

FLOURISH	Prof. Feona <b>ATTWOOD</b>	<b>SEX, POWER AND MONEY: THE CASE OF WOMEN AND PORNOGRAPHY</b>
FRI 16 NOV	Middlesex University	
<b>09.30-11.00</b>		

*Feona Attwood*

*Professor of Cultural Studies, Communication and Media*

Feona Attwood is an academic whose work investigates the changing place and significance of sex and gender and their representation in contemporary society, the ways in which sexual practices and representations are caught up in wider debates around bodies, media and technologies, and the emerging centrality of new technologies in conceptions of gender and sexuality. She is known best for her work in developing the study of pornographies and for her contribution to debates on the sexualization of culture.

She is the author of *Sex Media* (2017), editor of *porn.com: Making Sense of Online Pornography* (2010) and *Mainstreaming Sex: The Sexualization of Western Culture* (2009), and co-editor of *The Routledge Companion to Media, Sex and Sexuality* (2017) and *Controversial Images* (2012).

She is co-editor of the leading critical sexualities studies journal, *Sexualities*, covering the social sciences, cultural studies, cultural history and anthropology, social geography, feminism, gender studies, and lesbian and gay studies. She is founding co-editor of the journal, *Porn Studies*.

It is often argued that pornography is a form of violence against women or an expression of patriarchy, and more recently, it has been claimed that it is the source of the sexualisation of mainstream culture, with dramatic negative impacts on women. At the same time the development of feminist porn and 'The Fifty Shades phenomenon' in which EL James' book trilogy became a worldwide bestseller, followed by a widely publicised series of films, has made women more visible than ever as active producers and consumers of pornography.

In public discussion, pornography is often discussed in highly polarised terms – oppressive or empowering – and it is often used as a way of expressing concern about the connections between sex, power and money in contemporary society. In her talk, Professor Attwood will compare talk about women and pornography with research into its production and consumption by women. She asks what both of these suggest about the relations between sex, power and money and how they can illuminate broader questions about our social and cultural worlds.

