriminalization and safer working conditions.</p>
<p>Q &amp; A</p>	<p>9:00pm - 9:20pm</p>	

<p><b>Closing Comments</b></p>
<p>9:20pm - 9:30pm EST</p>
<p><b>Conference Coordinator:</b> Kathleen Cherrington</p>

**Biographies**

## Conference Organizing Teams and Affiliations

### Directors of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Research Cluster

<p><b>Dr. Amanda De Lisio</b></p>	<p>Dr. Amanda De Lisio is an Assistant Professor of physical culture, policy and sustainable development in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science, Executive Member of CITY Institute, and Co-Director (with Dr. Tuulia Law) of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Research Cluster at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University. Her research is broadly interested in health, informality, and urban development in mega-event host cities, as informed by women (cis and trans*) in popular economies in the Global South. Her work has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council in England, Mitacs Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and published in academic and popular presses in English and Portuguese.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Tuulia Law</b></p>	<p>Dr. Tuulia Law is an Assistant Professor in the Criminology Program at York University. She is also appointed to and supervises students in the Socio-Legal Studies, and Gender Feminist and Women's Studies graduate programs. She has been involved as a researcher and member of various sex worker advocacy organizations for more than a decade; she currently works with a Toronto-based strippers' social and advocacy group called <a href="#">Work Safe Twerk Safe</a>. Her previous research has examined: third-party work and management in indoor sex and adult industry venues; sex workers' creative problem-solving and security strategies; and racialized, gendered and classed tropes of sex work and management. Her current projects explore stripper-management relations and tensions, and strippers' engagement with provincial labour and human rights protection mechanisms.</p>

### Beyond the Interface Organizing Team

<p><b>Dr. Thérèse Bernier</b></p>	<p>Dr. Thérèse Bernier (she/her) As the coordinator for the Health Informatics program at George Brown College, Dr. Thérèse Bernier manages faculty, develops and teaches courses, and sources experiential learning opportunities for students. Dr. Bernier completed her doctoral studies at the University of Toronto</p>
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	<p>in November 2022, where her dissertation focused on public health informatics, specifically, Canadian sex workers' usage of information and communication technologies to assist in their occupational health and safety. Dr. Bernier also obtained a SSHRC IDG grant in June 2023 for the research project "Sex work - the musical: altering societal perceptions of sex work through audience engagement with a musical play."</p>
<b>Ashlynn Chand</b>	<p>Ashlynn Chand is a Master of Arts student in Development Studies at York University; her research focuses on the digital harassment of Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers in Malaysia. She has been published numerous times for her press articles on sex work, migrant sex work, digital sex work, and trafficking.</p>
<b>Kathleen Cherrington</b>	<p>Kathleen Cherrington (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies Program at York University. She was an outreach worker spanning 15 years, for chronically homeless individuals, HIV+ prisoners, and street-based sex workers. Currently, her research pursuits delve into critical sex work studies, sexual rights, and feminist sex-tech theories. Her commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the real-world issues faced by vulnerable populations underscores her dedication to making meaningful impacts in society. She aims to broaden the scope of her academic and practical understanding of sexuality, technology, and feminist studies.</p>
<b>Sylvie Côté</b>	<p>Sylvie Côté is a second-year PhD student at York University in the Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies program. Her research explores cultural representations of drug users, as well as how rave-goers in Toronto understand their social identity in relation to their drug use. She's a lead volunteer and peer with psyLush, a Toronto-based harm reduction organization in the rave community. Her project aims to identify how harm reduction efforts could be more effective when they take up an intersectional approach. Finally, Sylvie's hobbies include flow dancing, painting, and hiking.</p>
<b>Alicia Delima</b>	<p>Alicia Delima (she/her) is a student in the Master of Arts in Gender, Feminist, &amp; Women's Studies at York University. Her research focuses on the dual identities of mothering and sex work.</p>

<b>Youn Joung Kim</b>	Youn Joung Kim is a doctoral candidate in Gender, Feminist, & Women's Studies at York University. Her research focuses on the history of sex workers' rights movements and mainstream feminist anti-sex trafficking campaigns in South Korea from a decolonial epistemological feminist perspective.
<b>Sonja Moroz</b>	Sonja Moroz has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), from Queen's University, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Project Management from Humber College, and is currently pursuing the Fundraising Certificate Program at George Brown College. Her overall motivation in life is to support causes that help marginalized and vulnerable populations in Canada and around the world. Sonja has a strong passion for social justice work and is volunteering with Beyond the Interface to assist with project management and fundraising. She has worked in these capacities for large organizations such as the UNDP Bangladesh and UNICEF Canada as well as small groups such as Rainbow Faith and Freedom (RFF), a grassroots organization that aims to end religious-based LGBTQ2S+ discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. Her BAH in Global Development included studies in Cuban culture and development at the University of Havana. She completed a research program in Shanghai China at Fudan University in the School of Social Development and Public Policy. Her research addressed the systemic and political barriers faced by migrant workers integrating into Shanghai society. Sonja loves trekking; past highlights include Taksang Monastery in Bhutan and Tiger Leaping Gorge in Yunnan, China.
<b>Rajeshwari Nandkumar</b>	Rajeshwari Nandkumar is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English & Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Her research focuses on cultural representations of sex workers in post-globalization India and explores the colonial origins of concepts like deviance and normativity.
<b>Jennie Pearson</b>	Jennie Pearson (she/her) is a doctoral candidate in the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program at UBC. Her research is nested in the AESHA Project (An Evaluation of Sex Workers' Health Access) at the Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity. Her mixed-methods doctoral research explores sex worker mutual aid in the context of criminalization and anti-sex work internet policy. Jennie also works with the AESHA Project as a Community Engagement Associate, supporting knowledge translation, creative storytelling projects, and community partnerships. Her past work experience includes publishing, journalism, and resource

