

Lucía Berro Pizzarossa

LLB, LLM (oxon), PhD

EDUCATION

PhD International Law 01 Nov 2014 - 20 May 2019
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Thesis Titled *Abortion, Health and Stereotypes: A Critical Analysis of the Uruguayan and South African Abortion Laws Through a Human Rights Lens*

Using the human rights framework, my thesis critically engages with national abortion laws—considered ‘good laws’—, to assess the extent to which they comply with states’ international obligations. My study grapples with the instrumental and constructive nature of the law, insofar it impacts the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights both by restricting access to abortion and regulating the procedure in ways that reflect and refract gender stereotypes. It also engages with human rights in their dual role: as a regulation of states’ powers (as a limit to, and framework for, states’ legislative choices on abortion), and as a challenge to the structures of thought that drive inequalities (obligation to eradicate gender stereotypes (re)produced by the laws). The thesis concludes that certain models for abortion law, which are widely praised and featured as liberal, often fail to comply with human rights. By critically analyzing the ‘requirements’ set by these laws, and the stereotypes that emerge from parliamentary debates, this thesis unveils the myriad of human rights violations that often go unseen, and are currently inadequately addressed under international human rights law.

Post-Graduate Course on Public Policy Design 23 Aug 2019

Post-Graduate Degree on Women's Rights 10 Dec 2018

Universidad Austral, Argentina

Magister Juris (LLM) 2 Aug 2014

University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Bachelor in Law 10 Dec 2011

Legal Expert 07 Feb 2009

Universidad de la República (UDELAR) – Uruguay

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Teaching Experience

University of Amsterdam – Law Clinics Feb 2021 - Ongoing

Supervising and coordinating work of Law Clinics on Human Rights

University of Groningen - Faculty of Law and Faculty of Spatial Sciences Nov 2015 – Dec 2020

Designing and preparing lectures and seminars on gender, health, law and sexual and reproductive rights for the LLM Course International Health Law and Course on Population and Development. Supervising and tutoring students and grading of essays, theses and exams.

Developing a module on Gender and non-communicable diseases for the Summer School on NCDs and the Law.

University of Groningen – Centre for Gender Studies Oct 2018 – Nov 2019

Designing and organizing inter-faculty minor on Gender and Diversity in Society.

University of the Western Cape - Women's & Gender Studies Department Jan 2018 - Apr 2018

Tutoring and lecturing on Course Introduction to Sex and Gender.

Guest Lectures

Sciences Po Paris – Faculty of Law Sept 2021

Invited guest on Gender, Family Diversity and Reproductive course

UMCG – Faculty of Medicine March 2020 and March 2021

Invited guest lecturer Global Health and Global Politics Course

The Hague University of Applied Sciences - Faculty of Law Oct 2016

Invited guest lecturer on LLB European Law Course Gender and Law.

Research and consultancy work (selected)

Senior Associate

O'Neill Institute for National Global Health

1 March 2021 - current

Develop the NWO funded project on reproductive justice and international human rights law.

Investigadora Asociada

Núcleo Interdisciplinario Adolescencia, Salud y Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos – UdelaR

1 Dec 2020 - current

Research on obstetric violence, early and forced unions and marriages, youth and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

MAMA Network and Partnerships Coordinator

1 Jul 2019 – current

Women Help Women

Managing relations with key partners, conceptualizing, implementing and evaluating projects and programs, coordinating the WHW team working on MAMA (Mobilizing Activists for Medical Abortion), working on transfer of strategies cross-country and cross-regions, as well as their sustainability. Coordinating Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Research Working Group. Developing research and advocacy action around decriminalization of self-managed abortion. Design capacity building trainings for grassroots organizations and develop technical guidance to support ground work.

Consultant

Mar 2020 – Dec 2020

IPAS

Researching the interplay of laws that are applicable and increase legal risk for people that self-managed abortion and those who support them, including but not limited to laws governing access to essential medicines, laws governing medical professions and abortion laws.

Consultant

Feb 2020 – June 2020

RSFU - Sexual and Reproductive Rights for all

Developing a comparative compilation of Governmental Commitments on abortion, comprehensive-sexuality education and sexuality and non-discrimination, made by Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia at the African Union and the United Nations from 2015-2020

Postdoctoral Researcher

Jul 2019 – Nov 2019

Groningen Global Health Law Research Centre, University of Groningen

Researching the intersection of gender, health and law in relation to smoking during pregnancy. Coordinating the European Scientific Network on Law and Tobacco. I worked on a multidisciplinary project financed by the Dutch Cancer Society focused on the regulation of smoking during pregnancy.

