



4th Edition of Global Congress on

GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES



JUNE 12-13, 2023
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Venue Address:

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GENDER 2023

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KEYNOTE

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Engaging boys and addressing masculinities in comprehensive sex education reaps benefits for both adolescent boys and girls: Results from the Jack Trial

Maria Lohan

Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom

If I were Jack is a new comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programme designed to engage boys and address masculinities. The programme has proven to be successful in helping both adolescent boys and girls avoid an unintended pregnancy. If I were Jack is based on a gender-equality, also known as a 'gender-transformative', approach. It is specially designed to engage males and transform masculinities to be more consistent with gender-equality.

The World Health Organization (WHO)¹ and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)², amongst others, have highlighted that greater engagement with boys through 'gender-transformative' CSE that challenges gender inequalities is required to reduce unintended adolescent pregnancy and improve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). However, there has been a lack of programming specifically designed to achieve such engagement - a deficit highlighted, for example, by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and by the latest systematic review of reviews of sex education programme evaluations³. The If I were Jack programme is specifically designed to address this deficit.

The effects of the If I were Jack programme were studied in a randomized controlled trial study, and the results were published in the Lancet Public Health. This was the first randomized trial of a CSE programme to show a significant increase in contraceptive use for both adolescent boys and girls. The trial also demonstrated that the programme increased adolescent boys' and girls' sexual health and healthcare knowledge, improved gender-equitable attitudes, and increased intentions to prevent unintended pregnancy.

The UK-wide randomised trial involved 66 schools and over 8,000 students, making it the largest trial of its kind. It is the first randomized trial of a 'gender-transformative' CSE programme targeted to engage males to reduce unintended adolescent pregnancy, the first CSE trial to be conducted across the four nations of the UK and the first CSE trial in the UK to include faith-based schools.

The evaluation is timely as the WHO has just launched a global research priority setting exercise on Masculinities and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The aim of the WHO exercise is to shape, in collaboration with a diverse range of global stakeholders a shared research agenda on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in SRHR. The WHO exercise is also informed by systematic reviews of research on male engagement in SRHR, and specifically male engagement in gender-transformative intervention studies, as well as evidence and gap maps of this field. You are invited to get involved in shaping this shared research agenda here.

Our motivation for designing and evaluating the If I were Jack programme is to examine outcomes when we meaningfully engage adolescent boys early in conversations around sexual health and rights alongside adolescent girls. We have focused on enhancing positive masculinities to help enable young men navigate their role in healthy, consensual sexual relationships. Boys have as much of a role to play as girls in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

The If I were Jack programme begins with an interactive video drama which was co-designed with young people and policy makers. The drama enables boys and girls of approximately 14 years of age to put themselves in the shoes of a boy, Jack, who has just been told by his girlfriend that she is unintentionally pregnant. In follow up classroom

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activities, young people get to discuss and probe, in their own terms, what makes gender norms and practices, change and resistant to change.

Follow-up classroom activities also encourage communication and behavioural skills among adolescent boys and girls. This enables more confidence and competence in discussing contraception and consent. It also helps boys and girls to know how to obtain safe contraception and how to seek help in the event of an unintended pregnancy. The classroom activities encourage students to consider how intimacy, sexual relationships, and future parenthood are not negative experiences, but rather pleasurable things to look forward to when one is ready. To maximise the quality of the organisation and delivery of these activities, teachers are provided with relevant training. Materials are also provided to parents to encourage conversation with their child as part of the programme.

At follow-up, over one year later, we were pleased to see that those who received the programme in schools were significantly more likely to use contraception than those who did not, an important step in reducing unintended pregnancies. There was no increase in sexual initiation among young people at all – only that as young people become sexually active, they are more informed and more prepared.

The cost-effectiveness analysis included in the trial also showed the programme to be low cost, approximately £5 per pupil to deliver including teacher training, as well as cost-effective in reducing the health and social care costs. Increases in contraceptive use once young people are sexually active means a reduction in unintended pregnancies as well as sexually transmitted infections, which would in-turn reduce healthcare costs over a 20-year period. This is not only a saving in terms of healthcare costs but also increases girls' opportunities to finish school well.

If I Were Jack is, however, a brief intervention of low dose not designed to address all CSE needs. Recognising that access to CSE is a human right under United Nations Rights of the Child and optimally delivered as other subjects, over the whole school year across all year groups, in an age appropriate manner, arguably the added value to advancing CSE practice in this trial is in demonstrating how and why male engagement and gender-transformative programming within CSE is important.

Building on its success in the UK, we are delighted that the programme is now being adapted for use with young people, teachers and policymakers in South America, South Africa and Lesotho. We have also co-designed and evaluated a similar programme using a rights-based and gender-transformative approach for young men in prison.

The Lancet Public Health publication can be accessed [here](#).

Get involved in the WHO global research priority setting exercise on Masculinities and SRHR.

This study was funded by the National Institute of Health Research Public Health Research programme (NIHR PHR 15/181/01). The views and opinions expressed therein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Public Health Research Programme, NIHR, NHS or the Department of Health.

Biography

Professor Maria Lohan is Chair in Social Sciences and Health, School of Nursing & Midwifery and Theme Lead for Maternal and Child Health. She is also a Fellow of the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation.

Professor Lohan's research team is dedicated to better understanding inequalities in health in society, especially in relation to improving men's sexual health and involvement in reproduction and parenting.

She leads a programme of research undertaking systematic reviews and developing and evaluating evidence-based educational and health care interventions to improve men's sexual health and to enhance men's involvement in reproductive health and parenting.

The objective of this research is to generate new thinking on men's roles in sexual health, reproduction and parenting

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Black British female managers—The silent catastrophe

Denise A Miller

University of Greenwich, United Kingdom

The experiences of Black British female managers who worked for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) operating in the UK were examined. The following research questions guided this study: How do Black British female managers experience racial microaggressions and how do they cope with it? Purposive and theoretical sampling were used to recruit 10 Black British female managers who worked for CYPS and who had similar demographic characteristics (i.e., racial/ethnic background and managerial experience). Interview transcripts were analyzed using constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2006). Over 200 codes were identified and extracted from individual interview transcripts. Organizing the codes into categories resulted in five themes that highlighted the challenging practices that Black British female managers perceived thwarted their careers (i.e., The Organizational Culture, On the Outside Looking In, Stereotype Threat, Prejudice, Discrimination and Institutional Racism and Espoused Practice vs. Reality), and one theme that described their coping strategies (i.e., The Silent Catastrophe). Although the study is centered on a multisectorial sample, two main conclusions can be drawn from this study. First, gendered racism curtails the career development of Black British female managers in ways that are not experienced by their White counterparts. Second, Black British female managers perceive that their experiences in CYPS is fundamentally negatively disproportionate and aversive. The implication is that CYPS leaders must give racial and gender equality, diversity and inclusion greater priority.

Biography

Denise Miller is a qualified primary school teacher. She worked as a teacher for over 8 years before completing an MSc degree in Educational Psychology from University College London, and soon after she achieved a Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology. At present, as an academic (at the University of Greenwich) and chartered educational psychologist in private practice, Denise works in early years, primary and secondary school settings, as well as, further and higher education, legal, and clinical contexts. Denise is primarily interested in undertaking research that involves investigating traditionally marginalised people's experiences within the education sector.

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Women Rising the Unseen Barriers

Nooraini Youp

Open University Malaysia, Malaysia

Women rising the unseen barriers" can be interpreted in a few different ways, but generally, it refers to the ways in which women face obstacles and challenges in their personal and professional lives that are not always visible or obvious. These unseen barriers can take many forms, including discrimination, bias, and stereotyping.

In their pursuit for equality, women have historically encountered many obstacles, including limited access to education, employment, and political power. Despite the progress made in recent years, many women still confront significant obstacles on a daily basis. These obstacles may include pay disparities, absence of advancement opportunities, and cultural norms that restrict their potential. Many women have been able to surmount these obstacles and achieve success in their personal and professional lives despite these obstacles. In order to overcome the invisible obstacles they face, these women have had to be resilient, determined, and inventive. They may have had to resist stereotypes and expectations, or come up with inventive solutions to overcome obstacles. The process of women overcoming unseen barriers is significant and ongoing, requiring continuous effort and support from society as a whole. By recognising and addressing the obstacles women confront, we can create a world that is more equitable and inclusive for all.

Biography

She is a Director and Senior Lecturer for Open University Malaysia. She is a Board Director for one of Top Ten Coop in Malaysia name Koperasi Tunas Muda Sg Ara Sdn Bhd, (KTMSAB) Penang. She is the Chairman for Debt Collector ,Exco member for Learning and Development for the KTMSAB and Chairman for Sri Tunas Edar (a subsidiary for KTMSAB).She is the member of Institute of Corporate Directors Malaysia.

She is an accomplished director with domestic and international experience in operations. P & L oversight, and marketing involving both start-up and growth organizations. Result oriented, decisive leader with proven success in new market identification and strategic positioning for multi million education industries. Track record of increasing sales and growing bottom line while spreading operational improvements to drive productivity and reduce costs. Excel in dynamic, demanding environments while remaining pragmatic and focused.

She has 27 years of experienced in manufacturing and education industries. Offer outstanding leadership skill with high integrity and committed to job task. Business oriented and result driven person. She drives the organization in a positive revenue growth. Pleasant personality and great rapport with stakeholders.

Taking leadership and entrepreneurial skills at a different level to embark on a journey of optimistic actions, Nooraini Binti Youp – a leader is changing lives with her strong mind-set and glorious personality. She has been successfully handling all hurdles, hardships, burdens to create a platform that is lifedefining for her students. Her go-getter approach and passion to deliver high-impact resources have helped her shape a fairer world in the education fraternity. Let's have a look at how her illustrious facade is conquering titles, winning hearts, and signifying reforms

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His porn, her pain: When women don't want men to watch porn

Marty Klein

SexEd Associates, United States

When couples are in conflict over porn, it's almost invariably a woman upset with a man's porn use. Other gender configurations struggling with this are rare. Why is that? The most common clinical narrative in such cases is seeing a female victim and a selfish male bully. And while this approach may ultimately reduce his porn use (at least temporarily), it generally doesn't address the couple's underlying problems—and certainly not their sexual relationship.

To help us work more deeply with such cases, this talk focuses on treating intrapsychic conflicts, power struggles, and existential issues relating to porn use. We'll look at how one or both partners may be acting out body image issues, and why "porn addiction" is not a helpful concept.

We'll explore how conflict about pornography is often used to avoid confronting a sexual relationship's deficits. We'll look at various sexual issues—such as desire, arousal, and masturbation—that should be raised when working with these cases. And we'll look at how these cases embody therapy's problematic narratives about gender and sexuality.

Biography

Dr. Marty Klein has been a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Certified Sex Therapist in Palo Alto, California for 42 years—over 40,000 sessions with individuals and couples.

Marty is the award-winning author of seven books on sexuality, including the ground-breaking *Sexual Intelligence*. *Psychology Today* simply says "To improve your sex life, buy this book." His recent book on the conflict between male porn users and their female mates is called *His Porn, Her Pain*.

Marty is an outspoken critic of many clinical and popular ideas about sexuality and emotional health. Wikipedia cites him as the foremost critic of the concept of sex addiction. Marty's *Sexual Intelligence* blog and YouTube channel are frequently cited as sources of innovative thinking about sexuality, culture, politics, and the media. He recently gave two U.S. Congressional briefings on evidence-based sex education.

Each year Marty trains thousands of physicians, psychologists, and policy-makers across North America, Europe, and Asia—some 40 countries to date. Audiences consistently describe his talks as thought-provoking, practical, and entertaining.

His website is www.SexEd.org.

