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**Szeretettel meghívjuk a Kar Oktatóit és Hallgatóit  
Vendégelőadók előadás sorozatunk legújabb  
rendezvényére.**



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**Harming Women, Children, and Monogamy: An Analysis of  
the Polygamy Reference Case in Canada**

In 2010, the Canadian Supreme Court of British Columbia embarked on an unprecedented reference case to test whether Canada's prohibition against polygamy is consistent with the freedoms guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the bill of rights in the Constitution Act, 1982. A central concern is whether polygamy perpetuates inherent harm to women, children, and society by increasing their risk of and exposure to physical and psychological forms of violence. In contrast, arguments were made that some women freely choose to enter into polygamous relationships, and that criminalizing this family form offends their right to religious freedom. In 2011, Justice Bauman ruled that, although the law violates the religious freedom of fundamentalist Mormons, the potential harm caused by polygamy to women, to children, and to *monogamy* outweighs this concern. Thus, in the name of protecting women from harm, those who practice polygamy as part of their religious commitment are made criminal under the law. This talk examines the treatment of competing rights and the need to protect monogamy in the BC Supreme Court case.