

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to invite you to our second Kitchen Table Chat:

### **Decertification: What can Removing Sex from Legal Personhood do?**

Davina Cooper and Flora Renz will speak on the methodology, conclusions, and challenges of their ESRC funded Project, The Future of Legal Gender

Abstract:

In this discussion, we will explore some of the challenges and findings to emerge from our ESRC project on the decertification of sex and gender in Britain. Decertification involves the withdrawal of state and law from confirming, assigning, or registering sex and gender. Through interviews, a survey and focus groups, our research has explored the benefits and risks of decertification; this has helped us craft an imaginary legislative guide to explore what decertification as a legal reform might entail. Decertification also offers a research window into the hopes, fears, and understandings associated with gender and law. In this presentation, we will discuss different aspects of the project, including the challenge of researching gender politics in the present climate; contemporary conflicts over gender-specific provision in the domestic violence arena, and the methodological value of prefigurative law, which acts as if a future imaginary legal proposal was already on the law reform table.

**Flora Renz** is at the University of Kent; **Davina Cooper** is based at King's College London. They have written extensively on gender, prefiguration, and legal politics, including their co-authored article, Cooper, D. and Renz, F., 2016. If the state decertified gender, what might happen to its meaning and value?. *Journal of Law and Society*, 43(4), pp.483-505.

**You can access the session via this [link](#)**

In the Series we will be convening a range of speakers throughout the year to discuss online (many from our kitchen tables!) contemporary socio-legal issues relating to gender, sexuality and law. Please share this info with interested students and networks!

We hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Gender Sexuality and Law Research Cluster

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/law/research/researchclusters/gendersexualityandlaw/>