	development for sex work organizations such as PACE Society. Jennie possesses a Bachelor of Journalism from Toronto Metropolitan University and an MA in Global Communications from Simon Fraser University.
<b>Evania Pietrangelo-Porco</b>	Evania Pietrangelo-Porco (she/her) is a PhD candidate (York University), a sex worker ally, a trained historian, and a blogger. She specializes in 20th-century Canadian, 19th and 20th-century feminist, 20th-century North American Indigenous, and contemporary sex work history. Evania won the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-Master's Scholarship (2019) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Grant (2022). She also holds various professional affiliations with the Centre for Feminist Studies, Robarts Centre, and the History of Indigenous Peoples Network. Most significantly, Evania has worked with folks in the sex work community, including the British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Communities (BCCEC) and Sex Workers Outreach Project Los Angeles (SWOP LA).
<b>Sam Saunders</b>	Sam Saunders (she/her) is a PhD student at the University of Essex, her research interests are in visual culture studies and sex workers' rights. Her methodological framework stems from an intersectional feminist positioning with a multifaceted, interdisciplinary approach adopting visual criminological methods, to address the representation of sex workers as marginalised bodies in British culture.
<b>Jocelyn Tan</b>	Jocelyn Tan is a second-year Master of Public Health (MPH) student specializing in Social and Behavioral Sciences. She currently serves as the co-vice chair of Maggie's Sex Work Action Project. Jocelyn's research focus on sex work occupational health and safety, participatory action research, and broader issues of emancipation and advocacy for sex workers.

### Wellness Hosts

<p><b>Dr. Lauren Casey</b> (she/her)</p>	<p>Dr. Lauren Casey possesses over two decades of experience collaborating with regional, national, and international organizations dedicated to mitigating health disparities among sex workers. As a preeminent authority on the North American sex industry, she has contributed extensively to scholarly literature, including publications with Springer Publishing, Routledge International, University of Toronto Press, and leading journals such as the Journal of Addiction Research and Therapy and Qualitative Health Research. Dr. Casey has delivered over 100 presentations globally, encompassing academic and professional forums, where she integrates her empirical research with personal insights from her experience in the sex industry.</p> <p><a href="https://www.laurencasey.com/">https://www.laurencasey.com/</a></p>
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<p><b>Arlene Pitts</b></p>	<p>Arlene Jane (she/her) is a trauma-informed Registered Social Worker and Psychotherapist and owner of Hustle Heal Motivate Psychotherapy &amp; Coaching. Her approach to psychotherapy is real, raw and authentic, with over 20 years of experience in advocacy, harm reduction and mental health, working with diverse populations with a focus on sex workers, people with a history of homelessness, people who use drugs, and those who have been impacted by the prison system. Arlene has a unique combination of life experiences and professional expertise, she has received several awards for her work and advocacy. She also holds a Master's degree in Public Policy Administration and Law (York University) and a Master's in Counselling Psychology (In Process), but believes wholeheartedly that real knowledge and expertise come from those with lived experience and those who continue to live it! <a href="http://www.hustlehealmotivate.com">www.hustlehealmotivate.com</a> IG @hustle.heal.motivate Psychology Today: <a href="https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/therapists/arlene-jane-pitts-hamilton-on/463359">https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/therapists/arlene-jane-pitts-hamilton-on/463359</a></p>
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### Keynote Speaker

<p><b>Gabriella M. Garcia</b></p>	<p>Gabriella Garcia is a creative researcher with over a decade of experience of sharing stories about networked subcultures and technologically-enabled intimacy. She is currently developing a practice that uses speculative fiction and magical realism to gather sex workers together over designing futures toward potential real-world solutions. Between 2020-'24 she directed Decoding Stigma, a collective calling for sex worker voices in all spaces designing the future. All of her work is in support of the international movement</p>
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	<p>to decriminalize sex work. Her expanded practice includes techno-feminist research, community-centered archiving, multimedia performance art, and poetic technology. As a performance artist, Gabriella works to create spaces ruled by vulnerability. She has presented work at the NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, Parsons Cloud Salon, Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet &amp; Society, Stony Brook University, UMass Amherst, and Brown University. She has collaborated with Hacking//Hustling, Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Decriminalized Future's Ladies of the Night School, and New York's Museum of Sex. <a href="https://decodingstigma.tech/">https://decodingstigma.tech/</a></p>
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### Master of Ceremonies

#### Colleen Ford

<p><b>Colleen Ford</b></p>	<p>Colleen Ford (she/her) is an Indigenous Cultural Support Worker with Atira Women's Resource Society in Vancouver, BC, where she has worked for 17 years. Raised in Fort St. James, Colleen moved to Vancouver at 16 and has since dedicated her life to supporting street-based sex workers through harm reduction. She worked on the Mobile Access Project (MAP) van, providing emotional support to vulnerable women during graveyard hours, and at Sereena's Place, a harm reduction housing project. Colleen advocates for the memorialization of those lost to violence and raises awareness about the ongoing risks facing Indigenous women and sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. <a href="https://atira.bc.ca/">https://atira.bc.ca/</a> <a href="https://atira.bc.ca/what-we-do/housing/sereenas-housing-for-women/">https://atira.bc.ca/what-we-do/housing/sereenas-housing-for-women/</a> <a href="https://wish-vancouver.net/program/mobile-access-project-map-van/">https://wish-vancouver.net/program/mobile-access-project-map-van/</a></p>
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### Biographies of Panelists

