

Katherine Franke is the Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Columbia University, and Director of the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law. She is also on the Executive Committees of Columbia's Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, and the Center for Palestine Studies. She is among the nation's leading scholars writing on law, sexuality race, and religion drawing from feminist, queer, and critical race theory. Professor Franke is also the founder and faculty director of the [Law, Rights, and Religion Project](#), a think tank based at Columbia Law School that develops policy and thought leadership on the complex ways in which religious liberty rights interact with other fundamental rights.

Her first book, [Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality](#) (NYU Press 2015), considers the costs of winning marriage rights for same sex couples today and for African Americans at the end of the Civil War. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011 to undertake research for [Wedlocked](#). Her second book, [Repair: Redeeming the Promise of Slavery's Abolition](#) (Haymarket Press 2019), makes the case for racial reparations in the United States by returning to a time at the end of slavery when many formerly enslaved people were provided land explicitly as a form of reparation, yet after President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated the land was stolen back from freed people and given to former slave owners.

Professor Franke also chairs the Board of Trustees of the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#), a civil and human rights advocacy non-profit based in New York City.

Katherine Franke is the Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and directs the Open University Project at Columbia Law School, a venture that works to depolarize and deepen the discussion of Israel/Palestine on U.S. campuses. She is also on the Executive Committees of Columbia's Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, and the Center for Palestine Studies. She is among the nation's leading scholars writing on law, gender, religion, and academic freedom, drawing from feminist, queer, and critical race theory.

In addition to her academic work she is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Center for Constitutional Rights.