



MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL

Australia's first, Australia's global

# RESEARCH WORKSHOP ABSTRACT

BY PROFESSOR JENNY MORGAN (Melbourne Law School)

Monday, 11 May 2009

## **Sexual Harassment: The Early Development of a Legal Claim**

This is a part of a much larger work in progress, ostensibly a book, which explores the development of sexual harassment as a legal claim in Australia: how sexual harassment became something that men in a workplace simply did, to something that women could name as a legal wrong, and claim compensation for. I aim to do this through examining the stories told in the legal cases about sexual harassment, but also the stories told in the print media, and, to a much lesser extent, plays, novels, other books and movies.

The staff seminar is drawn from the first substantive chapter in the larger project, and lays out some of the early history surrounding the claim for sexual harassment. It touches on many of the themes that are or will be explored in the rest of the project, including the role of morality and equality in the development of the legal claim.