#### Danielle Allard

<p><b>Danielle Allard</b></p>	<p>Danielle Allard (she/her) is an Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Education. Her research falls at the intersection of culture and community, information (its usages, representations, and institutions), and the role that information and information institutions play in feminist, decolonizing, and anti-violence efforts. With Sex Professionals of Canada's Executive Director Amy</p>
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	Lebovitch and Dr. Shawna Ferris, her present research on the Sex Work Activist Histories Project (SWAHP) explores sex work activism in Canada and the production of related histories and digital representations. In collaboration with Dr. Tami Oliphant and Angela Lieu, her other research examines patron-perpetrated sexual harassment of library staff. <a href="https://swahp.ca">https://swahp.ca</a>
<b>Jocelyne Allen</b>	Jocelyne Allen (she/they) is a Japanese translator and interpreter who splits her time between Toronto and Tokyo. She has translated hundreds of short stories, novels, and manga, including the Eisner Award-winning title <i>Lovesickness</i> by Junji Ito and the beloved Japanese classic <i>Colorful</i> by Eto Mori. In her capacity as an interpreter, she has worked with Japan's most celebrated authors and artists. She teaches Japanese-English translation in the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies and can be found online at <a href="http://kaikatsu.ca">kaikatsu.ca</a> or @brainvsbook on Bluesky.
<b>Kaytlin Bailey</b>	Kaytlin Bailey (she/her) is the Founder & Executive Director at Old Pros, a non-profit media organization creating conditions to change the status of s*x workers in society. She hosts The Oldest Profession Podcast, which reminds listeners that sex workers have always been part of the story. Each episode focuses on an "old pro" from history, contextualizing that figure in their own time and connecting their story to the ongoing struggle for sex worker rights. She is currently touring her one-woman show, Whore's Eye View, a mad dash through 10,000 years of history from a sex worker's perspective. <a href="https://oldprosonline.org/">https://oldprosonline.org/</a>
<b>Diana Bellón</b>	My name is Diana Bellón (she/hers), I am a Colombian and Chilean psychologist with professional experience working with victims of human rights violations, and a Master's in Development Studies, majoring in Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies with Social Justice Perspectives. I have never worked as a sex worker so my intention with the study was to present and recognize the knowledge of the digital sex workers interviewed, their demands and aspirations. In this sense, to work as a platform which gives a place in academia to the knowledge of the webcam models, their experiences and diversities.
<b>Dr. Thérèse Bernier</b>	Dr. Thérèse Bernier (she/her) completed her doctoral studies at the University of Toronto in November 2022. With the awarding of a SSHRC IDG grant (June 2023), Dr. Bernier continues to collaboratively



	<p>explore with sex workers the issues they face in maintaining their occupational health and safety while at work. Outside of research, Dr. Bernier manages and teaches in the Health Informatics program at George Brown College. Dr. Bernier is also a member of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Research Cluster at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University.</p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/informaticschic/?locale=zh_CN">https://www.instagram.com/informaticschic/?locale=zh_CN</a> and <a href="https://x.com/informaticschic">https://x.com/informaticschic</a></p>
<b>Liudmila Bredikhina</b>	<p>As of 2024 Liudmila Bredikhina (she/her) is affiliated with South East Technological University (SETU). This research was not conducted when she was registered with SETU. She is researching male <i>kawai</i> and virtual gender practices in Japan from the perspective of feminist and masculinities studies. Through virtual ethnographic fieldwork, she interrogates Japanese men’s discursive practices surrounding cuteness and investigates how they harness the virtual space to perform ‘other’ identities. Her recent publications include 当事者の声をとらえる—「バ美肉」実践者へのアンケート・インタビュー調査 (Capturing the voices of those involved: Survey and interview methods for studying ‘babiniku’) <i>VTuber学 (VTuber studies)</i>; “Babiniku: what lies behind the virtual performance. Contesting gender norms through technology and Japanese theatre” <i>Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies</i> 22 (2); “Becoming a Virtual Cutie: Digital Cross-Dressing in Japan” <i>Convergence</i>; “Virtual reality sex-work: phantom touch and ‘tricks’” <i>ConVRgence (VRIC) Virtual Reality International Conference Proceedings</i>; “Virtual Theatrics and the Ideal VTuber Bishōjo” <i>REPLAYING JAPAN</i> 3. <a href="https://twitter.com/BredikhinaL">https://twitter.com/BredikhinaL</a></p>
<b>Arik Brückner</b>	<p>Arik Brückner (he/him) is the co-founder and CEO of Choice Technologies, the company behind the paid companionship and paid intimacy booking and payment platform CHOICE (<a href="https://saferchoice.ch/">https://saferchoice.ch/</a>). Previously he bootstrapped Pitcher, an enterprise B2B SaaS company which got sold to a US-based private equity company. For his next venture, he wanted to combine technology and societal impact which led to the research into loneliness and paid companionship &amp; intimacy as potential intervention mechanisms as stated by the late John Cacioppo from the University of Chicago. <a href="https://saferchoice.ch/">https://saferchoice.ch/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/saferchoice.ch">https://www.instagram.com/saferchoice.ch</a>, <a href="https://x.com/saferchoicech">https://x.com/saferchoicech</a>, <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/saferchoice/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/saferchoice/</a>, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saferchoice.ch">https://www.facebook.com/saferchoice.ch</a>, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@saferchoice/">https://www.youtube.com/@saferchoice/</a>, <a href="https://www.tiktok.com/@choice.ch">https://www.tiktok.com/@choice.ch</a></p>

<b>Rowanna Cadman-Bell</b>	Rowanna Cadman-Bell (she/her) is an Art Historian and former pro dominatrix, with an MA from the University of Essex with a specialist interest in curatorial ecology and social inequality. She is currently working as a research and writing assistant for a project on interactive fiction and video games as an artistic medium and is part of a duo developing a performance piece based on navigating queer relationships.
<b>Clare Carmody</b>	Clare Carmody (she/her) is a passionate educator and rising star in the SexTech industry. As the Head of Programs at Sextech School, she blends her background in digital transformation and community management. Clare also teaches at Fitzroy Academy for Social Enterprise. Her role at Salesforce involved leading training workshops for thousands of people around the world, sharpening her skills in cross-cultural teaching. On top of that, Clare runs "Erotic French," where she mixes language learning with eroticism in fun and inclusive ways. She's all about promoting inclusivity and equity, especially in tech and sextech, and values diverse perspectives and ethical practices. <a href="https://www.sextechschool.com/">https://www.sextechschool.com/</a>
<b>Dr. Lauren Casey</b>	Dr. Lauren Casey possesses over two decades of experience collaborating with regional, national, and international organizations dedicated to mitigating health disparities among sex workers. As a preeminent authority on the North American sex industry, she has contributed extensively to scholarly literature, including publications with Springer Publishing, Routledge International, University of Toronto Press, and leading journals such as the Journal of Addiction Research and Therapy and Qualitative Health Research. Dr. Casey has delivered over 100 presentations globally, encompassing academic and professional forums, where she integrates her empirical research with personal insights from her experience in the sex industry. <a href="https://www.laurencasey.com/">https://www.laurencasey.com/</a>
<b>Kathleen Cherrington</b>	Kathleen Cherrington (she/her) is a PhD candidate in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies at York University. With 15 years of community-based outreach experience, she has focused on marginalized communities, including chronically homeless individuals struggling with mental health and addictions, HIV+ prisoners, and sex workers. Her current research explores sex work studies, sexual rights, and feminist sextech theories. Passionate about sexuality studies, sex-positive feminism, and the societal impacts of sextech, she investigates the ethical, legal, and socioeconomic implications. She is committed to bridging academia with real-world issues and