Consultant

Sep 2018 – Nov 2019

Public Interest Litigation Project (PILP)

Providing legal advice on cases related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Drafting communications with national and international organizations and report on different topics (coercion, stereotyping, etc).

Project Coordinator

Feb 2017 – Ongoing

Mujer y Salud Uruguay (MYSU- Women and Health in Uruguay)

Coordinating SRHR Strategic Litigation Project. Conceptualizing, developing and implementing strategic litigation actions in the area of sexual and reproductive rights, with a particular focus on barriers to access abortion services.

Legal Advisor

Jan 2015 – Ongoing

Mujer y Salud Uruguay (MYSU- Women and Health in Uruguay)

Providing legal advice and advocating for women's rights and monitor the legal developments on equality, gender-based violence and abortion.

Consultant

Apr 2019 - May 2019

Women on Waves

Researching, advising and reporting on the legal status of abortion combi-pack (misoprostol and mifepristone) under international human rights law. Analysing legal issues arising around the import of essential medicines to the US, and normative scope of the right to science in connection with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Consultant

Oct 2018 – May 2019

International Network for the Reduction of Abortion Stigma (Inroads)

Consulting on governance and operational structure for networks and organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights and south-south cooperation.

Expert Member**Sep 2018 - Nov 2018****World Health Organization**

Participating as an expert member in Expert Meeting on Law, Policy, and Human Rights in the context of the third revision of the WHO Guidelines on Safe Abortion. Providing research support and technical advice to the Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team.

Consultant**Nov 2017 - May 2018****Dullah Omar Institute - Socio-Economic Rights Project**

Designing and developing a Barometer on CSE, abortion, HIV, access to contraception and other SRHR markers for the Southern Africa Development Community. Assess and analyze the availability and quality of data and critically assess national legal and policy commitments in relation to the Maputo Protocol.

Legal Researcher**Dec 2015 - Mar 2016****United Nations Human Rights Committee**

Conducting research on abortion and sexual and reproductive rights in the European Human Rights System supporting the work of Professor Photini Pazartzis in the discussion of Draft General Comment n° 36, Right to life.

Researcher**Jul 2014 – Nov 2014****Business and Human Rights Resource Center**

Developing the Corporate Legal Accountability Portal, the leading global information hub about human rights lawsuits against companies.

Legal Researcher**Nov 2013 – Jul 2014****Oxford Pro Bono Publico**

Researching for the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention, Human Dignity Trust (HDT) and for the Department for International Development and the United Nations Development Programme, among others.

PUBLICATIONS**Thesis manuscript**

Berro Pizarossa, L. 2019. Abortion, Health and Stereotypes: A critical analysis of the Uruguayan and South African abortion laws through a human rights lens. Non-commercial Ipskamp Printing. ISBN/EAN: 978-94-034-1608-3

Peer-reviewed articles

Berro Pizarossa, L., & Skuster, P. 2021. Toward human rights and evidence-based legal frameworks for (self-managed) abortion: a review of the last decade of legal reform. *Health and Human Rights*, 23(1), 199.

Berro Pizarossa, L., & Nandagiri, R. 2021. Self-managed abortion: a constellation of actors, a cacophony of laws?. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 29(1), 1899764.

Berro Pizarossa, L., & Sosa, L. 2021. Abortion laws: the Polish symptom of a European malady?. *Ars Aequi*. Jun 2021: 587.

Yanow, S., **Berro Pizarossa, L.** & Jelinska, K. 202. Self-managed abortion: Exploring synergies between institutional medical systems and autonomous health movements. *Contraception*.

Berro Pizarossa, L. 2019. "Women are not in the best position to make these decisions by themselves": gender stereotypes in the Uruguayan Abortion Law. *University of Oxford Human Rights Hub Journal*. Vol. 1: 27-54.

Berro Pizarossa, L. and Durojaye, E., 2019. International Human Rights Norms and the South African Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act: an argument for vigilance and modernization. *South African Journal on Human Rights*, 35(1):50-69.

Berro Pizarossa, L., 2018. Peer-reviewing abortion laws: lessons from the Universal Periodic Review. *ESR Review: Economic and Social Rights in South Africa*, 19(3): 4-8.

