Porn in the European Union: Problematizing Pornography and Engaging Men in Gender Equality

This lecture will problematize the use of adult pornography in the context of European Union Law and International Human Rights. An analysis of adult pornography will be carried out, using the European Parliament Resolution of the 12th of March 2013 on eliminating gender stereotypes in the EU as a starting point.

This Resolution states that pornography's new cultural status affects young men and women the most, and that the so called “mainstreaming of pornography” is manifesting itself particularly clearly within youth culture, for example, in teenage television, lifestyle magazines, or music videos and commercials which target youth.

As there is also a connection between pornography, the media and pop culture across Europe, the USA and globally, the Resolution will be also be analyzed within the context of the human rights cultural system.

The lecture will be carried out under a primarily legal perspective, along with a sociological perspective. Some work which has traced the sociological, political and historical background around pornography will be drawn upon for a more comprehensive view of the issues at stake. In its conclusion, this lecture will raise issues around the need for further regulation on pornography.

Antónia Barradas is part of the PhD programme in Law, Justice and Citizenship in the 21st Century at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. She obtained her Master's Degree in Human Rights from the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC) in Italy. Having been awarded an internship at UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences Division of Social Inclusion and Youth, she was then chosen for a fellowship as a part of the human rights team at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva. She is a lawyer, a human rights and gender equality trainer, and has worked with Amnesty International for the past three years. Currently collaborating in human rights lobby and advocacy work with women's and children's rights NGO's in Portugal, her latest research focuses on pornography and European Union laws from an international human rights and gender equality perspective.