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Revisiting the Feminist Classroom through Storytelling, Activism and the Body

Punam Mehta

University of Manitoba, Canada

Dr. Punam Mehta will identify strategies for teaching in the feminist classroom through storytelling, activism, and the body. First, Punam will explore the use of storytelling through dystopian feminist science fiction in the feminist classroom. Second, Punam will identify ways to connect feminist activism to students learning. Finally, Punam will reflect on the process of creating and implementing assignments, that challenge the power dynamics within a classroom, particularly through a visual arts- based research method known as body mapping. In conclusion, Punam will connect themes of creating assignments through storytelling, activism and the body to create a space for feminist learning that is both transformative and empowering to students. Punam will also reflect on the future of the feminist classroom in higher education.

Biography

Dr. Punam Mehta is a Faculty Instructor at the University of Manitoba where she teaches courses in the Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Health Program. For the past 20 years, she has dedicated her research, teaching, and service to issues related to social justice and wellness in Manitoba, Canada. Punam holds a Ph.D., MSc, BSc, & BA Honours all from her hometown of Winnipeg.

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ORAL

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Lessons in Love & Understanding: Gender, Sexual & Relationship Diversity in the Classroom. The importance of LGBTQI+ representation in public and educational settings

Jenni Gates

Counselling Therapist, Researcher & Author, United Kingdom

Gender and Sexuality are wonderfully nuanced topics, and when understood and explored in full, can lead to deeply enriched interpersonal and relational experiences along with a greater connection with ones sense of self. In order to fully explore our own unique identities, there first must be a safe enough space in which to do so. Secondly, there must be access to reliable information and education on these matters. Finally, it must be understood that as human beings we grow, develop, change, and so our gender and sexual identities are also not necessarily fixed labels. The challenges that we face in the UK in addressing Gender Sexual and Relationship Diversity, are that our educators and health care providers are not trained in these topics. Gender and Sexuality are viewed as specialist subjects, despite the fact they effect every single human being that ever lived. Lessons in Love & Understanding aims to tackle the taboo and offer practical and researched advice on navigating relationship and sex education, in an all inclusive way; the importance of LGBTQI+ representation and visibility is key to addressing this, and something we can all be active in promoting.

Biography

Jenni Gates graduated from University of Glasgow in 2002 with an MA in English Literature and Psychology. She worked in health and social care with young people and families in a variety of settings, including managing a multi award winning youth project in Scotland, and providing charity consultancy in Asia and Africa. In 2012 Jenni qualified with an Advanced Diploma in Integrative Counselling from The Iron Mill, Exeter and worked full time as a specialist counsellor for The West of England Gender Identity Clinic (NHS) where she not only gained training from world leading experts in gender and sexuality studies, but also was part of a research team, publishing a paper in the International Journal of Transgenderism in 2018: 'An exploration of the lived experiences of non-binary individuals who have presented at a gender identity clinic in the United Kingdom'. Jenni currently works as an integrative counsellor in private practice as well as under Pink Therapy. Jenni is a member of SEA (Sex Education Alliance) and has been delivering relationship and sex education across schools and education centres in the UK since 2003. In 2020 Jenni's first book was published under SAGE education titled: Lessons in Love & Understanding: Relationships, Sexuality & Gender in the classroom.

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Women's Discourse on Sexuality in Modern Arabic Literature

Miral Maghoub Al-Tahawy
Arizona State University, United States

Female body and sexuality as one of the major taboos in modern Arabic women's writing. This book will explore the phenomenon of nude or explicit writing "Kitabat al jasad", through the analysis of selected narrative texts written by female writers from different generations. To define the so-called "explicit writing", as a newly trend in female writing that exploits nudity, and explicit sexual conation and identify a significant emerging trend in female writing which employs female nudity, explicit sexual language, controversial themes, and sexual hegemonic discourse as a method to defying cultural and religious expectations and exposing female sexuality as a taboo subject to public debate and the representation of the female body as a way to expose the hypocrisy in the discourse of a patriarchal society. The Study dissects the way in which the female body, in both the literal and metaphorical, has been presented and represented in Arab women's literature as a motif used for the purpose of exposing and stripping bare (reveal /expose/ scandalize/ fadeh) both the self as well as the society with its obsolete social mores as well as to challenge extremist religious rhetoric.

The study goal is:

Exploring the representation of the female body and sexuality in modern Arab women's writing across the generations. Examining the emergence of new trends of female narratives that deal with bodily subjects utilizing explicit sexual language, pornographic elements, prohibited sensual themes, and erotic fantasies as a metaphorical vehicle of revolt against social and political taboos and as a means to challenge Arab societies and old traditions and extremist Islamic religious rhetoric and the values of patriarchal authority and also shaken the supposed image of what women's writing should be.

Biography

Miral Maghoub al-Tahawy is an associate professor of Modern Arabic literature, an award-winning Egyptian novelist and short story writer, and an affiliated member of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University.

Mahgoub al-Tahawy was a Fulbright International Scholar at Columbia University, and was awarded a two-year postdoctoral research and teaching fellowship at New York University (NYU). She was also an international visiting scholar in the Department of Foreign Languages, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC; the Middlebury College Intensive Language Program, Middlebury VT; the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA; and the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures (MESALC), University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. She earned her doctorate from Cairo University in Arabic language and literature.

Her professional contributions include four academic books published in Arabic, nine refereed articles published in international peer-reviewed journals. She also has published nine refereed book chapters in English.

Her focus is Contemporary Arabic literature on two distinct and related themes:

Desert narrative in the context of social tribal taboos. This focus includes traditional nomadic Arab culture and marginalized voices, and the Indigenous Literature; ethnic minorities, including marginalized Arab groups such as the Bedouins and the Tuareg.

Modern Arab women's writing, exploring Arab Women's Writing, Female body and sexuality within the contexts of social restriction, gender segregation, Diaspora, Migration, Exile and Gender Identity in contemporary Arabic literature.

As a literary figure, Mahgoub al-Tahawy was named "One of the Most Influential Writers of the Oriental World" and "One of most powerful Middle Eastern writers" by Forbes magazine in 2014.

Mahgoub al-Tahawy has written four award-winning novels, each of which has garnered national and international recognition. Most are now taught around the world as part of standard curricula in Arabic literature in translation. Her literary work has now been translated into more than 15 languages.

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The Case for Collecting, Analyzing and Utilizing Sex-disaggregated Data and Gendered Data to Inform Outbreak Responses, A Systematic Review of the Literature 2012-2022

McKinzie Gales

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States

Understanding sex-related differences and gendered roles in outbreak dynamics is critical to delivering an effective response. Despite recommendations and minimum requirements, collection, analysis, and use of sex-disaggregated data and gendered data are seldom included in outbreak response. A systematic literature review was conducted to examine the extent to which sex-disaggregated data and gendered data for outbreak analytics and responses are collected, analyzed, and utilized in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC). Five databases were searched for peer-reviewed literature examining sex- and gender-specific outcomes for communicable disease outbreaks, published in English between January 1, 2012, and April 12, 2022. 71 out of 15,601 screened articles were included in the analysis. The literature describes sex- and gender-related differences regarding risk factors and vulnerability, access to and use of services, health-seeking behavior, treatment options, experiences in healthcare settings, and health and social outcomes and consequences. Evidence was organized by superimposing the World Health Organization's Gender Analysis Matrix on an outbreak response timeline – prevention, detection, management, and recovery. The analysis shows that identified sex and gender-related differences were not systematically utilized across all aspects of outbreak responses. While sex data is often collected during outbreaks in LMIC, few publications disaggregated outcomes by sex or discussed gendered roles, and even fewer examined the implications of the observed differential outcomes. The evidence calls for an approach to outbreak prevention, detection, response, and recovery that includes sex and gender specificities. Systematic and context specific guidance for the collection, analysis, and utilization of sex-disaggregated data and gendered data is needed.

Biography

McKinzie Gales received her MPH with a dual concentration in (1) Global Health and (2) Maternal and Child Health from the Colorado School of Public Health in 2019. She is a fellow with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States of America. McKinzie co-leads the multiagency, Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER)/Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA) Guidelines workgroup that aims to promote and facilitate guidelines for better collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data and gendered data for outbreak responses. Agencies included in the SAGER/IOA Guidelines workgroup: UNICEF, Epicentre, WHO, GENDRO, GOARN, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Institute of Tropical Medicine.

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Lesbian studies in Portugal - contributions to sexual orientation equality policies

Eduarda Ferreira

Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA), NOVA FCSH, Portugal

This work aims to question the roles and the importance of the contribution of the Portuguese research community to sexual orientation equality policies. In particular, it aims to investigate how the research on the intersections of gender and sexual orientation, namely on lesbian issues, has contributed to question identity-based politics and to advance an intersectional approach to equality policies. It will focus on and critically analyse research accomplishments, such as: research projects, MA and PhD dissertations; gender studies curricular degrees, published books and journals.

It is problematised how the identity-based approach to sexual orientation equality policies support the status quo of gender and sexuality as ordering principles and can itself origin exclusion and discrimination. It is also analysed how an intersectional approach could provide a more realistic and inclusive basis for equality policies, with the recognition of the interconnections and interdependence of diverse identity categories (such as gender identity, sexual orientation, age, class, and ethnicity) and the acknowledgment that it is not possible to explain inequalities through a single framework. In terms of equality policies this means, for instance, to formulate policies that take into account groups at the different intersections of inequalities and the way that they are affected by the policies in question. It is defended that academic research on lesbian issues can contribute to clarify the concepts underlying equality policies, to identify biases contained in equality policies themselves and to promote a more intersectional approach.

Biography

Eduarda Ferreira is a researcher of CICS.NOVA - Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences, at FCSH/NOVA, Portugal. With a background on Educational Psychology, a master's degree on e-Learning Management Systems, a PhD on Social and Cultural Geography, and a postdoc on 'Gender@ICT: gaps, co-production and equity'. She has published and presented on gender, sexualities, and digital technologies. She is a founding member of the Iberian and Latin American Network of Geography, Gender and Sexuality (REGGSILA), and editor of the LES Online section at the Latin American Journal of Geography and Gender (RLAGG). Personal webpage www.eferreira.net

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When Mobile Working Creates More Discrimination

Marie-Therese Claes

Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

With the advent of web and the information technology since the end of 20th century, digitalization has revolutionized our everyday life from shopping and dating to education and transportation. The world of work is one of the areas that has been highly transformed by changing the time and spatial limits of the work. The expansion of internet, wireless and easily portable devices such as laptop computers and mobile phones enabled to work almost from any place at any time. As a result, the telework, which started in 1950s and elevated in 1970s, steeply raised to new level in 21st century. Telework consists of various forms of work done from outside traditional workplace by using information technologies. Regardless of the expansion of online communication tools and infrastructure, the number of teleworkers average was not more than 9% in EU states until the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in 2019. The social distancing and lockdown measures that have been taken to reduce the spread of the virus in many countries worldwide resulted in an increasing number of teleworkers and made “working from home” synonymous with telework.

Post Covid-19, the number of teleworkers is still higher than before the pandemic period and the interest for expanding teleworking has been growing too. Notwithstanding the advantages ushered by telework, it also has a number of drawbacks that negatively affects organizations and employees. The intention of this piece of work is not to indicate a causal relationship between telework and discrimination. Rather to indicate some unintended and/or unnoticed deleterious effects of telework in reinforcing discrimination and to instigate discussion on how to mitigate them. To do so, this insight indicates how telework reinforces traditional gender roles and how organizational culture towards telework and its access to employees at different levels of the organizational hierarchy open the room for discrimination

Biography

Professor Marie-Therese Claes is Head of the Institute for Gender and Diversity at the WU Vienna University of Economics and Business. Previously she was CEMS professor Cross-Cultural Management and Leader of the CEMS interfaculty group for many years, and director of the Executive MBA programme at the Louvain School of Management (UCLouvain, Belgium). She was also Dean of the Faculty of Business at Asian University in Thailand, and has been visiting professor at several universities in Europe, Asia and the USA, as well as consultant for international organizations. She is past president of SIETAR Europa (Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research), and of EWMD (European Women Management Development Network). She is also committee member of IACCM and Fulbright and Japan Foundation alumna.

