

Isabel Marcus

Feminist Jurisprudence and the Expansion of Women's Rights in the USA

ABSTRACT

In the late sixties and seventies feminist lawyers began to challenge the many ways in which law and legal systems, claiming to be democratic, in theory and practice actually supported and reproduced fraternal patriarchy. In their pioneering work, they have generated a new canon of jurisprudence based on women's lives - replacing the invisibility of women with women's active presence, needs and demands. Professor Isabel Marcus will discuss the development of this movement and its global impact especially in the fields of reproductive rights and violence against women.

BIO

Professor Isabel Marcus is a long time feminist lawyer, activist and professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School where she teaches family law, women's human rights, and legal remedies. She is a graduate of Barnard College and of the University of California at Berkeley (Ph.D. in Political Science and Juris Doctor). She was the co-founder of the University at Buffalo Institute for Research on Women and Gender and served as the Chair of the Department of Women's Studies (1997-2002). She has taught in universities in Eastern Europe since 1992 (Albania, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia) as well as in the PRC, India, Pakistan, and Thailand. As a member of the Network of East-West Women, she is one of the co-founders of the Women's Human Rights Training Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria, which trains lawyers from Eastern Europe to bring women's rights cases in their national legal systems and to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the United Nations.