Berro Pizarossa, L., 2018. Legal barriers to access abortion services through a human rights lens: the Uruguayan experience. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 26(52): 151-158.

Perehudoff, K., **Berro Pizarossa, L.** and Stekelenburg, J., 2018. Realising the right to sexual and reproductive health: access to essential medicines for medical abortion as a core obligation. *BMC International Health and Human Rights*, 18(1): 1-7.

Berro Pizarossa, L., 2018. Here to Stay: The Evolution of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in International Human Rights Law. *Laws*, 7(3): 1-17.

Berro Pizarossa, L., Pehudoff K, Forte J.C., 2018. How the Uruguayan Judiciary Shapes Access to High-Priced Medicines: A Critique through the Right to Health Lens. *Harvard Journal of Health & Human Rights*, 20 (1): 93-105.

Berro Pizarossa, L. and Pehudoff, K., 2017. Global Survey of National Constitutions: Mapping Constitutional Commitments to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. *Harvard Journal of Health and Human Rights*, 19(2): 279–293.

Book Contributions

López-Gómez, A., Couto, M., & Berro Pizarossa, L. 2021. "Push and Pull": The Rocky Road to the Legalization of Abortion in Uruguay. In *Abortion and Democracy* (pp. 117-135). Routledge.

Berro Pizarossa, L and Pehudoff, K., 2017. "Mapping Constitutional Commitments on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" in Bielefeldt, H and Frewer, A (eds) *Menschenrechte in der Medizin| Human Rights in Healthcare*. Volume 4, p.321.

Book Reviews

Berro Pizarossa, L. 2018. Book Review. *White Innocence: Paradoxes of Colonialism and Race*. *European Journal of Women's Studies* 25(2): 256.

Upcoming publications

Chapter on Conscientious Objection in Latin America in "La objeción de conciencia en salud" – book edited by the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law " (chapter under peer review)

Paper "What is the interest of women in all of this? A critical analysis of the gender stereotypes underpinning legal barriers to abortion services in South Africa" presented at Colloquium: Overcoming barriers to safe abortion in the African region: Realising Women's Human Rights (Feb 2021) (article under peer review)

Blogposts (selected)

Berro Pizarossa, L, Nabaneh, S and Stevens, M. 2018. Let's call 'conscientious objection' by its name: Obstruction of access to care and abortion in South Africa. *Oxford Human Rights Hub*. <https://bit.ly/2PoEHtG>.

Berro Pizarossa, L. 2016. The Committee on ESCR and the Long-Awaited General Comment on the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health: The Right to Abortion is a Fundamental Human Right. *Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre*. <https://goo.gl/MtA6iJ>.

Berro Pizarossa, L and Gumieri, S. 2016. Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Courtroom: Litigation Strategies in Light of the Zika Outbreak. *Oxford Human Rights Hub*. <https://bit.ly/2KKgwDb>.

Berro Pizarossa, L and Matejic M. 2016. Love in the Times of Zika: Public Health Strategies and Women's SRHR in Latin America. *Women Deliver Blog* <https://bit.ly/2yGroLR>.

Berro Pizarossa, L. 2015. Conscientious Objection or Conscious Oppression? The Uphill Battle to Access Abortion Services in Uruguay. *Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog*, <https://goo.gl/o91Pc9>.

OTHER COURSES ATTENDED (Selected)

Health Across the Gender Spectrum - Stanford University Oct 2018

U4 Summer School on Gender Studies - University of Göttingen - Jul 2016

Legal and Policy Barriers to Abortion - Ips University - Feb 2015

International Law from a Gender Perspective - Utrecht School of Law, SIM/IER - School of Human Rights Research - Jul 2015

EIUC Venice School of Human Rights - European University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization - Jun 2015

Global Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - Lund University – UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund - Apr-Jun 2015

International Women's Health and Human Rights - Stanford University - Nov 2014

OTHER PROJECTS

Project Manager "Contá Conmigo" – Abortion Conversation Projects

Nov 2019 - Ongoing

Story telling project with Uruguayan women around busting myths and abortion stigma.

Fellow and Alumni Women Deliver

May 2015 - Ongoing

Fellow of the Young Leaders Programme representing Uruguay. Participation in advocacy training and youth-led activities on SRHR. Attendance and active participation in Women Deliver Conferences and activities.

