



Alex Sharpe

YEAR OF CALL: 1988

Alex is also a Law Professor at Keele University (2004 - present) and holds an Adjunct Chair at the Crime and Justice Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology (2014 -).

Alex has been writing about transgender / law issues for over twenty years and is the author of over 60 publications on the subject.

Alex Sharpe is a social and legal theorist, legal historian and gender, sexuality and law scholar and activist.

If you would like to get in touch with Alex please contact the clerking team:

info@gclaw.co.uk | [+44 \(0\)20 7993 7600](tel:+442079937600)

You can also contact Alex directly:

a.sharpe@keele.ac.uk

TRANS RIGHTS

Trans Activism and Law Reform

Alex regularly provides advice to government departments, members of parliament, law firms and public interest advocacy organisations both in the UK and overseas. She has made a series of written submissions to parliamentary inquiries held by the Ministry of Justice, the Women and Equalities Select Committee and the Public Bills Committee, and has been cited in parliamentary and *amicus curiae* intervention submissions, as

well as judicially in Australia, Hong Kong, the United States and, most recently, by the European Court of Human Rights (*Hämäläinen v Finland* [2014] ECHR 877 (Joint Dissenting Opinion of Judges Sajo, Keller & Lemmens, para 13)).

Most recently, she has made a co-authored parliamentary submission (with Dr Peter Dunne of Bristol University) as part of the government's consultation process on proposed reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (October 2018), and a sole-authored submission to the International Commission of Jurists regarding 'Mis-use of Criminal Laws in the areas of Sexuality and Gender Identity' (March 2019).

Recent Work: Challenging 'Gender Identity Fraud' Prosecutions

Alex recently completed a Leverhulme Trust funded Research Fellowship (1/10-16 - 1/10/17. £42,319). During the fellowship, Alex considered recent successful sexual offence prosecutions brought against young trans and gender non-conforming people for so-called gender identity fraud (*R v Gemma Barker* [2012] Southwark Crown Court, unrep; *R v Chris Wilson* [2013] Edinburgh High Court, unrep; *R v Justine McNally* [2013] EWCA Crim 1051; *R v Gayle Newland* [2015] Chester Crown Court, unrep; *R v Kyran Lee (Mason)* [2015] Lincoln Crown Court, unrep; *R v Jason Staines* [2016] Bristol Crown Court, unrep; *R v Gayle Newland* [2017] Manchester Crown Court, unrep).

NOTABLE CASES

LITIGATION CONSULTANT (RECENT CASES):

***R v Gayle Newland* [2017] Manchester Crown Court, unrep**

***R (on the application of C) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2017] UKSC 72**

***R v Gayle Newland* [2015] Chester Crown Court, unrep**

***R v Kyran Lee (Mason)* [2015] Lincoln Crown Court, unrep**

***R v Justine McNally* [2013] EWCA Crim 1051**

PUBLICATIONS

Key publications:

Sexual Intimacy and Gender Identity 'Fraud': Reframing the Legal & Ethical Debate (London: Routledge,

2018) pp. 204.

Foucault's Monsters and the Challenge of Law (London: Routledge, 2010) pp. 184.

Transgender Jurisprudence: Dysphoric Bodies of Law (London: Cavendish, 2002) pp. 230.

Publications on 'Gender Identity Fraud'

Refereed Journals

1. 'The Ethicality of the Demand for (Trans)parency in Sexual Relations (2017) 43(2) *Australian Feminist Law Journal* 161-183.
2. 'Queering Judgement: The Case of Gender Identity Fraud' (2017) 81(5) *Journal of Criminal Law* 417-435.
3. 'Expanding Liability for Sexual Fraud Through the Concept of Active Deception': A Flawed Approach' (2016) 80(1) *Journal of Criminal Law* 28-44.
4. 'Sexual Intimacy, Gender Variance and the Criminal Law' (2015) 33(4) *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* 380-391.
5. 'Criminalising Sexual Intimacy: Transgender Defendants and the Legal Construction of Non-Consent' (2014) *Criminal Law Review* 207-223.
6. 'Transgender Marriage and the Legal Obligation to Disclose Gender History' (2012) 75(1) *Modern Law Review* 33-53.

Alex has also published elsewhere on this topic including a series of articles on the [Inherently Human Blog](#) and articles in [The Conversation](#), [Legal Voice](#), and the [New Statesman](#).

A full list of Alex's academic and journalistic publications can be found on [her University homepage](#).

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Alex regularly presents keynote addresses, public lectures and appears at many other academic and public speaking events involving, but not confined to, transgender rights concerns. In recent years, she has been invited to speak in New York, Prague, Tel Aviv, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Lund, Oslo, Vienna, San Francisco, Zurich, Berlin, Rome, Paris as well as in the UK. She has a significant media profile and is widely consulted and interviewed by various media (e.g. Radio 4 Woman's Hour, LBC London, ABC National Radio Australia, CBC National Radio Canada) and publishes regularly in national newspapers (e.g. The Independent, The Guardian, New Statesman) and other media outlets (e.g. Oxford University Human Rights

Hub, Diva Magazine, The Conversation).

Alex's academic work extends beyond trans issues and broader questions of gender and sexuality. In particular, she has examined, in theoretical and historical terms, the legal category *Monster*, a legal category that existed in English law from the mid-thirteenth till at least the late nineteenth century. In recent years, she has sought to bring this research to life for public consumption, through the sublime example of David Bowie. To this end, she has presented a series of public lectures on David Bowie as hopeful monster (Phoenix Arizona, Canberra, Brisbane, London, Manchester, Keele, Sheffield and Edinburgh) (2016-2018). Her Keele lecture is [available on Youtube](#), and as well as being theoretically rich, is an audio-visual feast

EDUCATION

- LLB (Warwick), LLM (UWA), PhD (Keele)
- Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia (1990) and the High Court of Australia (1991)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Alex sits on the International Legal Committee of WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health), a law reform body which makes amicus curiae interventions in litigation worldwide, and formerly sat on Amnesty International's Expert Committee on the Criminalisation of Sexual and Reproductive Conduct.
- She also sits on the advisory boards of the International Journal of Transgenderism; the International Journal of Gender, Sexuality and Law; the Journal of Crime, Justice and Social Democracy; and the Journal of Sexual Ethics.
- She has held visiting professorships at the University of Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, Lund University, Sweden, and McGill University, Montreal.

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57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ

Email: info@gclaw.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7993 7600

DX: 34 Chancery Lane