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Legal Pluralism when Formal Systems Fail: Title IX, Legal Consciousness, and Informal Sexual Assault Prevention Strategies on Campus

Sexual assault remains a pervasive problem on American college campuses. Female and transgender and gender non-conforming students consistently report the highest rates of sexual misconduct. Voluminous research exists critiquing policies' legibility, protective capacity, bias in favor of perpetrators, and failures of due process. In this study we seek to understand how undergraduate students navigate formal and informal systems of sexual assault harm prevention strategies anticipating that undergraduates have an understanding of these gaps and informal strategies they enact to mitigate harms on campus. Using 150 in depth interviews with college undergraduates at 7 institutions in 3 states, we show the emergence of informal systems and to demonstrate how law shapes these practices.

PLACE 2240 Piedmont Ave., UC Berkeley

TIME 12:45 – 2:00pm.

INFO https://www.csls.berkeley.edu

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