Feminist Intellectual Property Studies (FIPS): the Reading Group

Led by **Dr Metka Potočnik** (University of Wolverhampton, UK),

with **Professor Jessica C Lai** (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Call for Expressions of Interest

In 2026, we are organising the "**Women and Intellectual Property**" event, on **8-9 June 2026**, where we will discuss the scholarship, policy and practice of women in intellectual property practice. We will also explore women and intellectual property systems, focusing on inclusivity in the creative industries and systems of innovation. Ahead of this two-day event, we are organising an online reading group, which aims to bring feminist IP scholarship closer to all early career researchers, who might want to expand their theoretical approaches to IP research and teaching, and have not yet studied feminist IP approaches before. In our workshops, we will focus on key texts in feminist IP scholarship, covering a range of IP rights.

The sessions will be moderated by two experienced researchers in the field: Dr Metka Potočnik, the author of *A Feminist Reconstruction of Intellectual Property Laws in Music* (Edward Elgar, 2025) and Professor Jessica C Lai, the author of *Patent Law and Women: Tackling Gender Bias in Knowledge Governance* (Routledge, 2022), and co-editor of the *Research Agenda for Intellectual Property Law and Gender* (Edward Elgar, 2024). Each session (see the schedule below), will focus on a specific theme, such as copyright, patents, trade marks etc. We will assign reading a month before each session, and the reading list will be sent to all, who have registered to participate in the session. Everyone will be expected to have their cameras turned on (for transparency and safety of all involved) and actively participate in the discussions.

How to register? There are no prerequisites to join this group. The attendance will be free of charge. If you are interested in participating in the reading group, please email Dr Metka Potočnik at m.potocnik@wlv.ac.uk by no later than **9 January 2026**. In your email, we ask that you explain your reasons for wanting to join us and any research experience you already have (max 300 words). If you have any questions about the group, or reading suggestions, do also get in touch with us, at the same address.

SCHEDULE (all online, via MS Teams)

FIPS Reading Group I [Theory and Method]

Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 7pm (UK time)

FIPS Reading Group II [Patents and Innovation]

Thursday, 19 February 2026, 7pm (UK time)

FIPS Reading Group III [Copyright and Performers' Rights]

Monday, 16 March 2026, 7pm (UK time)

FIPS Reading Group IV [Trade Marks, Passing Off, Advertising]

Monday, 20 April 2026, 7pm (UK time)

FIPS Reading Group V [The Knowledge and Expressions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities]

Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 7pm (UK time)

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SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

University of Wolverhampton, UK

8-9 June 2026 (hybrid)

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