

SCHOOL OF LAW, POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY

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THE CENTRE FOR CULTURES OF REPRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGIES AND  
HEALTH (CORTH)

PRESENT:


**“DIRTY, MISBEHAVING AND DANGEROUS” WOMEN:  
HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED RESPONSES TO REPRODUCTIVE  
VIOLENCE**

A TALK BY LIIRI OJA (CORTH VISITOR, PHD CANDIDATE @ EUROPEAN  
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October 25, Wednesday | 1:00-2:00PM

F-39 (Freeman Building)





We are conditioned to think that demeaning stereotypes about women and their bodies are “natural side-effects of being a woman”, or just “misfortunes of life”. In truth, generalised views such as “real women choose vaginal births” set women up for reproductive violence by allowing women to be talked down to, second-guessed, disregarded, shamed, mistreated, and punished for expressing autonomous choices.

Thus, stereotypes are shortcuts to human rights violations.

Through analysing case-law regarding forced gynaecological examinations and child birth I show, how transnational human rights forums often miss the opportunities to name, describe and reject stereotypes, and to produce transformative jurisprudence that would fight effectively against reproductive violence.