Member WHO Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Nov 2017 - Ongoing

Academic Coordinator Gender & Diversity in Academia- Summer School

Jul 2017 – Nov 2019

Conceptualise, fundraise, develop and organise one-week summer school and public evening lectures on gender and diversity in Academia. Create a network of relevant stakeholders and create discussion opportunities within the University of Groningen.

Steering Committee Member -Lorde Project - LGBTI Youth in Foster Care

Nov 2017 – Nov 2019

Provide technical assistant and strategic analysis to research and policy project on LGBT youth in foster care. Advise on gender and human rights as frameworks of analysis.

Board member University of Groningen - Centre For Gender Studies

Jul 2016 – Nov 2019

Strategic direction of the Centre. Develop a inter faculty minor on Gender Studies and intersectionality. Organize student conferences and provide academic support to students pursuing gender-related studies.

PRIZES AND GRANTS

Dutch Network Women Professors (LNVH) - Distinguished Women Scientists Fund (2020)

Abortion Conversation Project – Seed Grant (2019)

WHETU MAX Weber scholarship for Course of Public Policy Design (2019)

Organization of American States (OAS) Professional Development Scholarships Program – Post-Graduate Degree on Women's Rights (Diplomado en Derecho Humanos de las Mujeres) (2018)

CLACAI (Consortio Lationamericano Contra el Abortion Inseguro) - Seed Grant (2018)

Women Deliver - Advocacy Grant (2017) Research & Outreach Grant (2018 and 2019)

Open Society Foundations - Early Career Researcher Travel Grant (2018)

EU Erasmus Mundus Action - Project INSPIRE Grant (Doctoral Mobility) (2017)

University of Groningen - Interdisciplinary Summer School Grant (2017)

Sustainable Societies & Young Academy Groningen– Lecture Series Grant (2017)

RESURJ (Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice) - Advocacy and Engagement Grant (2016)

Oxford Pro Bono Publico - Internship Grant (2014)

Louis Dreyfus -Weidenfeld Scholarship and Leadership Programme – Magister Juris at University of Oxford (2013)

Teixeira De Freitas (MERCOSUR's Forum of Supreme Courts) – Mobility Grant for Promising Young Scholars (2011)

ESCALA Montevideo – Mobility Grant (2009)

CONFERENCES/INVITED PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Webinar Self-managed abortion and the Law – IPAS & Center for Reproductive Rights (Apr 2020) – Speaker

Colloquium: Overcoming barriers to safe abortion in the African region: Realising Women's Human Rights (Feb 2020) –

University of Pretoria and University of Toronto - Presentation of accepted article

"Inspire for the Future: A Journey Towards Success" Conference – Inspire (Inspire, the European Partnership for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) (Oct 2019) – Keynote Speaker

The UN High Level Meeting and beyond: how to ensure that strategies for achieving Universal Health Coverage are inclusive

and implemented? Roundtable– Share–Net (Sep 2019) – Speaker and facilitator roundtable on Gender and Health

European Conference of Politics and Gender (Jul 2019) – Presentation of accepted abstract “Something old, something

borrowed, something new’ something green?: a critical analysis of the parliamentary discussion of the abortion law in Argentina”

Women Deliver Conference (Jun 2019) – Speaker at two events (i) Presentation of AMAZE together with UNESCO and

Advocates for Youth, Answer y Youth Tech Health and (ii) Young People Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health

Abortion & Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution III Conference - Rhodes University (Jul 2018) - Presentation of accepted abstract “Who is “the woman” in domestic abortion laws?: an analysis of the gender stereotypes hindering women's access to abortion”

Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health Conference (Jun 2018) - Invited speaker “Realising equity in health through self-sourced and self-managed abortion with pills”

Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health Research Meet up (May 2018) - Presentation of accepted abstract "Gender Stereotypes and Health Inequities: an analysis of the Uruguayan abortion law under international human rights standards"

8th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights (Feb 2018) – Workshop moderator and Invited Speaker at “The role of young feminisms in re-politicizing the SRHR Agenda”

Dialogue on Assessing the Impact of Sexual and Reproductive Rights Litigation in Africa - Dullah Omar Institute, University of Western Cape (Nov 2017) – Presentation of accepted abstract “Gender stereotyping and Sexual and Reproductive Rights”