<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/diversity/team/marie-therese-claes>

<https://bach.wu.ac.at/d/research/ma/10569/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marie-therese-claes-26b1a413/>

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“What the Body Knows”

Stavroula Glezakos

Wake Forest University, United States

I am pretty sure that one of the reasons that I was drawn to philosophy – in particular, to the way of doing philosophy that I encountered as an undergraduate – is because it gave me a principled and effective means of containing and disregarding and avoiding certain kinds of experiences.

As a student, I worked on the theory of direct reference in analytic philosophy of language, and I took on board a certain model of belief and knowledge, on which the proper objects of both are propositions: abstract objects that we grasp with our minds and whose structures can be analyzed and represented symbolically. It is by means of our mind’s grasp of propositions that we access and connect to truth.

My attraction to this mode of inquiry was, I now realize, connected to my distrust in and dislike for and dissociation from my body. I judged my body to be a disaster and a disappointment, and I found the invitation to detach from it irresistible.

I no longer hold the perspectives that I did as a student. In the past several decades I have been fortunate to encounter and be taught and guided and treated by somatic practitioners, of yoga, meditation, modern dance, Alexander Technique, massage, healing touch, Rolfing, intuitive eating, and breathwork (to name a few). I am no longer at war with my body; in fact, I have gained a deep appreciation for it. And as a philosopher, I hope to find a way to recognize some claims that somatic practitioners make on behalf of the body: for example:

Experience has taught me that my own body is the source of all the vital information that has enabled me to achieve greater autonomy and self confidence... Genuine feelings are never the product of conscious effort. They are quite simply there, and they are there for a very good reason, even if that reason is not always apparent...[the body] knows exactly what it needs...

(From the book *The Body Never Lies*, by Alice Miller, p. 22) I have this paper, I aim to take seriously descriptions of the body as a knower and a testifier, and to make the case that philosophers need to find ways to accommodate these descriptions into their theoretical accounts of knowledge and testimony.

Biography

Stavroula Glezakos is Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Wake Forest University. Her work is focused on issues at the intersection of philosophy of language, ethics, and social philosophy, and has been published in *Linguistics and Philosophy* and volumes with MIT and Oxford University Presses. She and her co-author are currently working on a book about responsibility for unwanted consensual sex.

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Turn the Page

Jessica Lynn

Speaker & Advocate Kinsey Institute Global Ambassador, United States

Jessica opens this presentation by illustrating the simple fact that no two people are alike; placing emphasis on how our differences not only make life more interesting, but also make the world a better place. She then finds that, when talking about diversity, especially how it pertains to the transgender community, nothing is more important than one's own personal journey.

Jessica devotes some time to Dr John Money, a world-renowned psychologist who investigated the "Nature vs Nurture" debate in regard to gender. While affirming that gender was, in fact, a societal construct, Money believed that it was inherited rather than innate, as evidenced in his John/Joan Case. Jessica shares how the consequences of his thinking still reverberate through the trans community today.

Jessica then shares her own experience of having been born in 1965, before gender-dysphoria even had a place in the encyclopaedia, let alone the American lexicon. Her story begins with a boy not comfortable in his own skin, coping with his anxieties through hobbies and sports, finding only one person to whom he can confide in. It's only after this woman, the younger Jessica's fiancé, dies in a car accident that Jessica is able to come out to her parents, and finds out that they had known about her wanting to be a woman as long as she had.

It is at this point that Jessica's story intertwines with that of Dr John Money's. At the age of five, Jessica's parents, wanting to know how to help their "son," turned to Money for advice. The hobbies, sports, and "boy things" into which Jessica had been immersed had all been suggestions of Money.

Jessica's story only gets more interesting and nuanced after she comes out to her parents. Her session includes her experiences of discrimination, parental alienation, and the ultimate fulfilment of finally having completed her transition. This is why professors of psychology, law, sociology, human sexuality, and gender studies, all over the world have used her story in both their lectures and textbooks. And while it illustrates so many struggles of the transgender community, it is still only one person's journey.

Biography

Jessica Lynn is a world-renowned transgender advocate, educator, and activist. Her experiences as a transgender woman and parent led her to dedicate her life to spreading awareness and acceptance for gender non-conforming communities around the world. Jessica is considered, internationally, one of the foremost transgender speakers due to her dynamic, refreshingly honest speaking style, unique sense of humour and signature "ask-me-anything" Q&A sessions. Over the last several years, Jessica has traveled over a million miles, visiting 28 different countries, presenting over a twelve hundred times, helping to educate the general public about the transgender community...and she isn't finished yet.

Already a Stonewall School Role Model and a speaker to the medical community by request of the National Health Service, England, Jessica has been appointed to an advisory position on a project aimed towards improving health services for gender diverse youth and their families throughout the UK by both the University of Oxford and the National Institute for Health Research. She also continues serving as a Kinsey Institute Global Ambassador at Indiana University, and, after spending a great amount of time speaking in the UK (and for her love of pastry pies and fish & chips), Jessica has recently relocated to Birmingham from her birthplace of California.

Over these past years, Jessica has had the privilege of helping to educate tens of thousands of people about the many identities throughout the gender spectrum. She has also been working with teachers, professors, nurses, doctors, business leaders, and many others to help further the understanding of gender non-conforming communities. Jessica has collaborated with her colleagues from the University of Oxford, Kinsey Institute, Michigan State University, plus many others, in order to develop training and educational programs for the business and medical communities. These training programs and courses are structured to educate and give a better understanding of the history of transgender communities; social and political impacts; challenging unconscious bias; working towards non-prejudicial and anti-discriminatory practices

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Counterhegemonic Feminist Art in Sex Workers' Activism

Kathleen Cherrington
York University, Canada

My memoir shares first-hand historical accounts of working in frontline sex worker advocacy, including my personal analysis of several sex workers' art activism events in North American contexts. In response to structural oppression by the neo-colonial, neo-liberal heteropatriarchy, sex workers utilize transferable skills from professional erotic labour to produce counterhegemonic feminist art for social justice activism. The resistance-based feminist art by sex workers which I analyze for this project include mediums such as nude modeling, photography, films, poetry, literature, along with many other art forms. I have been immersed within communities of sex workers in a variety of social contexts and share memories from my encounters to provide sex-positive feminist contributions within the arenas of sex work and erotic labour studies. My memoir commemorates the many sex workers who have died and continue to face systemic violence and poor social determinants of health, resulting from marginalization, stigmatization, and the criminalization of sex work. This project accredits the difficult and often thankless work of sex workers who are willing to "out" themselves within highly oppressive social frameworks to advocate for anti-violence initiatives, better working conditions and to resist stigma perpetuated by the neo-liberal, neo-colonial heteropatriarchy, through the process of art activism.

Biography

In 2012, I completed the 'Harm Reduction Certificate' program in the School of Continuing Studies at York University, and then completed a BA in 2018, majoring in Sexuality Studies, and minoring in Women's Studies. I completed an MA in 2020 and am now a 3rd year PhD student in the Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies Program. For fifteen years, I worked as an outreach worker to marginalized populations, specifically chronically homeless individuals, prisoners, and street-based sex workers. I witnessed insurmountable violence, feminized poverty, and health inequities, motivating my desire for social justice and sexual rights activism..

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Silenced wails of young Incest Survivors: Life Story Perspective of Girl Children in Children's Home

Meenakshi Saharan

Indian Institute of Technology, India

As common as the occurrence of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is, it is contemplated as an issue occurring in spaces outside the "sacred" institution of the family. While only the extreme cases of rape or penetrative sexual assault are reported, the simulation of the child in a sexual way in any form can be equally traumatic as it can have severe implications on how the child's world is constructed. CSA is portrayed as a crime where the perpetrator has transgressed societal norms and boundaries, neglecting the implications it has on the child's life. The intersectional lens offers the multifaceted victimization that children experience in the stigmatized discourse around sexuality and abuse. The study was conducted in a Children's Home situated in Rajasthan with girl children between 9 to 16 years of age and presents life stories of incest survivors from this intersectional lens. Utilizing the life-story method for data collection and constructionist grounded theory for analysis, the paper attempts to locate the agency exercised by the participants in a sexually abusive and adverse environment at home. The findings present a compassionate approach utilized by children to challenge the abusive environment in the family and contradict the stereotypical understanding of childhood and resilience in a patriarchal context. Employing the "traumagenic model" by Finkelhor (1985), the paper also discusses the impact of child sexual abuse on the child when perpetrated by the immediate caregiver in the aftermath. Implications of reporting CSA cases on the child's life are also discussed.

Keywords: Child Sexual Abuse; Girl Child Survivors; Incest; Patriarchy; Trauma and Suffering

Biography

Ms. Meenakshi Saharan is currently pursuing her Doctoral Research in the area of Child Sexual Abuse from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. She is a professional Social Worker with a Master's degree in Social Work specializing in Children and Families from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. With an experience of over eight-years in the field of Child Protection, she is trained in social research and has worked with State allied systems working for the protection of children. She is an experienced researcher, skilled in conducting sensitive research with vulnerable groups.

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It is your task, it is your bounden duty, to continue: The complex silence and boisterous voice of Dr. Ellen Irene Diggs 1947 to 1980.

Ida E. Jones
Morgan State University, Unites States

Ellen Irene Diggs lived in the intellectual shadow of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois. He was her graduate professor, academic confidant, employer, mentor, friend and possible paramour. Regardless, of the selected relational identities one ascribes to Dr. Diggs and Dr. DuBois her contributions to his remarkable career remained in the shadow with only trace evidence in the gentleman scholars correspondence or footnotes. Her archival collection arrived at Morgan State University in the early 1980s as a result of a forward thinking librarian Maggie Wanza. The Diggs papers remained unprocessed until an IMLS grant in 2020 provided the human and material resources to process and digitize elements of the collection. As the principle investigator and University Archivist the Diggs papers situates the intellectual rigor, innate brilliance and administrative frustration of gender as instructional faculty on an HBCU campus. While concurrently, battling racialized gender norms throughout Central and South America. Toward this end, sharing the long silent voice of Dr. Diggs with the global community – she investigated moves her from the shadows to center-stage as a scholar whose complex silence was imposed and at times maintained – yet her archival records are boisterous with course/departmental innovations, travel diaries and myriad manuscripts. Dr. Diggs' voice and observations provide context and blueprints for scholars of the African diaspora through a gendered lens.

Biography

Ida E. Jones is the Associate Director of Special Collections and inaugural University Archivist at Morgan State University. She is an award-winning author, public speaker, scholar and mentor. She has published 4 monographs and numerous book reviews. Currently, she is the national vice president of membership for ASALH; co-president of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites and serves on several local and national boards pertaining to women and history.

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Understanding 'Religion' as a Technology of Masculinist Statecraft

Naomi R. Goldenberg
University of Ottawa, Canada

The paper will advance the following arguments: 1. Feminist theorists and activists have not yet drawn sufficiently on contemporary religious studies scholarship, known as “critical religion” to deconstruct the category of ‘religion,’ 2. Instead of treating ‘religion’ as a reified, timeless, universal fixture that has always existed in different forms throughout the world, feminists ought to understand ‘religion’ as a technology of statecraft that evolved in the context of European colonialism and has been adopted on a global scale. The category functions as an anachronism that gains legitimacy by being read back into early histories. 3. Religions can now be productively theorized as marginalized, “vestigial” states within dominant sovereignties. In general, dominant states maintain control over martial and police violence, while allowing vestigial states – i.e. religions - influence over so-called domestic, ‘personal’ spheres. However, religions are always restive and work to enlarge the jurisdictional areas allotted to them. 4. Because, for the most part, religions idealize male authority as once and future ruling orders, they support current governing structures that are also male-dominated. 5. Recognizing the role that the category of religion plays in contemporary states is essential to understanding the persistence of male hegemony in governments. 6. Restating the second wave feminist slogan “the personal is political” as “the religious is political” is a crucial first step to clearer thinking.