	<p>strives for inclusive societal change through engaged scholarship and knowledge mobilization. <a href="https://www.yorku.ca/cfr/2024/07/02/call-for-research-participants-erobotic-futures/">https://www.yorku.ca/cfr/2024/07/02/call-for-research-participants-erobotic-futures/</a></p>
<b>Antonia Crane</b>	<p>Antonia Crane (she/her) is a writer, queer sex worker, filmmaker, activist, and PhD candidate at USC. She is the author of the memoir, Spent. She won the Outstanding Community Service &amp; Activism Award from Antioch University in 2018 for her legacy of unionizing strippers at The Lusty Lady Peepshow in 1996. PRISM International magazine named Crane the grand prize winner of their 2019 nonfiction contest. Her work can be found in: The New York Times, The Nation, LA Public Press, N+1, and “Whorephobia: Strippers on Art, Work and Life,” edited by Lizzie Borden. Crane continues to advocate for sex worker rights. <a href="https://www.antoniacrane.com/">https://www.antoniacrane.com/</a></p>
<b>Susan Davis</b>	<p>Susan Davis (she/her) is a sex worker of 38 years, a sex workers rights advocate and policy researcher for 22 years and is the Executive Director of the BC Coalition of Experiential Communities. She is responsible for interpretation and community perspective regarding results in “Playing the Name Game”. <a href="https://nakedtruth.ca/">https://nakedtruth.ca/</a></p>
<b>Arman Deendar</b>	<p>Arman Deendar (they/she) is a senior at Brown University studying history and computer Science. They are a writer, editor, and organizer interested in the overlapping histories of sex work, colonialism, and transsexuality, particularly in South Asia. Their research is concerned with how technological interventions can subvert carceral understandings of sex work with a focus on radical self-narration and place-making. Their research has been supported by the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, the Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, and the Swearer Center for Engaged Scholarship. Arman currently works as an editorial intern for n+1 and served as the Managing Editor of the 48th Volume of The College Hill Independent. <a href="https://twitter.com/RedCanarySong">https://twitter.com/RedCanarySong</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/redcanarysong/">https://www.instagram.com/redcanarysong/</a></p>
<b>Delphine DiTecco</b>	<p>Delphine DiTecco (she/her) is passionate about the 80s, kitsch, and combating slut-shaming. Pursuing a Law and Legal Studies Ph.D. at Carleton University, with a background in psychology and gender studies, she brings an interdisciplinary approach to issues at the intersection of sexuality, technology, and law. Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, her dissertation explores</p>

	the intersections between robot technologies and sex work, focusing on sex worker rights. Delphine also serves as Head of Activism and Community Engagement for le Shaw, working to improve the well-being of sex industry workers.
<b>Maxine Doogan</b>	Maxine Doogan (she/her) is an American sex worker, social justice and politics expert and advocate, documentarian, artist, author and media personality. For 35 years, Maxine has regularly traveled across the U.S and abroad, providing erotic services, and working to protect and enhance the rights and conditions of sex workers. <a href="https://esplerp.org/">https://esplerp.org/</a> <a href="https://stoptheraids.org/">https://stoptheraids.org/</a> and <a href="https://x.com/esplerp?lang=en">https://x.com/esplerp?lang=en</a> and <a href="https://x.com/sfmistress?lang=en">https://x.com/sfmistress?lang=en</a> and <a href="https://www.maxinedoogan.com/">https://www.maxinedoogan.com/</a>
<b>Jen Elizabeth</b>	Jen Elizabeth (she/hers), CTTC is the Director of Street Engagement & Trauma Informed Services at The Sidewalk Project. She is a Certified Trauma Recovery Coach specializing in childhood & sexual trauma, with a specific concentration on gender-based violence within those experiences. Jen's 2 decades unsheltered, doing survival sex work, substance use & enduring the cycle of incarceration... provides her invaluable lived experiences. She actively contributes to multiple Community Advisory Boards, gives regular lectures at UCLA, the USC & UCI about medical violence within clinical settings. Much of Jen's current work is focused on BIPOC Trans Sex Workers living with HIV. <a href="https://www.thesidewalkproject.org/">https://www.thesidewalkproject.org/</a>
<b>Shawna Ferris</b>	Shawna Ferris (she/they) is Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Manitoba. She researches and teaches in sex work/prostitution studies, critical race studies, the ethics of community-based research, and anti-violence feminist activism. She also works with local and national activists and artists in these areas. Most recently, her work has appeared in the International Journal of Qualitative Methods, and in the collection Sex Work Activism in Canada (2019), which she co-edited with longtime sex work activist Amy Lebovitch. She and Amy also work with Dr. Danielle Allard and activists from across Canada on the Sex Work Activist Histories Project, and with Winnipeg researchers and activists on a critical inquiry into Manitoba's 'john school.' <a href="https://swahp.ca/">https://swahp.ca/</a>
<b>Alexandra Friedman</b>	Alexandra Friedman (she/her/hers) is the Founder of SexTech TO, Toronto's first-ever platform bringing together SexTech professionals and enthusiasts. Alexandra has many years of experience in the sextech &

