

Grinney, Matthew J., "The Legal Status of Prostitution in Costa Rica: A Result of the Political Elite's Character and Actions." Advisor: Jairo Hernández. Emory University. 2007. 66pp. [Study located in Law section]

A Legislative Assembly deputy and a sex worker from San José's red-light-district are not a likely pair. In a study on the current situation of sex workers, however, the two are inextricably linked. In general, studies on sex work are wanting within the intellectual community and among those that do exist; this direct linkage is never explicitly or comprehensively addressed. This study places the connection between the Costa Rican political elite and Costa Rican sex workers at the core of its arguments in order to show the causal relationship between the elite's hegemony and sex workers' marginalized status within society. Analysis of the elite's history reveals certain enduring characteristics, such as individualism, a stigma held towards sex work, and the ability to exercise political and social control over subordinate groups, that, when understood within the context of the current legal character of sex work, elucidates said relationship.