Biography

Naomi Goldenberg is Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada. Her recent publications include: *The End of Religion: Feminist Reappraisals of the State* (Routledge, 2021) with Kathleen McPhillips and *Religion as a Category of Governance and Sovereignty* (Brill, 2015) with Trevor Stack and Timothy Fitzgerald. She writes and teaches about, feminism, popular culture, psychoanalysis and “religion” as a technology of government.

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From the #MeToo USA to #MeToo China: A Non-Western Perspective of the Online Feminist Movement

Huanyu Huang

University of Westminster, United Kingdom

Since 2017, the #MeToo movement has sparked online debates against sexual harassment and assault on Twitter and has since gone viral, spreading from online platforms to the offline world. Originating in the United States, this movement has influenced more than 85 countries, many of which have initiated similar campaigns. However, the #MeToo movement in Asian countries, especially in China, has not received enough attention, despite remarkable progress being made since its inception in 2018. This article provides a timeline of the #MeToo movement, which began in the United States and has gradually spread worldwide since 2017. It further introduces and analyzes the #MeToo movement in China, aiming to present the uniqueness and limitations that distinguish it from the rest of the world, particularly the West. The article highlights the value of an invisible but non-Western perspective on the online feminist movement, examining how an online feminist movement can develop in a censorship and speech-controlled environment where offline movements are suppressed and the Internet is state-owned.

Biography

Huanyu Huang is a doctoral researcher at the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) of the University of Westminster. Her PhD research focuses on social media and online feminist campaigns in China. Her research interests include social media, feminism, storytelling, and Eurocentric and non-western narratives. Huanyu is also a member of the Pedagogy for Social Justice project at the University of Westminster.

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Activism to Workplace: Gauging the Impact of MeToo in STEM Fields

Andrea Lee Press

University of Virginia, United States

Feminist activism is nothing new, and yet the #MeToo Movement has had an unusually expansive impact across the world in putting sexual harassment on both the social change and women's personal agendas. Launched in 2006 by Black feminist activist Tarana Burke, the movement picked up steam several years later when a series of Hollywood actresses and other prominent (mostly) women used the social media hashtag to draw attention to their sexual harassment and assaults in professional contexts by prominent men. It became a media event as well when reporters eagerly covered case after case that emerged with women's (and a few men's) disclosures (Durham, 2021). Their activism resulted in some prison sentences (as in the case of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein) and multiple firings (as in the case of Fox News's Roger Ailes, PBS journalist Tavis Smiley, NBC program host Matt Lauer and dozens of others). Those were the high-profile and visible outcomes of women standing up to men's power and authority that included sexual exploitation.

Much less public (i.e., covered by the news media) has been whether, how and to what extent the #MeToo movement has influenced women in less visible non-celebrity occupations to confront their abusers in the workplace and seek redress of harms. This paper reports ongoing qualitative research with women and non-conforming sexual minorities in STEM fields with regard to the #MeToo movement. Findings presented in the paper are based on interviews with 12 individuals from whom we sought to learn:

1. What led informants to choose a STEM field of study and occupation;
2. How did they become aware of feminism;
3. Have they encountered discrimination and/or harassment in their university programs or on the job;
 - a. If yes, how did they respond?
 - b. What was the outcome?
4. Have they been influenced by the #MeToo movement in terms of awareness and the action they took in relation to discrimination and/or harassment.

Researchers' backgrounds and motivation

The research is being carried out by two senior critical feminist scholars in the United States who have experience in sexual assault activism as well as conducting ethnographic research. Both take an intersectional approach in their scholarship. Our personal acquaintance with numerous women working in male-dominated fields associated with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) suggested an area for investigation as we pondered the social media-driven #MeToo movement's impact on women who work out of the celebrity spotlight.

Sexual harassment and the #MeToo Movement

This is a study of gender equality and inequality in STEM fields, focused primarily on women's experiences with harassment and discrimination in professional settings. We include transgender women, transgender men and non-binary-identified individuals in the research to assure a wide range of gender-related experiences associated particularly with inequality. The research, inspired by the #MeToo movement, focuses on the experiences of women and sexual minorities who recently began their careers as well as those with greater professional longevity. We are seeking to assess whether women and sexual minorities feel they have faced discrimination based on their gender identity that

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may include harassment, marginalization, pay and other inequality, or conversely, fair or special treatment leading to advancement in these careers. In addition, we are also interested in those who have not personally experienced these problems for but who have observed them demonstrated toward others in their STEM workplaces. For those who did experience harassment or other discrimination, we are also concerned with how they responded and otherwise managed their experiences. The analysis includes comparison by demographics, including race, sexual identity, age, and the particular STEM field in which they have worked. Finally, we are interested in whether workers have noticed changes in consciousness around these issues and/or changes related to them in their workplaces following the #MeToo movement.

The #MeToo movement was a powerful episode in feminist history initiated and conducted by women using social media to mobilize around sexual harassment in work-related contexts. Inspired by that movement, our study seeks to learn more specifically about the ways that gender-based harassment and related discrimination has been experienced by women and sexual minorities of diverse heritage in a particular occupational area – STEM, i.e., fields associated with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. While there is a large literature on women in STEM, the present may be the first attempt to assess the overall impact of the #MeToo movement on the climate for women and sexual minorities who have prepared for careers in and/or are working in STEM fields.

Gender representation in STEM

Women are severely under-represented in the science and technology professions. While there is some variation by specific STEM field, data show those fields to be strongly dominated by White men. Current figures show White men to occupy two-thirds to three-fourths of the jobs in STEM fields, both in university programs and in the professions (Fry, Kennedy & Funk, 2021; US Census Bureau, 2021). White women hold approximately 23% of jobs across STEM fields. Black and Hispanic women each hold only 2% of the jobs in science and Asian women hold 7% (National Science Foundation, 2015). Women also experience pay inequality in STEM fields, overall making only 75% of what men earn (Fry, Kennedy & Funk, 2021).

Literature review

[TO COME]

Methodology

We are taking an ethnographic approach using in-depth interviews of approximately two hours to gather data. The research began during the COVID pandemic; therefore, all interviews to date have been conducted using Zoom. Informants have been recruited one of two ways, 1) Using a snowball sampling process in which informants referred us to other potential informants, and 2) posting solicitations for interviews on email and other electronic notification boards where women and sexual minorities in STEM were likely to be reached. We sought those who were already working in (or had worked in) a STEM field. Our sample included several informants who were completing graduate degrees at the time of the interview, but they had had professional experience in a STEM field before entering graduate programs. We excluded college professors, who undoubtedly have much valuable experience to share but who constitute a particular cohort worthy of future research.

The study was approved by the University of Virginia Institutional Review Board (Protocol #3671: Women in STEM Careers). One graduate student assisted in conducting a literature review, and a second graduate student participated in several early interviews.

Interviews followed an approved set of 20 questions tailored to elicit information related to our project's research questions. These appear as an appendix to this paper. We examined transcripts of interviews and used a standard Excel spreadsheet to help us identify dominant themes that aligned with the research questions. A dominant theme was one that recurred several times in the same interview, as well as across interviews.

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Tentative findings

Profile of informants.

To date, we have interviewed 12 informants: 9 woman-identified individuals, 2 transgender individuals, and 1 non-binary-identified individual. They ranged in age from mid 20s to late 60s, with most in their 30s. All were White, which also reflects the dominant STEM demographics for both men and women. Our research team plans to expand outreach to informants of greater racial and cultural diversity as we extend the project. All were living either on the West Coast or East Coast at the time of interviews. Informants had studied and worked in a range of STEM fields, including engineering, marine science, and biological sciences. At the time of the interview, all but two were still employed in a STEM occupation.

Motivation to pursue STEM:

All informants had an interest in science, technology, or other STEM-related subjects from childhood. One informant described “doing math in my head for fun to pass the time” in her teens. Another had a female science teacher in high school who inspired her to pursue a scientific field. All had college-educated parents who had encouraged and supported them in their STEM pursuits. About a third of our informants said they had experienced either lack of enthusiasm or messages that “you’re really not cut out for that [STEM] field” from high school counselors. They persisted even so.

Major themes related to #MeToo.

1). Little identity with the #MeToo Movement. The most startling finding has been the little extent to which informants in the study identified with or even remembered the #MeToo movement in much detail. Even those who had familiarity with the events covered in the news (i.e., Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, etc.) didn’t find that the victims’ experiences resonated with their own. Even those who had experienced the most severe harassment did not have much to say about its similarities to what women in the #MeToo movement have articulated. One informant who began work in 2017 after graduating from a leading tech University did say that the #MeToo movement, which occurred during her first year of work, did sensitize people at her almost-entirely male company (she is a lead engineer at a software company) to instances of sexual harassment. At her company, interestingly, about 15 workers (mostly women except for 2 men) had organized to write a letter about a fellow employee who had repeatedly engaged in harassing behavior. She directly connected this to what had been the recent #MeToo movement, which had had a presence at her university, as one of the professors had been fired for being too blatant in his harassing behavior as the movement broke.

Even though many did not relate their personal experiences to #MeToo per se, most recognized they had been marginalized, blatantly or subtly discriminated against, or sexually harassed. The majority of our informants had experienced one or more of these during their graduate programs, but most also in their professional contexts. In light of this, we thought it was interesting that the #MeToo media-generated movement didn’t speak to them.

2). Marginalized in university STEM programs. Most professors in STEM fields are male, and we heard varied accounts of how they responded to our informants. We learned that professors had discouraged a number of our informants, either in undergraduate or graduate programs, something that had serious consequences for their professional trajectories. For example, one woman described having her graduate school application “sabotaged” by an undergraduate advisor who wrote a negative letter of reference to accompany her graduate school applications because he thought she didn’t show promise as a scientist. She switched into a non-STEM field for graduate study (and later career) as a result. She later learned the same professor had similarly treated other women students, all of whom had left STEM fields as a result. Another woman noted that her advisor at a leading tech University had discouraged her from starting a women in computer science group, and that her advisor, the only woman in the computer science department, had paid her scant attention. A third informant reported being traumatized when her dissertation advisor expressed amorous feelings for her and began to heavily criticize her final research when she didn’t reciprocate. It set her back a whole year finding another advisor and getting back to her research. Some informants described negative messages and treatment by fellow (male) students, one was told by a “nerdy” classmate that “girls are always at the bottom, and well, I’m really good at this stuff so I’m always at the top.”

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To be sure, there were exceptions to this pattern. For example, the informant with an inspiring female biology high school teacher also found a few supportive female and male college professors in math and biology.

3). Difficulty with job advancement. We spoke to one woman who felt that her performance review had been sabotaged by the fact that she had complained about sexual harassment treatment by one of the senior men in her field. She was unsuccessful in getting him barred from her evaluation committee. We spoke to another woman who felt somewhat ground-down from the majority-male environment of her software company. One woman told us how she had been passed over to give talks outside the company, a route to advancement in the company, in favor of two men who had less experience than she did. Even when she brought this to her manager's attention, he didn't seem to see this as discriminatory behavior. She also discussed how she felt ground-down by the majority-male atmosphere at every level in her company and indicated that she would not necessarily recommend a STEM path for women today, given the difficulties of operating in all-male environments, facing gender-based discrimination in advancement and assignments, and given the overall low morale one faced having to function under these conditions.

4). Mixed feelings about satisfaction in the STEM field(s) they chose. In spite of struggles in a male-dominated STEM occupation, most of our informants expressed considerable job satisfaction. Those who found satisfaction explained that they enjoyed the particular work they were doing, had found good rapport with colleagues, and/or had been able to progress in responsibility and status at their workplaces. Some of those in research capacities had found their male and female (in one case) supervisors to be positive and supportive. A transgender informant reported that their managers and colleagues had shown strong support and even assembled a small on-site support group during their transition period.

