

SEMINAR

**Challenging Behaviour and Disability
Discrimination Laws in Australia**

Monday 29th September 2014 at 1pm

Room 1LG02, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee

This presentation is a report on my current research-in-progress on challenging behaviour and disability discrimination law. It considers the challenges posed to discrimination law and policy by people with atypical and difficult behaviour in the context of changing medical and scientific knowledge about such behaviour. It critically examines how these behaviours come to be labelled as a disability and the role of law, particularly anti-discrimination law and criminal law, in regulating (or protecting) divergent behaviour. As a case study, this research considers the scope, type and incidence of discrimination in education for students with behavioural disabilities, and students whose disability has a behavioural component. I am collecting information from state and federal anti-discrimination bodies, legal practitioners and disability activists to complement case law and other public reports of discrimination. The project considers whether current discrimination law models do enough to protect the rights of students with behavioural disabilities to education and inclusion in public life or whether new legal and policy measures are needed



Dr Karen O'Connell

Dr Karen O'Connell is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), Australia. Prior to joining UTS she worked in human rights law and policy at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Karen completed her masters and doctoral degrees at Columbia University in New York. Her doctorate was on human rights and genetic technologies, and her postdoctoral research continues her interest in emerging biotechnologies of the body, identity and discrimination law. Karen is Co-Convenor (with Prof Isabel Karpin) of the Biotechnologies of the Body Research Group at UTS, and she remains active in human rights and law reform work, including as a member of the Discrimination Law Experts Group, and as an adviser on projects for the Intellectual Disability Rights Service and the Australian Human Rights Commission

For catering purposes, if you would like to attend, please contact Rosanne Bell
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ALL WELCOME