	<p>sexuality industries, including such roles as Assistant Community Manager at Make Love Not Porn and E-Commerce Manager at local sex toy retailer Good For Her. Alexandra founded SexTech TO with the vision of establishing an infrastructure for the sextech industry to thrive in Toronto. She has organized &amp; hosted four successful events in SexTech TO's first year. Through SexTech TO, Alexandra promotes a culture of acceptance and curiosity around sexuality, combats shame and stigma, and builds relationships that spark collaboration, creativity, and innovation. <a href="https://www.sextechto.com/">https://www.sextechto.com/</a> and <a href="https://www.instagram.com/sextechto/">https://www.instagram.com/sextechto/</a> and <a href="https://twitter.com/sextechto">https://twitter.com/sextechto</a></p>
<p><b>Mandy Goodhandy aka Amanda Taylor</b></p>	<p>Mandy Goodhandy aka Amanda Taylor (she/her) is an accomplished singer, stand-up comic and speaker. As an author, Mandy published "Just Call Me Lady - A Work of Completion." After graduating from High School in 1972, Mandy studied at Sheridan College (1972-1976), where she completed two associate degrees, one in business and the other in musical theatre. Mandy has been a guest speaker at Toronto Metropolitan University, speaking about online entrepreneurialism. Mandy has also been invited to the University of Toronto to discuss the history of sex work and the history of the Internet. She was most recently invited to speak virtually at the Sheridan College Alum in 2023, outlining her experiences after graduating from Sheridan, with a focus on her career and her involvement in the queer community. <a href="https://www.mandygoodhandy.com/">https://www.mandygoodhandy.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Nachi Hanamachi</b></p>	<p>Nachi Hanamachi is excited to announce that as a cast member of X Oasis, she is eager to share her experiences. She started playing VRChat in 2018. In 2020, she began working at X-Oasis. She will be present during the Zoom call as her virtual character. Here are some things she would like to touch upon: "The great thing about VR sex is that you can do things that aren't possible in real life. You can fulfill various fetishes, such as role-playing infidelity, groping, shrinking your body, giving women male genitalia, armpit fetishes, and more. While it can be challenging to fully get into character, VR makes it easier for clients to immerse themselves. Additionally, concerns about hygiene, transportation costs, and insecurities about one's real-life appearance are alleviated. This allows you to be yourself, leading to a more satisfying sexual experience. The downside is that the sensations and smells are left to the imagination, for better or worse. However, this isn't a major issue." <a href="https://x.com/poyopoyonotami">https://x.com/poyopoyonotami</a></p>

<b>Sarah Hasbini</b>	Sarah Hasbini (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Politics at York University. Sarah's research focuses on violence against women at both the state and substate levels, with a particular emphasis on conflict-induced violence in countries in the Middle East such as Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq as comparative case studies. Her work explores the intersection of critical race theory, postcolonial theory, and political economy, examining issues of gendered citizenship and violence against women. Sarah can be reached at <a href="mailto:Sarahhas@yorku.ca">Sarahhas@yorku.ca</a> .
<b>Lara Karaian</b>	Dr. Lara Karaian (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. Her interdisciplinary research examines the intersections between sexuality, technology, representation, affect, and law. Her current research project, "Sex/Crime in the Era of Immersive, Interactive, and Intelligent Technologies" (funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council 2020-2025), examines how sextech sustains or destabilizes legal and cultural constructions of sex and of 'sex crime'. Dr. Karaian has served as an Expert Consultant for national and international studies on youths' digital sexual expression and as an expert witness on numerous criminal cases involving youths' intimate image distribution. Her research has been published in an array of peer-reviewed legal, sexuality, and criminology journals and edited collections. She is currently writing a sole-authored manuscript on deepfake pornography panics. <a href="https://carleton.ca/criminology/people/karaian-lara/">https://carleton.ca/criminology/people/karaian-lara/</a>
<b>Mx Syd King</b>	(he/they) My academic background includes a BSc in Psychology, a publication on the usage of peer support within ChemSex care and a current MSc in Disability Studies, Rights and Inclusion. Whilst my academic experience may not match that of other speakers, my experience working in the UK scene for 5 years now gives me a unique insight into this topic, and I am keen to share my Crip perspective with other academics to help reframe the conversation around SexTech. <a href="https://x.com/mxsydking">https://x.com/mxsydking</a> and <a href="https://www.instagram.com/mx.syd/">https://www.instagram.com/mx.syd/</a>
<b>Alison Lam</b>	(she/her/elle) I am a first-year doctoral student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). As the Critic for Women and Gender in the Green Party of Canada, I proposed party policy at both the Green Parties of Ontario and Canada supporting full decriminalization. I also presented a paper at the 12th Annual Decolonizing Conference called, "Sustainable Community Development for the Sex Work Industry", which seeks to answer the question of how to create a sustainable environment where non-immigrant sex workers

	<p>can feel a sense of safety and belonging, and im/migrant sex workers can operate without fear of deportation. <a href="https://alisonywlam.wixsite.com/green-politics">https://alisonywlam.wixsite.com/green-politics</a></p>
<p><b>Amy Lebovitch</b></p>	<p>Amy Lebovitch (she/her) began her activism back in 2003 when she joined Sex Professionals of Canada (SPOC) and has been with them ever since. After moving to Winnipeg in 2019, she began volunteering with Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition (SWWAC). Amy was one of the three plaintiffs in the unanimous Supreme Court decision Canada v Bedford (2013) which struck down three of Canada's prostitution laws because they violated sex workers' charter rights and caused great harm. She has spoken across Canada and internationally about the harms that criminalization of sex work, end-demand models, and stigma have on sex workers. Amy is also an artist and has been a community researcher for almost a decade, currently working on sex worker activist histories projects, including an archive. She lives with her two cats.</p> <p><a href="https://swahp.ca">https://swahp.ca</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/swactivisthistories/">https://www.instagram.com/swactivisthistories/</a></p>
<p><b>Lauren Levitt</b></p>	<p>Lauren Levitt is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of California Riverside's XCITE Center for Teaching and Learning. Her research explores gender and sexuality and the relationship between culture and political economy. Her book project, Sex Workers' Networks of Care: Alternative Economic Practices and Kinship Structures examines how sex workers and sex worker organizers in New York and Los Angeles create non-biological kinship structures and engage in non-capitalist caring and sharing practices to manage precarity, stigma, and criminalization. She regularly speaks as a sex worker advocate at public and academic events and in the media. <a href="https://twitter.com/LaurenLevitt">https://twitter.com/LaurenLevitt</a></p>
<p><b>Ola Miedzynska</b></p>	<p>Ola Miedzynska (she/her) has been a trailblazer in sex technology and adult tech. From her early days in startup development to her role as a corporate consultant, Ola has consistently demonstrated expertise across diverse technological domains, including augmented reality and wearables. Ola's extensive experience includes collaboration with over 60 global sex tech and adult tech brands, where she actively contributed to product development and the evolution of tech ecosystems. In 2019, Ola marked a significant milestone by launching the first German Sex Tech Hackathon. Subsequently, she became CEO and Founder at Sxtech EU, a prominent global platform and annual conference dedicated to fostering technological innovation within the sex tech and adult tech industry. Expanding the scope of Sxtech EU's offerings in 2023, Ola positioned the platform as a unique boutique providing specialized marketing and PR</p>

