

The **UCSC Sociology Colloquia Series** presents:

# A Feminist Perspective to the Regulation of Sex Industry in Taiwan



*a talk with*

**Chih-Chieh (林志潔), Carol Lin**

**Tuesday, June 05, 2018**

**11:40 – 1:15 pm**

**Rachel Carson College room 301**

Free & open to the public

Sex worker's rights movement began from 1997 when the Taipei City government terminated the public prostitution policy. However, the law still allowed organized groups to control the sex trade industry in many ways, including international human trafficking, exploiting prostitutes with high percentage of commission and violence, and the consideration of drugs and public health. The law also only imposed sanction on prostitutes. Patrons are free to punishments. The unequal regulation was finally held unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court. Originally, the aim of the new restriction rule was to avoid unequal punishments on the vulnerable prostitutes. However, no local government created a "red-light district" since the law passed. Thus, selling sex is still illegal, and women are still disproportionately punished for engaging in commercial sex. Feminists in Taiwan were divided into two groups. Some support the view that prostitution is the outcome of male dominance, and legalizing commercial sex not only oppresses women, but also reinforces gender stereotypes. Others hold that legalizing selling sex not only changes the traditional constraints on women's freedom of choosing sex partners, but also empowers women who are situated under strenuous social or economic circumstances. Her talk will introduce the history of Taiwan's feminist movement and the development of sex industry, including the "red-light district" policy under the new law through different approaches

## **Chair Professor Chih-Chieh, (林志潔) Carol Lin**

Professor Carol Lin is a Distinguished Professor at National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) and Chair Professor of Social Justice of NCTU School of Law, Taiwan. Her research focuses on criminal law, white-collar crime, and feminist legal theories. She has been voted as Best Teacher Award twice (2009 and 2014), and her MOOC course "Love, Sex, and Law" was selected as the Best Online Course by Taiwan's Youtube. She was appointed as judicial reform advisor by the President Tsai of Taiwan and helped to draft Taiwan's domestic violence law, rape law, security fraud, anti-money laundering law, anti-corruption law, whistleblower protection law, and trade secret protection law. Lin obtained her LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from National Taiwan University College of Law, and her second LL.M degree and S.J.D. degree from Duke University School of Law. She served as Conference Chair of the Asian Law and Society Association (ALSA) Conference in December 2017. She was also awarded as Distinguished Professor and Law School's Chair Professor in the spring of 2017.