Several, however, saw their workplaces or university programs to be much less conducive to satisfaction. A recurring theme was receiving "outsider messages," i.e., insinuations that women didn't belong in "that" particular field. One informant, who didn't adopt the jeans and tee-shirt "uniform" at her "nerdy" workplace described her interactions with colleagues as "strictly professional" and distant. Another informant with a longer professional history and a series of jobs in her STEM field recounted ongoing conflicts with male political leaders she needed to interact with. Several informants, still completing graduate studies, described negative comments about women or outright challenges to their performance and occupational goals by male classmates and teaching assistants. One informant said she was moved to a totally different unit because "they said I wasn't a good fit" for the job she'd been hired for.

5.) Consciousness formation about feminism and #MeToo varied. All informants had heard of the #MeToo movement, but (as noted earlier), most indicated they didn't identify with it. The exceptions were two informants with longer histories in the field, both of whom had been involved with some aspect of second wave feminism and are presently organizing ways for women in their respective fields to receive greater visibility and advancement.

In sum, informants were all cognizant of the fact that gender-based discrimination thrives in technological educational environments, and in jobs in STEM fields. This is partly driven by the fact that the vast majority of workers are male, discrimination in how women are evaluated given this fact, and the ubiquity of harassers present at every level amongst those who evaluate, work alongside, and promote women. These conditions have been only slightly ameliorated by the #MeToo media moment, which did inspire some actions and some changes in the workplaces of our 12 informants, including in HR protocols. But even these measures have failed to change the overall atmosphere of discrimination and harassment.

[NOTE: Our completed paper will be based on additional interviews, include a full review of literature, provide some quantitative data, and expand all parts of this paper-in-progress.]

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Biography

Andrea Press is currently William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Media Studies and Sociology and Chair of the Media Studies Department at the University of Virginia. She was founding Chair of the Department of Media Studies and Executive Director of the Virginia Film Festival and has held faculty positions at the University of Michigan, the London School of Economics, Hebrew University, London's Stanhope Center for Communications Policy Research, and the University of Illinois, where she produced the Roger Ebert Festival of Overlooked Films, was awarded the Beckman award for research, and was appointed to the Center for Advanced Study. Awards include an NIMH Postdoctoral Fellowship, two National Science Foundation awards, and a Danforth Foundation Fellowship. Press has authored or co-authored *Women Watching Television*, *Speaking of Abortion*, *The New Media Environment*, *Media and Class*, *Feminist Reception Studies in a Post-Audience Age*, *The New Feminist Television Studies*, the *Handbook of Contemporary Feminism*, *Media-Ready Feminism and Everyday Sexism* and the forthcoming *Cinema and Feminism*. Press edits the *Communication Review*. She holds the status of Fellow in the International Communication Association and is Chair of its Feminist Scholarship Division.

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Gender and Sexuality as permanent threat.

Gloria Careaga

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico

Despite the fact that gender and sexuality have had a wide discussion in different areas. They seem to be permanently in a movement similar to that of the waves, where they look at stews of important advances, to later face the strongest discredits. At this time, after the clear progress achieved in international agreements (Cairo and Beijing) that led the governments of the vast majority of countries to promote gender policies to promote development with the advancement of women. And rights related to sexuality were recognized, especially for young people, and actions were promoted against violence, discrimination and the repression of different sexual expressions, we see a wave of apparently meaningless arguments coming that distort the proposals to continue advancing.

Social organizations and academia have taken note of the discourses and political strategies that are being developed in an effort to prevent gender and sexuality from being recognized as two dimensions that are part of everyone's life and that have multiple manifestations and expressions. The confrontations between these two positions have been waged both in social networks, in academia, and in the spaces for political decisions in the national and intergovernmental arena. It is interesting to observe how the arguments against progress, coming from different fronts, have strong coincidences, which requires us to broaden the analysis to understand the forces at play.

Biography

Gloria Careaga is a Social Psychologist (Md), professor-researcher at the Faculty of Psychology in UNAM. She is a co-founder of the UNAM Gender Studies Program, and of two advocacy LGBT NGO in México, in 2018 became de Director of the HIV and Sexualities Program in the National Commission of Human Rights in México. She has been an active member of international academic networks as well as in management and advocacy work in intergovernmental spaces. Her interest has focused on feminism, masculinities, sexuality and human rights. She has an extensive international experience and multiple publications on the topics of her interest.

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The Influence of Gender Bias: Is Pain Management in the Field Affected by Health Care Provider's Gender?

Adi Karas

Israel Defense Forces, Israel

INTRODUCTION: Appropriate pain management indicates the quality of casualty care in trauma. Gender bias in pain management focused so far on the patient. Studies regarding provider gender are scarce and have conflicting results, especially in the military and prehospital settings.

STUDY OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of healthcare providers' gender on pain management approaches among prehospital trauma casualties treated by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) medical teams.

METHODS: This retrospective cohort study included all trauma casualties treated by IDF senior providers between 2015-2020. Casualties with a pain score of zero, age under 18 years, or treated with endotracheal intubation were excluded. Groups were divided according to the senior provider's gender; only females, males, and both female and male. A multivariate analysis was performed to assess the odds ratio of receiving an analgesic, depending on the presence of a female senior provider, adjusting for potential confounders. A subgroup analysis was performed for 'delta-pain,' defined as the difference in pain score during treatment.

RESULTS: A total of 976 casualties were included, of whom 835 (85.6%) were male. Mean pain scores (SD) for the female only, male only and both genders providers were 6.4 (2.9), 6.4 (3.0) and 6.9 (2.8), respectively ($P=0.257$). There was no significant difference between females, males, or both female and male groups in analgesic treatment, overall and per specific agent. This remained true also in the multivariate model. Delta pain between groups was also not significant. Less than two thirds of casualties in this study were treated for pain among all study groups.

CONCLUSION: This study found no association between IDF medical corps providers' gender and pain management in prehospital trauma patients. We advise further studies regarding disparities in acute pain treatment.

Biography

Dr. Adi Karas is a military physician currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces. In 2019, Adi completed her MD studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is now pursuing an MPH degree at Tel Aviv University. Adi's primary interests lie in the field of anesthesiology and critical care, prehospital trauma care, public health, and promoting gender equality in medicine. Adi is dedicated to providing top-quality medical care to military personnel and is passionate about making a positive impact in the medical field.

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Engaging young people through SamaBhav - a unique Travelling International Film Festival on Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Harish Sadani

Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), India

SamaBhav (meaning Equanimity) is a unique, first of its kind and non-ticketed, travelling film-festival, organized by Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA) showcasing outstanding films & stirring conversations among youth around gender equity, diversity and inclusion. The film festival, annually, travels to select cities and rural districts across India engaging and sensitizing a significant number of young people on contemporary gender issues. The Film Festival is held over two days and at all the Festival venues, screenings of curated national and international films, themed on gender sensitivity, are followed by engaging conversations by filmmakers, protagonists, gender rights activists and experts from civil society organizations. The selected outstanding films - short, documentary and feature films - cover a wide gamut of gender and human rights matters, including various forms of gender-based discrimination / violence against women and other gender minorities, challenging patriarchy, misogyny, sexism, homophobia and transphobia and redefining masculinity. The interactive post-screening discussions enable the young audiences to reflect on their biases, societal prejudices and regressive attitudes around gender, advocating for a pluralistic, inclusive society. The Festival has been providing safe spaces for all – cis, heterosexual young men and women as well as non-binary youth to comfortably converse and deliberate on issues related to gender and sexuality that are normally considered taboo topics in the Indian society and are neither discussed in the institutional classrooms. Collaborations and teamwork with representatives of Local Student Bodies, Universities and Colleges and Civil Society Bodies are encouraged at SamaBhav. Over the past 5 years, MAVA has organized 4 editions of SamaBhav Film Festival and the 5th edition is currently on-going. The Festival has, till date, travelled to 38 cities and 14 districts across India and a few international cities - Kathmandu, Dhaka and Jakarta, reaching out to and influencing 12000+ youth, educators and activists from colleges, universities and civil society organisations.

Keywords: Travelling International Film Festival; Challenging Patriarchy; Engaging Young people

Biography

Harish Sadani is a leading gender rights activist who has pioneered efforts in India in 1993 as the co-founder and executive director of Men Against Violence and Abuse, where he works with young men and boys to prevent violence on women. Harish, who has done his Masters in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, has been engaging and mentoring thousands of adolescent boys and young men across India to address healthy relationships, toxic masculinity and sexuality-related matters and redefine masculinity, using out-of-the-box methods like interactive workshops, cultural magazine, street-theatre and travelling film festivals. He is a TEDx speaker and has been invited by national and international bodies like UN Women and UNFPA to share insights and build capacities of various stakeholders on addressing issues of gender-based violence against women.

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Broadening the Scope of Feminist Activism in Pakistan: An Analysis of the Aurat March's politicization of Gender

Adeen Rizwan Malik
Georgetown University Qatar, Qatar

There is no denying the abysmal record of oppression faced by women and marginalized communities in Pakistan. Currently, Pakistan ranks second-last (just above Afghanistan) in The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report. Despite being one of the few nations to have had a female Head of State, Pakistan's rate of gender disparity and violence remains alarmingly high, highlighting the presence of institutionalized patriarchy within the country's political and social structures. Since 2018, the Aurat March (Urdu for Women's March), has held annual protests to highlight concerns of women and gender minorities in Pakistan. The March eventually became a country-wide movement as well as a controversial topic of everyday discussions. This paper investigates the political efficacy of the Aurat March. It argues that the March builds upon the work of previous feminist organizations, but has, through social media, broadened the scope of feminist politics for a new generation of Pakistanis. The paper vouches for the March's role in broadening feminist politics on three grounds. First, it explains how the March challenges notions of propriety and modesty, which serves as the foundational justification for many injustices suffered by women in Pakistan. Second, the paper explains how the March has been able to garner country-wide support from people from various socio-economic backgrounds. Third, the paper argues that the March has broadened the scope of feminist politics by challenging internalized and institutionalized patriarchy. As such, the March has questioned many patriarchal notions taught, held by, and perpetuated within Pakistani households and society.

Biography

Adeen Rizwan Malik is currently a senior at Georgetown University Qatar. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service with a major in Culture and Politics, concentrating in Visual and Cultural Histories. She also has a minor in History, as well as an independent certificate in Gender and Politics. In the future, she hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in Anthropology to further work

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Exploring Sexual Confusion in Heartstone and Heartstopper

Kylo-Patrick R. Hart

Texas Christian University, Unites States

Although non-heterosexual sexual orientations are more readily accepted today than in the past, a large number of adolescents nevertheless still find themselves struggling at various moments to identify their own orientation, with many looking to influential media representations to help guide them in this process. Accordingly, this presentation explores the phenomenon of male teens determining their true sexual orientation in two noteworthy twenty-first-century media offerings: the 2016 Icelandic drama film Heart stone, which portrays two best friends coming to terms with their burgeoning sexuality and true feelings for each other over the course of one summer; and the current Netflix series Heartstopper, which focuses on a small group of British teens who are similarly coming of age and coming to terms with their diverse sexual identities, with particular emphasis to date on the burgeoning romantic relationship between an openly gay lad who was forced out of the closet and the star of the school's rugby team, who everyone (himself included) has automatically assumed was straight. Key topics addressed in both the media offerings and this analysis include the challenges associated with identifying and articulating one's true feelings, confusing coming-out dynamics, homophobia and bullying, and coming of age in environments within which privacy and secrecy are virtually nonexistent. The overarching goal is to demonstrate how representations intentionally placing teen queerness at their center rather than at the periphery can provide significant viewing pleasures while simultaneously offering young people important insights into the intricacies of sexual orientation and processes of self-definition.

Biography

Kylo-Patrick R. Hart (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is chair of the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas, USA), where he teaches courses in film and television history, theory, and criticism and queer media studies. He is the author of several books about media, founding co-editor of the academic journal Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture, and a recipient of the AEJMC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Interest Group Leroy F. Aarons Award for Lifetime Contributions to LGBTQ Education and Research.