	<p>services for the often stigmatized industries. As a co-founder of Eroeblla.com, Ola is a passionate advocate for sex workers' rights. Her work revolves around bridging the gap between sex technology and the destigmatization of sex work, creating a more inclusive and informed dialogue. <a href="https://erobella.com/">https://erobella.com/</a></p>
<b>Thapelo Mqehe</b>	<p>Thapelo Mqehe (his/him) An accomplished MA in Industrial Sociology with a focus on Monitoring and Evaluation, equipped with a profound understanding of how social dynamics impact organizations. Experienced in developing and implementing comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategies, I excel at scrutinizing programs, policies, and systems for effectiveness. My proficiency in data analysis, qualitative research, and report generation enables me to provide valuable insights to inform decision-making. I am committed to fostering positive workplace environments and societal progress by translating complex data into actionable recommendations. Skilled in collaborating with diverse stakeholders, I am dedicated to driving meaningful change and enhancing organizational performance. I am eager to apply my knowledge and skills to contribute to the betterment of workplaces and society as a whole. <a href="https://www.sisonke.org.za/">https://www.sisonke.org.za/</a></p>
<b>SX Noir</b>	<p>SX Noir (she/her) is a visionary producer and activist working at the intersection of sexuality, sex, culture, and technology. For the last eight years she has been hosting the podcast Thot Leader, which examines issues around sex and technology. During Black Lives Matter, she co-organized one of the largest sex worker marches in history in Times Square. Through engaging video interviews, thought-provoking panel discussions, and dynamic live events, SX demystifies and destigmatizes SexTech. She envisions a world where our human experience of sexuality is elevated through inclusive innovative technology. <a href="https://sxnoir.com/">https://sxnoir.com/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/sxnoir/?hl=en">https://www.instagram.com/sxnoir/?hl=en</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/sextech">https://twitter.com/sextech</a></p>
<b>Merel Noorlander</b>	<p>Merel Noorlander (they/them) is a Dutch artist, designer, curator, and educator, navigating between Salt Lake City, Detroit and Amsterdam (The Netherlands). Merel grew up as an adolescent in the Red-Light District and the harbors of Amsterdam, amongst a self-chosen queer family, and captain of their boat. Noorlander holds an MFA in 4D Design from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague.</p> <p>In their work Noorlander investigates expanded forms of media that focus on collective empowerment within non-binary indie sextech, community-based media design and participatory processes, in strong</p>



	<p>collaboration with migration, LGBTQIA+ &amp; sexwork communities. They are interested in how storytelling can function as a guide, a tool — an instrument for pleasure, a playground for imagination right at each person's doorstep.</p> <p>Currently, Noorlander teaches at the University of Utah's Multi-Disciplinary Design Division, where they lead a design and research-based curriculum spanning social practice, video, performance, and immersive installations. They are part of the Sex Tech School cohort, led by Bryony Cole and Clare Carmody.</p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/merelnoorlander_studio/">https://www.instagram.com/merelnoorlander_studio/</a></p>
<b>Noelle Perdue</b>	<p>Noelle Perdue (she/her) is a writer, artist, Internet porn historian, and near-mint condition collector's item. With a background in both computer science and mainstream porn production, her work exploring digital intimacies and the blurry borders of obscenity can be found on Wired, Washington Post, Pornhub, Slate, Brazzers, et al. She has been featured as an industry expert on BBC, CBC, The Guardian, Rolling Stone, and on Netflix's documentary Money Shot, and has spoken at multiple universities and conferences. From moderation to artificial intelligence, she believes that understanding the uncomfortable, intimate, and even (or especially) the sordid aspects of our digital history is necessary to influence our collective future.</p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/all_day_breakfast/">https://www.instagram.com/all_day_breakfast/</a></p>
<b>Evania Pietrangelo-Porco</b>	<p>Evania Pietrangelo-Porco (she/her) is a sex worker ally/accomplice, trained historian, doctoral candidate, and blogger. She is a published scholar and multiple award/grant recipient. Evania is a member of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Cluster, Centre for Feminist Studies, Robarts Centre, and the History of Indigenous Peoples Network. Lastly, and perhaps more importantly, she has worked with many members of the sex worker/working community, including the British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Communities (BCCEC) and Sex Workers Outreach Project Los Angeles (SWOP LA). @tswhistorian [Twitter/X], @tswhistorian [Instagram], and @sexworkhistorian.bsky.social</p> <p><a href="https://thesexworkhistorian.wordpress.com/">https://thesexworkhistorian.wordpress.com/</a></p>
<b>Fatima Qaraan</b>	<p>Fatima Qaraan (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Politics at York University. Fatima specializes in political theory, gender and politics, and international development. Her dissertation explores</p>

	<p>how Western media, gender-role dynamics and consent legislation impact child marriage in Canada. Fatima can be contacted at <a href="mailto:fattique@yorku.ca">fattique@yorku.ca</a>. <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/fatima-garaan-5b97431a4/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/fatima-garaan-5b97431a4/</a></p>
<b>Bella Robinson</b>	<p>Bella Robinson (she/her/hers) is the executive director of “Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics Rhode Island” (COYOTE RI) She has worked in the sex industry for over 40 years, and she is dedicated to supporting policies that promote the health and safety of sex workers and trafficking victims. Bella’s personal experiences with the criminal justice system over the past four decades give her exceptional expertise in the areas of sex worker rights and trafficking. <a href="https://coyoteri.org/">https://coyoteri.org/</a></p>
<b>Sam Saunders</b>	<p>Sam Saunders (she/her) is a PhD student at the University of Essex, her research interests are in visual culture studies and sex workers’ rights. Her methodological framework stems from an intersectional feminist positioning that adopts visual criminological methods to address how sex workers have been criminalised and marginalised in British culture. An archival-based study critically analyses ‘tart cards’ (small paper advertisements) to subvert threads of social stigma interwoven in sex workers’ visual culture. By locating nuance in the production of sex work imagery, an alternative understanding of the community can be gained in future feminist discourses.</p>
<b>Elena Shih</b>	<p>Elena Shih (she/her) is Manning Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, where she directs a human trafficking research cluster through the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Shih is the author of two books: <i>Manufacturing Freedom: Trafficking Rescue, Rehabilitation, and the Slave Free Good</i> (University of California Press), and <i>White Supremacy, Colonialism, and the Racism of Anti-Trafficking</i> (Routledge). Recent op-eds about her research and organizing as a core collective member of Red Canary Song appear in the <i>New York Times</i> and <i>Providence Journal</i>. <a href="https://twitter.com/uhlenna">https://twitter.com/uhlenna</a></p>
<b>Soma Snakeoil</b>	<p>Soma Snakeoil (she/her) is Executive Director and Co-Founder of The Sidewalk Project, a harm reduction organization with chapters in 5 cities, including a mobile SSP and a day center in Skid Row. She is an artist, activist, Dominatrix and playwright. Soma’s passion for the houseless community comes from lived experience as a long-term former PWUD, being unhoused, and almost 18 years of the spectrum of sex</p>

