

Special Issue

Free and Voluntary Agreement to Sexual Activity in the Contemporary Age: When Should Fraud Invalidate Consent?

Message from the Guest Editors

The concept of consent as a free and voluntary agreement to sexual activity is integral to both modern sexual assault law and contemporary values of autonomy and informed choice. The integral element of the crime of rape is the victim's lack of consent. The law has traditionally taken a narrow approach to where fraud will invalidate consent, typically limiting it to fraud as to the nature of the act or fraud as to the identity of the alleged perpetrator. This Special Issue calls for contributions to consider these involved questions from both a legal and/or criminological perspective. Is there a single underlying principle that should apply? In what circumstances should deceit render consent to sexual activity invalid? What should amount to free and voluntary agreement in this context?

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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