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Security in insecurity

Kata Kevehazi

Director of JOL-LET (Well-Being) Foundation, Hungary

All areas and arenas of security and participation in its creation are gender-specific. The hierarchy of masculine and feminine values cements power relations, perpetuates gender inequalities and inequalities within and between societies, and exacerbates and reproduces threats, conflicts and wars.

A consistent transformation of the hierarchy of values, which defines the hierarchy between women and men, across all levels, leads to individual, community, national, regional and global security. This is one of the most important lessons of our time.

Biography

Kata Kevehazi is a gender expert and social policy consultant based in Budapest, Hungary. With a Master of Arts from the Budapest University of Economics and coursework from the University of St. Petersburg, Kata has a strong academic background in social science and economics. She has also completed postgraduate management studies at the Program Copernic in Paris and is a graduate of the Common Purpose Global Leadership Program in London, working on the topic of Women's Security in the Doctorate School of Obuda University.

Kata's professional experience is primarily focused on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace and society at large. She is the CEO and Lead Gender Expert of the JOL-LET (Well-Being) Foundation, which provides employment agency services, anti-discrimination counselling, and training and advisory services to individuals, organizations, and the government. She has also worked as a gender expert for ELEGY, a Budapest-based think tank for social policy, where she helped develop a holistic gender-sensitive social policy recommendation for the social sector based on values of integrity and security for all. Kata has also served in various expert groups and committees, including the Demographic Roundtable and the Hungarian Women's Lobby, and is a board member and expert for the European Women's Lobby. As a feminist activist she has contributed to many global and national campaign initiatives, and since 2018 she is the Hungarian Ambassador of the Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) global campaign.

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Stressors in the Work-Family System and Negative Affect: A Comparison between Ethnic Communities and Genders

Liat Kulik

"Bar Ilan University" and "Netanya Academic College", Israel.

The current study examined associations between stressors in the work-family system and negative affect among three ethnic communities in Israeli society. The total sample included 817 participants (65% women) consisting of 269 modern Jews, 147 ultra-Orthodox Jews and 269 Arabs. Participants completed measures of objective load in the family and work, role conflict, and negative affect. Work-family role conflict emerged as a significant mediator between objective load (experienced at work) and negative affect. Similarities and variations were found across ethnic communities and gender. The association between experiencing stressors and negative affect is stronger among members of the modern Jewish community than among traditional ones (ultra-Orthodox and Arabs), suggesting that emotional containment of stress experienced in the family-work system is cultural-dependent. Based on the findings, practitioners are advised to concentrate on creating intervention programs that alleviate the negative impacts of stressors in the work-family system on well-being, taking into account the cultural values of different communities.

Biography

Liat Kulik is a Full Professor at the academic Netanya college and professor emerita at Bar Ilan University School of Social Work. She has a BA degree in Psychology, an MA degree in Behavioral Sciences and Management, and a Ph.D. degree in Sociology. Over the past 30 years, Prof. Kulik has engaged in practical work, research, and teaching in different areas relating to workers in organizations and the influence of work on individuals and their families. She has also published around 150 articles in scientific journals and books on topics such as spousal power relations, gender roles at work and at home, work-family conflict, and intergenerational transmission of gender role attitudes. She is co-editor of a book *Working Families – Parents in the Labor Market in Israel: Social, Legal and Economic Perspectives*, which recently appeared in Hebrew and the author of the book *Blooming in the Fall Retirement in an Age of Change*.

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The Buen Vivir and decolonial feminism: critical views on Bolivian and Ecuadorian experiences

Dennis Lucy Avilés Irahola

Center for Development Research (ZEF) – University of Bonn, Germany

The different theoretical constructions around the Buen Vivir (Good Life) and decolonial feminism had a significant stage for debate at the beginning of the governmental periods of Evo Morales' (Bolivia, 2006 - 2019) and Rafael Correa's (Ecuador, 2007 - 2017) when Constituent Assemblies were installed towards the approvals of the new Bolivian and Ecuadorian Constitutions. The Assemblies framed unprecedented dialogues of women's and feminists' movements with other political and social actors who, like them, wanted to see changes in their deeply colonial histories. This article analyses the way the Buen Vivir was translated to specific discourses depending on whether it was presented as an indigenous, modern or postmodern proposal and how these translations included or not the myriad of feminists' demands ranging from a radical depatriarcalization process to the more conventional acknowledgment of their rights in the legal system. These questions present a fundamental challenge because there is neither one discourse of the Buen Vivir nor of feminism, but rather different meanings are attached to them. Rather than deepening into a genealogical or epistemological study on these theoretical and political proposals, this study explores the contradictions within and between these in the framework of the Constitutional Assemblies. It also shows how this debate is still reflected on the way that current governments (2023) have 'accommodated' the discourse and meanings of the Buen Vivir in their agendas towards gender equality and women's rights. It concludes that, although Buen Vivir and feminist proposals can be complementary, the Buen Vivir discourse must not be a horizon that postpones women's aspirations indefinitely and obscures patriarchal practices but a daily reality supported by explicit public policies and actions.

Biography

Dennis Avilés Irahola is an academic on gender and development studies with long previous experience working as a consultant in development organizations globally, particularly in Latin America. She was born in Bolivia, where she studied agricultural sciences, worked with indigenous communities in rural areas and was part of women's organizations in urban contexts. Currently, she is a Senior Researcher at ZEF, co-coordinator of the ZEF Gender Group and involved in various projects such as the Environmental Peace and Development in Colombia and the research programme for the assessment of social transformation linked to fire events in the Amazon region.

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Unequal Representation of Gender in Indian Media

Shirin Abbas

Invertis University, India

With the advent of technology, from the invention of the rotary press, the role of media in society has intensified. Just as women across Europe and the Western world rallied for equality and voting rights, their representation in media became inevitable. While their representation in the media has always been dominant, the role of women in media, as in their participation as media persons has been disproportionate since the beginning. The numerous debates in the media about inadequate representation of women in public positions, politics, in the administrative services and other spheres, there is little discussion of inadequate representation of women within the media, in dominant roles, in boardrooms and the power echelons of the media. This paper tries to throw light on the concept of "the fourth power," relating it to the contemporary representation and role of women in the media. The data analyzed in this paper is drawn from various studies and focuses attention to the status and role of women in the media, underscoring the need for gender equity and balanced participation across both genders in the media. As media has grown and overtaken society, women's representation and role has definitely grown, but a lot still needs to be done. This is largely because the perception of the media as a hostile, difficult and the challenging work environment female journalists face. The struggle to carve their niche has taken its toll on social mindsets and limited the options for women who may want to but face familial resistance from taking up a job in the media.

Keywords: Gender Representation, Indian Media Representation,, Marginalization, Media and Gender, Women in Media

Biography

Dr Shirin Abbas comes with over 35 years' Industry-Academia-Consultancy experience. She is the first British Chevening scholar from Uttar Pradesh, having studied at the University of Westminster, London UK. She has interned with The Irish Times, Dublin during the Chevening stint. Her 25 years' tenure in Journalism covers almost all English dailies of India and some abroad—As a Development Communication consultant, she has worked on several assignments with leading International and National NGOs including Foreign & Commonwealth Office, (UK), ActionAid, UNICEF, BBC Media Action, UP State AIDS Control Society (UPSACS), HLPPT and many others. Dr. Abbas is an expert in SBCC with her PhD in Mobiles for Social and Behavioural Change Communication. With several National and International awards and research publication to her credit she is an avid researcher, academician and a Development Communication consultant. She is today hailed as an expert in the Communication & Education sector, Media, Women & Gender Studies.

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Gender and Forced Migration: The Politics of Silence and the Voice and Agency of Myanmar Women Refugees in India.

Priyanca Mathur

Jain University, India

Research in forced migration studies has always neglected the voices and narratives of women refugees. While the last century was termed as ‘century of refugees’, the world today has an alarming flux of 89.3 million people around the world who have been forced out from their homes, a crises bound to have deep socio-political-economic impact on everything in this planet (UNHCR, 2023). According to the UN Refugee Convention, 1951, an asylum-seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed by the country in which he/she has applied for the status of being recognised as a refugee. While globally, only five nations account for generating more than two-thirds of all the refugee population (Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia) South Asia alone is home to 2.5 million refugees with countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan ranking amongst the top ten host countries in the world. (UNHCR, 2023). What cannot be denied is that gender deeply impacts the contours of life in displacement, as both men, women and transgender refugee experience are drastically different, and more voice, agency and privileges are given to refugee men at the expense of refugee women. My paper shall throw light on the voices of refugee women from post-coup Myanmar, currently taking shelter on Indian soil in the states of Manipur, Mizoram and Delhi. Any human rights approach addressing the forced migrants, needs integration policies which are more inclusive in nature, which looks particularly at refugee women.

Biography

Dr. Priyanca Mathur is Head and Associate Professor at Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, Jain University, Bengaluru, India. With a Ph.D from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and an M.Sc in Forced Migration from University of Oxford, U.K., Priyanca has been researching and writing at the intersection of gender and migration for years, and guiding doctoral scholars in that area too. Her current research projects look at Myanmar Women Refugees in India and Women in Higher Decision-Making in Politics in Indian States. She is also Gender Adviser and International Trainer with the Forum of Federations, Canada for its project on Federalism and Women, Peace and Security in Myanmar.

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Narratives of Empowered Women

Tanu Tandon

Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) Deemed University, India

Empowerment is a journey which goes through various phases and stages and leads to emancipation. Women empowerment is all about achieving and exercising one's own rights and freedom to make choices and live life on one's own term and its ultimate goal is to attain emancipation, to be able to empower others. This research discusses the case studies of five such women, who overcame their helplessness, fought their circumstances and used their aggression to empower themselves, carved their path, using the tool of education but also helped other women, by empowering them and helping them to make their own path. The life of these women has been an ever going, ever-growing journey, from state of helplessness to emancipation. Their Journey has been to the 'self', which has taken them inside themselves, to know their desires, wishes and to acknowledge themselves as competent woman. The journey has been also about 'self', to know about their strengths, their rights, status and their place in their social world and society at large. It has been a well rewarding journey, where in they have not travelled alone, but with their families, society and have tried to stretch their boundaries, reach beyond themselves and have not only empowered themselves but also those around them, achieving emancipation in return.

Biography

Prof(Dr) Tanu Tandon is a Teacher Educator, Gender, Diversity and Inclusivity expert and a Qualitative Researcher, with twenty years of experience in training teachers, teacher educators and working in area of Teacher Education, Gender and Women Studies, Education for sustainable development. Her areas of expertise include, Curriculum development, innovative pedagogy, Faculty development, Research in teaching and learning, Qualitative research, Grounded Theory Methodology, Feminist Research Methodology and Women Empowerment. She has published one book, more than twenty research papers in International and National Journals and conducted several workshops.

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Archives of Troubled Visual Representations of Genders and Sexualities

Suzana Milevska

Independent Researcher, Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of

This lecture will question the ways in which the historic truth(s) about various national and gender identities were manipulated and constructed in the national historic archives in the Southeastern Europe in the late 19th and 20th century. I want to point out the urgency to deconstruct the ways in which the archives have been constructed at first place and produced fragmented knowledge about asymmetry between gender and sexuality. By the same token the archives became complicit with other patriarchal institutions (academic institutions and historic research institutes, national museums, galleries) in ignoring and overwriting of gender difference.

The central claim in my paper is that contrary to the common believe representations of gender difference and troubled sexualities are not new in the Southeastern Europe and that they bear witness of the long history of struggle against patriarchy. Archives are considered to be the “guardians of the truth”, publicly recognised authorities that are also accorded ‘the power to interpret the archives’ (Jacques Derrida, 1995). The effect of such vicious circle of patriarchy is an amalgam of authority and hermeneutics that secures the legitimation of the documents, a kind of guarantee of the truth and originality of their origin, thus imposing law and competence.