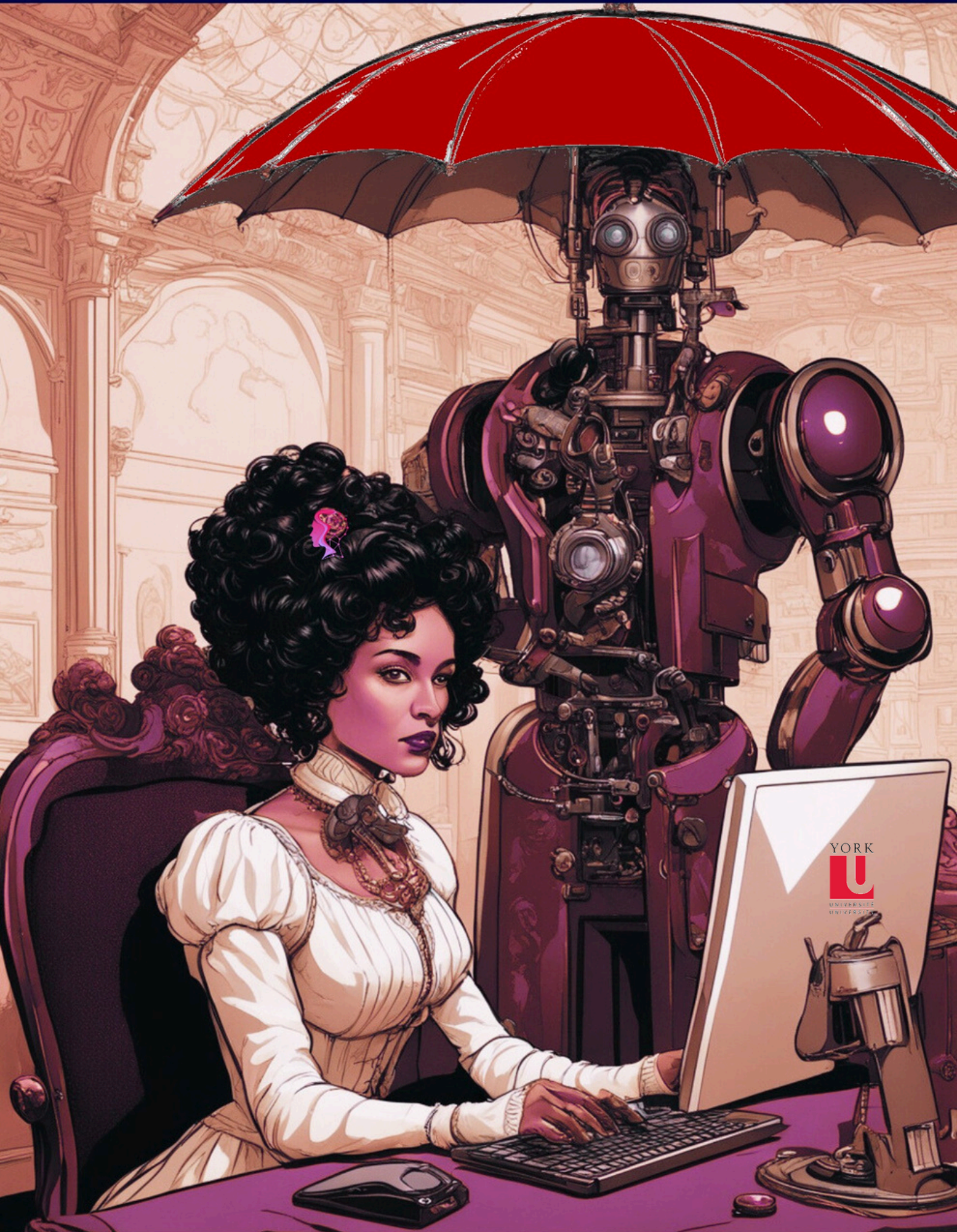
	<p>work, including survival sex. <b>*Soma Snakeoil</b> will be the presenter of their panel.  <a href="https://www.thesidewalkproject.org/">https://www.thesidewalkproject.org/</a> and <a href="https://stoptheraids.org/">https://stoptheraids.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Shravya Sompalli</b></p>	<p>Shravya Sompalli (she/her) is a senior at Brown University studying Computer Science and Ethnic Studies. She is an abolitionist interested in the role of surveillance technology in strengthening carceral ties between the state, humanitarian organizations, and tech companies. Shravya currently works as a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, where she conducts quantitative analysis for the advocacy and political education efforts of the Asian and migrant worker rights collective Red Canary Song.</p>
<p><b>Kimberly Soriano</b></p>	<p>Kimberly Soriano (she/they) is a queer, non-binary Oaxacan with ten years of community involvement ranging from filmmaking and writing, as well as serving as a coordinating member of Gender and Sexuality in Stop LAPD Spying Coalition for two years. Currently, they are a PhD Candidate in Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara and organizes with Sex Worker Outreach Project Los Angeles and does sex worker advocacy and harm with The Sidewalk Project. Kim served as a fellow for the Sex Worker Giving Circle in 2023 and is an advisor to the Sex Worker Giving Circle for the 2024 cycle. <a href="https://kimsoriano.com/">https://kimsoriano.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Dr. Zahra Stardust</b></p>	<p>Dr Zahra Stardust (she/her) is a rainbow-haired, textile-loving, queer femme artist and scholar. Her book <a href="#">Indie Porn: Revolution, Regulation and Resistance</a> builds on her 15 years as a professional undresser, award-winning stripper, pole dancer and porn star. With an international research portfolio spanning sex worker activism, LGBTQ+ health, sexual rights and sextech, she brings a cultural and media studies approach to sexual health. Her work has been published in books such as <i>Coming Out Like a Porn Star</i> (ed. Jiz Lee), the <i>DIY Porn Handbook</i> (ed. Madison Young) and <i>Queer Sex Work</i> (Routledge) and journals such as <i>Porn Studies</i>, <i>Big Data and Society</i>, and <i>Social Media and Society</i>. She is on the World Association for Sexual Health's Sexual Justice Initiative and is passionate about somatic sex education, intimacy coordination and maximalist fashion. Instagram: @zahrastardust LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-zahra-stardust-6695756a">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-zahra-stardust-6695756a</a></p>

