

Dept of Social Science – Job Talk

Work and Labour Studies (WKLS)

Dr. Kaitlyn Matulewicz

Dates

Tuesday,
April 30

Times:

Research

Presentation

10:00 am
– 11:30 am

Teaching

Presentation

2:00 pm
– 3:30 pm

Location:

701 Ross
South

All sessions will be
open to faculty &
students.

Light catering will
be available.

Institutionalized inequality: Law, gender, and mapping sexual harassment in restaurant work



Research Presentation Abstract: Workplace sexual harassment is both a form of illegal discrimination under Canadian human rights laws and an everyday reality for many women working in the full-service restaurant industry. How is it that 37 years after sexual harassment was first recognized as illegal sex discrimination women restaurant workers' still face unwanted or uncomfortable sexual experiences with managers, co-workers, and customers as a regular part of their work? Situated within the context of British Columbia, the presentation will examine the disjuncture between the legal treatment of sexual harassment and the experiences of women restaurant workers. Women restaurant workers face sexist comments, remarks, or 'jokes;' being asked out or outright propositioned; and general sexualized expectations of how they are to dress, look, and *be* at work. The presentation will tell the story of how restaurant work is organized such that uncomfortable or unwanted sexual experiences become institutionalized.

Kaitlyn Matulewicz is a Lecturer at UBC (Okanagan) teaching at the intersections of gender, work, and law in the Department of History and Sociology. She completed her PhD from the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria where she examined women's experiences of sexual harassment working in the restaurant industry. Kaitlyn has also worked as a labour activist with the Retail Action Network in Victoria, BC, an innovative union-community partnership dedicated to improving working conditions for non-unionized retail and restaurant workers.