My question is whose truth is represented in the archives, and particularly in the archives of in Southeastern Europe? I want to argue that there is an urgent need for a discourse that would examine the affirmative ways and processes of constructing new subjectivities rather than mere subjection and oppression. I base my arguments on several under-researched case studies from visual culture such as the repositories of imageries in family archives (e.g. tobelije) in order to examine the significance of the representations of troubled genders and sexualities.

Biography

Dr. Suzana Milevska is a theorist of visual cultures. From 2016-2019 she was Principal Investigator for the project Transmitting of Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts (EU Programme Horizon 2020), Polytechnic University Milan. Milevska was Endowed Professor of Central and South Eastern European Art Histories, Academy of Fine Art Vienna (2013-2015). She holds a Ph.D. in Visual Cultures from Goldsmiths College London and was a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar in Library of Congress and. She published the books Gender Difference in the Balkans and On Productive Shame, Reconciliation, and Agency. Milevska won the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory.

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“UNTIL DEATH DO US PART”: The femicide trials in the Brazilian Jury

Gabriela Perissinotto de Almeida

University of São Carlos, Brazil

In Brazil, femicide, the homicide committed against women, as well as other intentional crimes against life, is judged by the Jury Court. Unlike the vast majority of lay participation systems, Brazilian jurors do not deliberate. They must decide for themselves questions prepared by the presiding judge on the case, with only yes or no answers, in secrecy. The Criminal Procedure Code further provides that jurors must decide according to their conscience and the dictates of justice, so they are not restricted to the elements of the process when judging. This margin of discretion contributes to the use of extra legal factors in the trial, such as gender stereotypes. Therefore, the objective of this presentation is to share the criteria used by jurors in their decision-making process in femicide trials. For that, I intend, first, to describe the procedure of the Brazilian Jury Court and some of its peculiarities, to discuss the effects of incommunicability between the jurors and the absence of deliberation, and then to reach the elements that the jurors effectively consider when deciding. The research is part of an ongoing doctoral dissertation and has a qualitative approach, based on fieldwork that included observations from sessions of the Jury Court held in Campinas, a city in Brazil, in addition to interviews with jurors. Some preliminary results make it possible to complexify the hypothesis that jurors decide femicide cases just using gender stereotypes, because other factors, such as social markers and jurors' life experiences exert a strong influence on this process.

Biography

Gabriela Perissinotto de Almeida is a current PhD Candidate in Social Behavior and Cognitive Processes at the Graduate Program in Psychology at the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil. She recently was a Visiting Scholar at Cornell Law School, supported by a Brazilian Merit Scholarship (CAPES/Print). She also has a Master degree in Law and Development in the Democratic State of Law at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. She is a Professor at Franca Law School, in Brazil..

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Fragile Safety: Gender-based Threats to Women's Mental and Physical Health in Japan

Gavan Patrick Gray

Tsuda University, College of Policy Studies, Japan

Although recognized as one of the world's safest countries, Japan also holds one of the lowest gender equality rankings among the G20 states. Too often, this problem is presented purely as one of income inequality or limited access to senior institutional positions. In fact, more direct threats to women's health exist that, due to the marginalized status of those affected, receive far less political or media attention than the aforementioned issues of economic discrimination. This paper examines how Japan's gender norms, legal bias, lack of government support, and discriminatory speech, place countless women in positions of deeply precarious economic, social and psychological vulnerability that represent genuine threats to their well-being and, in many cases, their lives.

Biography

Dr. Gavan Patrick Gray is a Professor at Tsuda University's College of Policy Studies in Tokyo, one of Japan's oldest private women's universities. He holds a Ph.D in Politics and International Relations from Leicester University and is currently engaged in a Japanese government-supported, multi-year research project comparing responses to gender violence in Japan and other countries. His latest writing on the subject appears in 'Gender Violence, the Law, and Society' (Emerald, 2022).

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Navigating Opportunities and Challenges of a Gender-and-Sexuality-Oriented Student Group in Kyushu: A Qualitative Study

Tianqi P. Zhang (Panda)
Nagasaki University, Japan

University student groups provide a supportive and empowering environment for students to socialize and pursue their passions, particularly for those with diverse backgrounds and interests. However, creating a more inclusive group often faces challenges personally and institutionally. This study focuses on a gender-and-sexuality-oriented student group, Partner's Shoes, which was formed to provide a safe space for students to address and discuss gender and sexuality-related issues on a university campus in the Kyushu region.

Using qualitative methods, autoethnography and in-depth interviews, this study explores the experiences of the instructor and participants in Partner's Shoes and highlights the impact of the group on participants, such as its role in enhancing their queer literacy and gender sensitivity. Furthermore, the study examines the opportunities and challenges related to the group's activities, management, networking, as well as interpersonal relationships between instructor and participants.

The findings of this study have implications for promoting queer and ally training on campuses and contribute to scholarship on queer issues in Japan's higher education. Additionally, the study offers insights for universities seeking to create more inclusive campus environments

Biography

Panda currently serves as a Coaching Fellow at the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences at Nagasaki University, having graduated from Kyushu University. Their research interests include gender and sexuality studies, as well as sex education. Presently, they are involved in projects that explore the effectiveness of queer student groups and facilities for gender and sexuality diversity on Japanese campuses and the experiences of queer expatriates living in Japan. They are also a member of the leadership board of Stonewall Japan, an organization dedicated to fostering safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals in Japan.

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Feminism's relationship to sexuality and gender-subjectivity: The critical analyses of the selected novels of Indo-American diaspora female writer - Chitra Divakaruni Banerjee

Jayshree Singh

Bhupal Nobles' University, India

The post-modern feminist wave in the Indian English Writings has been reflected as gendered-initiatives, but without being anti-male, to manifest destiny and to reconstruct existing dissatisfaction on account of personal politics of choosing selves. It also marks a shift from the 'old' and the 'new', It means going beyond to evolve oneself in 'a process of ongoing transformation and change' (Brooks 1), lastly it manifests an interminable search for meaningful existence to supersede boundaries of traditional ascriptions of gender politics (Mambrol 1). Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni as one of the Indian-American Diaspora Writers, who has given the figurative intervention to let its women protagonist be in a certain kind of magic realist tendency. This usage of the narrative technique is either to bear the cost of their decision or to deter themselves from self-denial or from internal ambivalence. exactly formulate the preferred stance and notion of their meaningful existence. Her feminist protagonists redraw their boundaries to break away from stereotypical image and myths. Indeed the plot of her two novels (Sister of My Heart and The Vine of Desire) have a take on "feminism's relationships to sexuality, that is sisterhood which is an attempt to destabilize heteronormative sexuality that is observed as a site of danger and oppression for women, but later it turns into a troubled one, because of their incommensurable differences that liberate body and sexuality, but does not obscure male/female binary, nor it stops the risks of moving them between the polarized worlds" (Martin:1994). The other four novels - The Palace of Illusions, The Mistress of Spices, Queen of Dreams and Oleander Girl are suffused with feminine expectations, the notion of desire, expectation is a pre-supposed coherent idea of gender-subjectivity and difference, which is a question, a problem before anti-normative politics and reason. This paper will analyse a deconstructive framework to rethink upon the gendered consciousness, gender intersects, self-fashioning and self-realization of gendered identities to open space as the radical uncertainty. The postmodern and poststructuralist assertion is that we need to question the claim that structures of knowledge have a centre, origin or 'presence' such as that of man or God, is crucial to feminist refiguring of history in which interpretation and "play" as "disruption of presence" is given significance" (Derrida 278-295).

Biography

Dr Jayshree Singh is Ph. D. in American Literature and Post-doctoral fellow from Osmania University Campus for International Programs, Hyderabad. She is working currently in Bhupal Nobles' University Udaipur as the Head of the Department of English - Faculty of Science, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. She has been deputed as the Convenor of Board of Studies. Her other extension services are as the Adjunct Faculty of Legal English Writing and Research in the Faculty of Law, BNU Udaipur and the Translator in Pratap Shodh Pratishthan (Oriental Archives Research Study Centre) Bhupal Nobles' University Udaipur and English Language Trainer in Placement Cell. She has been since 2009 the Ph. D. Degree (Doctor of Philosophy) Research Supervisor - Bhupal Nobles' University Udaipur & Mohanlal Sukhadia University Udaipur, and have got five scholars awarded thesis from MLSU and two from BNU in the subject English Literature and five are registered under her supervision. She has special interest in holding Conference/Workshops (offline) Webinar/Seminar (Online) and loves to work as Concepts' writer, convenor, coordinator, Technical Operator, Organiser. Her UG and PG Teaching Experience is 21 Years. She has been a prolific writer as a researcher and critic so credited with Publications more than 50 including books and research papers. Her area of research interest is in South Asian Indian Literature, American Literature and British Literature, besides cultural studies and film studies. She is confidently holding students' welfare activities such as Inter-college Debates, Literary - Cultural Events, besides finding pastime academic interest in Curriculum Development, Content writer, Canvas.com brochure, certificates, banner designer etc.

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Women, Peace, and Politics: Lessons to be Learned from the 2022 Northern Ireland Assembly Election

Emma Rainey

Co-Founder, Gorgo Consulting & Board Member, 50:50 NI, Belgium

Women's participation in peace and reconciliation has been of great importance for Northern Ireland, and since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, the presence of women has increased in the civic sphere. Despite this though, electoral politics still remains to be a male-dominated bastion with women facing a multitude of structural and cultural challenges that impede their access to political life. Although women's underrepresentation in electoral politics is not an exclusive phenomenon in Northern Ireland, other studies have shown that in post-conflict societies, women's participation in politics can play a stabilizing role.

By pairing a quantitative gender analysis of the 2022 Northern Ireland assembly election with a thematic analysis from interviews with women operating in politics, this study seeks to understand whether political parties and governing institutions are doing enough to increase women's representation in electoral politics. One key finding indicates that when women make up less than 35% of the candidate list for a constituency, it is likely only one woman will be elected for that constituency. This suggests that political parties with a comprehensive gender equality strategy and good electoral management often returned the most women to the Northern Ireland assembly. Furthermore, this study also highlights the lack of inclusion and representation of the LGBTQI+ community and those from racialised backgrounds within electoral politics.

The findings of this study suggest that a mandatory gender quota for elections would help Northern Ireland's political institutions reach gender parity. Given the recurring political instability within the region, fostering a supportive climate for new voices and perspectives is imperative to ensure peace and security. This study was conducted on a volunteer basis, meaning that the qualitative data collected was limited. Centering the voices of women in politics, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, is an important endeavour and one could form the basis for further research.

Biography

Emma Rainey is a member of the board of directors at 50:50 NI where she is leading their research activities. After co-founding Gorgo Consulting, Emma works as a consultant carrying out research and gender analysis on the intersections of gender justice. She is a member of the Society for Gender Professionals and co-manages the Solidarity Programme and Partnership Committee. Emma is also a member of the gender and non-discrimination advisory panel for the European Citizen Action Service. Emma holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology and Sociology from Queen's University Belfast, a Master's degree in Criminology from KU Leuven, and she is currently studying gender and sexuality studies at Karlstad University.

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Inequalities, Cultural Diversity and Gender Violence. Risk factors and social protection of migrant women against gender violence

Rocío Cárdenas Rodríguez
Pablo de Olavide University, Spain

The southern region of Spain (Andalusia) is one of the Spanish communities with the highest number of foreign population (707,125), behind Catalonia (1,245,038), the Community of Madrid (950,368) and the Valencian Community (743,597), being the the most numerous group from Morocco, so its study is crucial to articulate policies in Andalusia that promote social cohesion. In turn, Morocco is a country of entry to the European Union and many of the migrants bound for Europe consider the Maghreb as their gateway, which is why Morocco has become a central axis within the migration policy of externalization of European borders. On the other hand, women begin to participate in the migratory process by promoting their own migratory project and causing a strong impact both in the context of origin and destination.

In this paper we present the results of the research "International female migration processes in Andalusia. Challenges and contributions for a democratic governance" establishing gender as an analytical category for the analysis of the migratory experiences of women who have arrived in Spain through the northern border of Morocco, and from a feminist methodology.