<b>Sean Strygg</b>	Sean Strygg (he/him) is a long-time client of sex workers who has extensive experience collecting and analyzing archival materials relating to the sex industry in Canada focusing on classified advertising. He is responsible for the data analysis and results in "Playing the Name Game". <a href="https://populationproject.ca/">https://populationproject.ca/</a>
<b>Annie Temple</b>	Annie Temple (she/her) With 25+ years in and around the adult entertainment industry, Annie Temple has done it all. She started as a stripper in 1997 and she left adult entertainment and returned to it, time and time again. Her exploits include stripping, nude modeling, being a content creator, and more. Annie is a best-selling author of "Annie Temple's Business Bible for Erotic Entrepreneurs" and currently works as an Intimacy Specialist and Coach. She is passionate about helping people feel more connected and purposeful. She is a mother of three and she's passionate about healing division and helping people feel more connected and valued in our society. <a href="https://www.annitemple.com/">https://www.annitemple.com/</a> <a href="https://nakedtruth.ca/">https://nakedtruth.ca/</a>
<b>Harper Thornhill, Countess Diamond</b>	Harper Thornhill (she/her) known professionally as Countess Diamond, is an award-winning Dominatrix from Bristol. Her influence spans UK and EU political landscapes, notably through a conference that impacted the Online Safety Act 2023. Representing the industry on television, radio, and in print, she advances sex worker rights and visibility, ensuring diverse voices are heard. Drawing from her extensive background and technological skills, Harper's latest project, Image Angel, developed with the UK's senior AI technologists, aims to revolutionise the sharing of intimate images globally. Website: <a href="https://countessdiamond.co.uk">Countessdiamond.co.uk</a> Instagram @thecountessdia2 TikTok @thecountessdiamond X @thecountessdia and <a href="https://thornhilldigital.co.uk/">https://thornhilldigital.co.uk/</a>
<b>Zintle Tsholwana</b>	Zintle Tsholwana (she/her) is the Advocacy Officer for Sisonke National Movement for Sex Workers. She currently holds two degrees – BA majoring in Law and English Literature, and Honours Degree in English Literature. She is a feminist who fully believes in sex positivity, the decriminalisation of sex work as well as protecting the Human Rights for all. In her role as Advocacy Officer, she has strengthened her passion for social justice and used her skills to empower sex workers to advocate for their rights. In addition, she believes that law and policy reform is an integral step towards achieving our collective goals towards the protection of the health and human rights of Key Populations. She has also made several presentations and interviews, educating the public on the importance of law and policy reform. <a href="https://www.sisonke.org.za/">https://www.sisonke.org.za/</a>

<b>Jelena Vermilion</b>	<p>Jelena Vermilion (she/her) is the Founder and Executive Director of SWAP Hamilton; is a trans-femme full-service sex worker, porn performer, and activist of almost a decade, who lives with disabilities. She has limited experience being incarcerated, being homeless, working outdoors and on the street, and as an undocumented migrant in the US. A consultant with Trans Pulse Canada, Jelena has helped co-author academic articles and research reports for community members &amp; policymakers. In 2018, she was subpoenaed as an expert witness in the R v. Boodhoo case, a Constitutional Challenge to certain sex work laws in Canada. Most recently, she received the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award in 2024.</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/isisintrepid">https://twitter.com/isisintrepid</a> and <a href="https://twitter.com/swaphamilton">https://twitter.com/swaphamilton</a></p>
<b>Aurelia Wilson</b>	<p>Aurelia Wilson (she/her) is a doctoral student (ABD) in the joint Toronto Metropolitan University and York University Communication and Culture program (2020-2024). Supervised by Dr. Irene Gammel, her doctoral research focuses on a participatory model of digital media industries, exploring internet pornography and sex work platforms that rely primarily on user-generated content. Aurelia is a teaching assistant in Philosophy and Media Studies. She completed her M.A. in Philosophy at Wilfrid Laurier University and her B.A. in Philosophy at Nipissing University. She has her office at the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre in Toronto. <a href="https://mlc.torontomu.ca/people/aurelia-wilson">https://mlc.torontomu.ca/people/aurelia-wilson</a></p>
<b>Amy Xiao</b>	<p>Amy Xiao (they/them) is a recent graduate of Brown University studying cognitive science with a focus on social computing. They are an artist, designer, and researcher looking to understand how socio-technical systems interact with marginalized identities and potential methods of reclamation, repatriation, and reconstruction. Amy is affiliated with the Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Brown Human-Computer Interaction Lab. They are currently based out of Queens, NY.</p>
<b>Andrea Zeffiro</b>	<p>Andrea Zeffiro (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts and Academic Director of the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship, McMaster University. Some of her current research advances community-centred cybersecurity through zine-making. She was co-curator of No More Potlucks (NMP), a monthly digital zine on LGBTQ2S+ art, politics, and culture cited in The New York Times, used in syllabi in Canada and the United States, and featured in Out North: An Archive of Queer Activism and Kinship in Canada (2020).</p>

On behalf of the Critical Trafficking and Sex Work Studies Research Cluster, thank you for your participation in our *Beyond the Interface* conference, 2024!

Please donate generously to sex worker-led organizations, some of which can be found at the [Global Network of Sex Work Projects](#) or [Member Groups of the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform](#) webpages. Thank you!



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