CSO Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health - Africa Criminal Justice Reform, the Dullah Omar Institute, the University of Essex and Lawyers for Human Rights (Nov 2017) – Participant (invitation only)

"Beyond Human Rights: rethinking gender equality and the Law” Conference – University of Oxford and Universidad de los Andes (Oct 2017) – Presentation of accepted abstract “Mapping gender stereotypes in abortion laws”

Public Talk “Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights” - Leiden Amnesty International Student Group (Apr 2017) – Invited Speaker
Public Talk “Abortion in International Law” - JVN Groningen (May 2017) – Invited Speaker
Public Talk “Sex, Health and ‘Unholy’ Alliances: The Role for Human Rights” - Students for the Promotion of Human Rights (Apr 2017) – Invited Speaker
University of Ghent Legal Research Network Conference – (Oct 2016) - Presentation of accepted abstract “The Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health: Clarifying the scope of state’s obligations under ICESCR and ICCPR”
Public Talk “Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights” - Amnesty International Student Group (Feb 2016) – Invited Speaker
Public Talk “Empowerment of Refugee Women and Girls” - Honors College event (May 2016) – Invited Speaker

ORGANIZATION OF ACADEMIC EVENTS (Selected)

Research Day “Human Rights Methodology” – Netherlands School of Human Rights (Aug 2015) – Speaker and Organizer
International Law for Sustainable Development Seminar Series: Sexual and Reproductive Rights – Department of Transboundary Legal Studies (May 2018) – Speaker and Organizer
“Gender and Diversity in Academia: Rethinking the Challenges” Summer School (Jul 2016) – Academic Coordinator and Organizer

SUPERVISION/MENTORING EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Claudia Skibniweski - Masters Honors Program - Gender Stereotypes and Advertisement Law
Natália Centková - LLB - ‘Do the practices of the Jewish ultra-Orthodox community in Israel constitute an infringement of Israel’s international obligations under international law? Reconciling women’s rights with religious traditions.’
Kristina Hatas - LLM Public International Law - Gender Based Violence in International Criminal Law: A feminist critique of the public/private dichotomy
Muhammad Tayyab - LLM Human Rights Law - The Invisible Beings: Discrimination against Hijra in Pakistan
Kalina Tzvetkova - LLB International and European Law - The Right to an Abortion in the Case of Rape in International Law

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE (Selected)

Interview for Standard Pacific “An update on abortion pills from the World Health Organization undermines how the US regulates them” (Jul 2019) available < https://psmag.com/social-justice/an-update-on-abortion-pills-from-the-who-undermines-how-the-us-regulates-them?fbclid=IwAR0F3hVKe2chSH6pl-O6ARubDVqjl57WROODyZD__58d_0GjkSAHLjirDC8>
Interview for Al Jazeera’s “Generation Y not” on Contraception and Reproductive Rights (Jul 2017) available <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4irsffCHbig&t=696s>
United Nations TV - participation in How can we achieve gender equality? -- SDGLive, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2017) (July 2017) Video available < <http://webtv.un.org/watch/how-can-we-achieve-gender-equality-sdglive-high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-hlpf-2017/5511147088001>>
Interview Radio on Abortion in Uruguay (Feb 2017) Recording available <<http://www.espectador.com/sociedad/348230/debate-juridico-del-caso-de-suspension-del-aborto-en-mercedes>>
Commentary on Uruguay’s abortion court case for Rewire news (Mar 2017) <https://rewire.news/article/2017/03/14/controversial-ruling-threatens-abortion-access-uruguay-beyond/>
Interview for National Post “‘Completely failing women’: Why the Zika epidemic is really a women’s rights crisis” (May 2017) available <<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/completely-failing-women-why-the-zika-epidemic-is-really-a-womens-rights-crisis>>
CSW 60 High Level Event – participation on High Level “The Roadmap to Realizing Rights: Every Woman Every Child’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health” event as a speaker (Mar 2016). Video available at <<http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/2016/03/15/the-roadmap-to-realizing-rights-every-woman-every-child-s-global-strategy-for-women-s-children-s-and-adolescents-health-2/>>

Editorial Activities

Member of Editorial Board - Revista del Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios y Políticas de Género - (Journal of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender and Political Studies)
Reviewer for BMC International Health and Human Rights, British Journal of Medicine, Harvard Health and Human Rights and Oxford Journal of Human Rights in Practice.
