



**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY**  
**BERKELEY LAW**

**CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**

Monday, October 29, 2018

**CONSTANCE BACKHOUSE**

Professor of Law and Distinguished University Professor  
University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

**“Lessons from Legal History for the  
#MeToo Movement”**

The #MeToo Movement has raised hopes that the justice system may finally begin to respond to the needs of survivors of sexual assault. Yet the underlying framework that needs changing is our socio-legal understanding of the concept of credibility. This presentation will explore the historical foundations of credibility assessment, and the gendered assumptions that operate within a culture of pervasive sexual coercion.

It will examine a landmark Supreme Court of Canada case, *Regina v. Hubin* (1927), in which a series of judges articulated a draconian test that even they recognized denied 12-year-old Sophie Oleksiuk a fair hearing. The reasoning and rationale for their precedent-setting decision give us a clear view into gendered credibility-assessment and its impacts.

The presentation will then review the many subsequent decades of feminist law reform that have failed to alleviate such thinking, and speculate about what the future holds in the wake of #MeToo.

**PLACE** Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue  
**TIME** **12:45 – 2:00pm.** Coffee and water provided. Bag lunches welcome.  
**INFO** <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/>  
**EMAIL** [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu)

**Jonathan Simon, FACULTY DIRECTOR | Rosann Greenspan, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**