

CFLS 2016 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

# GENDERED RACIAL VIOLENCE:

*R v Barton* and the Death of Cindy Gladue

In March 2015, Bradley Barton was acquitted of murder in relation to the death of Cindy Gladue. Gladue was a Métis mother who bled to death in the bathroom of an Edmonton hotel, allegedly while Barton slept. Barton testified that her wounds had been caused by consensual sexual touching. The forensic pathologist called by the Crown at Barton's murder trial invited the jury to inspect Gladue's preserved body tissue in order to reach their own conclusions about how her injuries were caused. (*R v Barton*, 2015 ABQB 159.) When the acquittal was reported, Indigenous communities, women's advocates and others responded with anger and dismay.

This talk will critically examine the trial transcripts from Barton's trial. It will explore how Gladue was depicted by witnesses and lawyers, and trace the operation of racialized and gendered stereotypes throughout the case. It will particularly consider the lay and expert evidence regarding the violence committed against Gladue, and connect this evidence with broader inadequacies in normative understandings of sexualised violence against Indigenous women.

## EMMA CUNLIFFE

*Associate Professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law*

Emma Cunliffe is an associate professor at UBC's Allard School of Law. Her research analyses the fact determination functions of courts, and particularly addresses expert scientific and medical evidence, the role of implicit stereotypes and bias in the criminal justice system, and the principles of open justice. Emma has received the Killam Prize for Teaching Excellence and a Killam Research Fellowship. At UBC, she teaches courses focused on criminal law, evidence and factual reasoning.



CENTRE FOR  
**FEMINIST**  
LEGAL STUDIES

MARCH

08

TUESDAY

12:30PM

ROOM 122  
ALLARD HALL



**ALLARD**  
SCHOOL OF LAW

