**One Step Forward, Two Steps Back? :**

**Relationship Recognition in Canadian Law Post-Same-Sex Marriage**

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***Abstract:***

*This paper argues that same-sex marriage has been legalized through a problematic process of drawing parallels between gay and straight couples, ultimately creating new tensions between the conjugal and non-conjugal. This paper aims to conceptualize a direction for the Canadian state with respect to relationship recognition and to establish a space for discussing alternative categories of adult personal relationships.*

***Biography:***

*Megan Gaucher is a doctoral candidate from the Department of Political Studies at Queen’s University. Her research focuses on the importance of relationship recognition in the execution of state power, particularly the privileging of conjugal and conjugal-like relationships in Canadian law and policy.*