Among the results that we are analyzing, we will offer those that have to do with the situation of vulnerability that these women have in Spain in the face of gender violence, as well as the analysis of the social protection processes that exist for this social scourge. On the other hand, proposals and strategies will be established that improve governance and the intervention of professionals who work for the social integration of migrant women.

Biography

Rocio Cardenas Rodriguez. She has a PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Seville and is Professor in the Department of Education and Social Psychology at the Pablo de Olavide University (Seville, Spain). Her line of research focuses on Education, Diversity and Gender Equality, participating in numerous research projects at the regional, state, European and international level. It has an intense scientific production disseminated through scientific publications of high prestige and impact, all of them integrated into international indexing systems such as SCIENCE CITATION INDEX, JCR, SCOPUS, ERIH, and in relevant publishers. like Octaedro, Narcea, Dykinson and Trillas.

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The social stigma surrounding Hiv-affected communities: Queer history and activism in Tom Spanbauer's writing

Stef Barozzi

University of Granada, Spain

The main objective of this paper is to analyse the ongoing stigma attached to people living with Hiv using Tom Spanbauer's novel *In the City of Shy Hunters* (2001) as a case study. The novel is set in New York City in the mid-1980s where Hiv/Aids killed tens of thousands of people. As a consequence of the pandemic, Lgbtiq+ communities were devastated all over the world and became marginalised to an even greater extent. Spanbauer's work experiments with a particular writing style called "dangerous writing": that is, how to expose our inner life and secrets, which are often related to social taboos. My intention is to demonstrate that queer theory and activism (e.g., ACT UP) are essential tools to counteract the medical and social stigma associated with Hiv and to connect these "dangerous secrets" to our modern world, where the social stigma is still upheld by the medical and political establishments. Spanbauer's novel is about a queer protagonist who loses most of his friends and lovers due to Hiv/Aids. He goes on to form types of queer communities which Jean-Luc Nancy would call "inoperative"; whilst Maurice Blanchot would term them "communities of lovers". Both of these communities are open to otherness and secret sharing, as well as being spontaneous, antisocial and momentary, through a recognition and acceptance of mortality. It could be argued that most of these types of communities have moved online nowadays, thereby losing the essence of belonging to a real in-person community.

Biography

Stef Barozzi, born in Italy, completed their PhD in 2016 at the University of Granada, Spain, with a thesis on training pre-service English-language teachers to counteract discrimination based on gender identities. They received a Master's degree in English-language literature and linguistics in 2021 at the University of Granada. They have been teaching EFL to pre-school and primary school student teachers for the last six years at the same university. They have published various papers and participated in international congresses mainly about gender and sexual identity issues in education. Their research interests include queer theory, masculinities, gender studies and EFL teaching.

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International women's migration processes and Human Rights. Challenges and contributions for democratic governance from an Interdisciplinary and Intersectional approach

Teresa Terron Caro

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain

Population movements are a complex, bidirectional and multifactorial social fact that is currently not characterized by its novelty, although it is characterized by its dynamism (Terrón-Caro & Campani, 2022). Throughout history, there have been significant changes in migration patterns. Although traditionally there has been an androcentric approach focused on migrant men, in recent decades female migrations have become visible. The most recent studies show the self-identity that characterizes the migratory processes that women develop and the greater difficulties and vulnerabilities they face. We must be aware that women represent approximately half of the migrant population at the international level, and this phenomenon must be addressed from a gender perspective. In this context, part of the results of the ERDF research project (reference UPO-1380907) entitled "International female migration processes in Andalusia. Challenges and contributions for democratic governance" and which has been financed either by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by the Ministry of Economy, Knowledge, Business and University, of the Junta de Andalucía, within the framework of the operational program FEDER Andalusia 2014-2020, as well as the Erasmus + project (2020-1-ES01-KA203-082364) "Voices of Immigrant Women" (VIW) co-financed by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union developed in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Slovenia and Gracia. This intervention will analyze, on the one hand, the violation of Human Rights suffered by many women during the international migratory journey in order to make this reality visible, as well as the inclusion initiatives and resilience strategies of migrant women, knowing how they were implemented, the level of collaboration between the different actors and the impact produced.

Biography

Associate Professor in the Department of Education Theory and History of the Department of Education and Social Psychology of the Pablo de Olavide University, Seville (Spain). PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Seville (2006). Director of the Socio-educational Action Research Group (HUM 929). President of the Spanish Society of Comparative Education (SEEC). Secretary of the Interdisciplinary Centre of Women's, Gender and Feminist Studies (CINEF). Member of the Academic Commission of the Máster Oficial "Gender and Equality" of the UPO. Main line of research: Cultural Diversity, Gender and Migrations from a socio-educational and comparative perspective. She has directed the Erasmus + project "Voices of Immigrant Women" (VIW) (2020-1-ES01-KA203-082364), co-financed by the European Union. She is currently Co-Principal Investigator of the project "International female migration processes in Andalusia. Challenges and contributions for a democratic governance (UPO-1380907)" of the call European Regional Development Fund (FEDER).

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Embodiment of An Identity: Woman's Dancing Body in Istanbul

Melin Levent Yuna

Acibadem University, Turkey

Gender and identity, particularly woman's identity, has been sensitive and debated issue, especially in societies that historically experience the Westernization process, such as Turkey. Body is a site where self and identities are reflected, constructed, and reproduced. Woman's body, in particular, is a site of this kind. It is a bearer and symbol of social identities, value systems, social locations, and social change. Therefore, at this conference, I would like to make a brief reading through the tango - dancing body of women in 21st-century Istanbul. The reason for my interest in this particular topic is that Turkey presents us with a scene with a seemingly contradictory social fact: the proliferation of Argentine tango dance, which appears to publicly present an erotic relationship between a man and a woman, among Muslim practitioners in Turkey, under the neo-conservative regime, with women practitioners outnumbering men.

Therefore, I questioned how a dance practice with this characteristic could expand among Turkish Muslim dancers, particularly among women, under a neo-conservative regime. I find that one important answer to this question, among many, lies in the woman dancers' subjective perspective and the meanings they attach to their dancing bodies, besides the policies of the neo-conservative Justice and Development Party regime.

Therefore in this conference, I would like to present the meanings that woman practitioners attach to their dancing bodies in 21st-century Istanbul, based on my participant observations between 2006-2011 as well as in-depth interviews that I conducted between 2008-2011, mostly in Istanbul but also in İzmir, Ankara, Eskişehir, Antalya, Marmaris, and Bodrum. I show how woman's dancing body becomes a site for self-construction, identity reproduction as well as a site to reflect a particular perception of gender role that defines boundaries with various social groups in Turkey.

Biography

Dr. Melin Levent Yuna earned her undergraduate and graduate in Sociology at Bosphorus University and her PhD in Cultural Anthropology. She worked as a project manager and academic consultant for well-known research companies such as TRIO, TNS, GFK, Ipsos, and Future bright. After working as a researcher in Health Care Research Project in Turkey for World Health Organization she participated in Theodore Zeldin's "Conversation Menu" workshop in London in 2007

She published articles in various reputed journals in Turkey and the United Kingdom, including the Journal of Social History (Toplumsal Tarih), Journal of Society and Science (Toplum ve Bilim), Journal of Anatolian Folk Beliefs, Edinburgh University Dance Research Journal. She published book chapters and books in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Her last book "Tango and the Dancing Body in Istanbul" is published by Routledge – Taylor and Francis Publications. She is currently teaching at Acibadem University.

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**Post-Soviet Feminisms in Hungary Entangled in the Paradox of Emerging “Too Soon” and “Too Late” -
An Autoethnographical Account**

Éva Thun

John Wesley Theological College, Hungary

Post-Soviet studies heavily rely on postcolonial theories claiming that the Post-Soviet experience is similar to the postcolonial condition in which the construction of both the collective and the individual identities made it possible to create a new and critical voice. The new and critical feminist voice emerged, indeed, in Hungary. However, the feminists were unable to uphold continuous activities since there existed no social and cultural context in which they could enter into dialogue with the other actors, i.e. they organized themselves too soon, while the rest of the society was still preoccupied with understanding the nature of the changes. When the political and social agents in power had developed their versions of social ideals, the messages of feminists were accused to be out of line of the goals of social development of the Hungarian nation. The emerging ideologies which identified social and cultural development as a linear process – conveniently skipping the Soviet period – did not welcome the feminist radicals. The existence of the feminist movement in the 1990's in Hungary was an attempt to step out of the past as soon as possible and to create a social space for the future dialoguing internationally and to gain knowledge that was not available for them earlier, therefore, it can be concluded that they were latecomers in the international feminist scene. On the other hand, again, since it was eclecticism that defined them, drawing on the Hungarian past, the contemporary Western practices and on their own lived experiences, this eclectic non-linear existence of a social group in the Hungarian cultural setting was/is not received favourably. In this paper, I intend to give an autobiographical / autoethnographic account of the changing Hungarian feminist scene as an engaged activist and researcher practising self-reflexion and critique of the practices of feminisms in Hungary today.

Biography

Éva Thun is professor of Faculty of Education WJLF, Hungary. She has published works (in Hungarian, English and German) on social and gender issues in public and higher education. Most recently served as a national expert in a comprehensive EU project: “Gender-related challenges in European education systems – EIGE/2016/OPER/08”. She is a long-time advocate of introducing feminist theory and Gender Studies into the academia in Hungary. Her current research focus is the effect of the presence or absence of women educators’ gender awareness on the construction of their professional identities. She has been a recognized feminist activist since the 1990s, participating in advocacy groups and civic media activities for awareness raising on gender and feminism.

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Hashtag feminism and collective knowledge production in Japan: How has #KuToo created collective knowledge and what are the challenges for feminists' knowledge production?

Momoko Kagesawa

University of York (Graduated), United Kingdom

In Japan, hashtag activism on Twitter has been getting popular among feminists in recent years. One of the most widespread rallies was the #KuToo movement, which started with an autobiographic post on Twitter by Yumi Ishikawa, a woman working for a funeral parlour, describing her feet pain caused by high heels and questioning the inequality that women are forced to wear high heels in the workplace. #KuToo, echoing #MeToo and playing the words Kutsu (shoes) and Kutsuu (pain), captured a lot of support from women and eventually negotiated for the law amendment. This research aims to analyse the assemblage of collective knowledge within digital publics via hashtags and its potentialities for feminist activism in the Japanese context and demonstrates how hashtag feminism has created collective knowledge in Japan and the challenges for feminists' collective knowledge production using #KuToo's case, through theoretical analysis of related research and participant observations on Twitter. The analysis illustrates that it successfully conceptualised that forcing women to wear high heels is gender-based discrimination, assisted by Twitter's advantages, which are creating collective stories, visualising the issues, and making networks. At the same time, it also discusses the limitation of the achievement of hashtag feminism, depending on the topics or the ways of negotiation, and feminists' burdens that they often need to encounter and overcome severe backlash and systematic obstacles derived from deep-rooted patriarchy and misogyny in society when organising movements. This study would contribute to research on multiple hashtag feminism in Japan emerging after #KuToo.

Biography

Momoko Kagesawa completed her MA in Women's Studies at the University of York in 2022. She majored in education for her bachelor's degree at Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan, but she gained opportunities to witness the widespread #MeToo rallies in South Korea in 2017-18 during her first exchange study and to take a Gender Studies course at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in her second exchange study, which inspired her to explore Women's Studies in her undergraduate dissertation and master degree. During her master's study, she implemented research projects about how care was gendered in Japan during the covid-19 pandemic, women's underrepresentation in politics in Japan, and the influence on women's awareness of gender-related issues throughout the 2019 Hong Kong democracy protest, as well as the work above. She has been actively engaging in various feminist activism in Japan, and now is preparing to proceed to MPhil/PhD study in Women's/Gender Studies.

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Evolution of Young Female Athletes' Reasons for Participating in Judo and Basketball

Iris Orbach

College of Management and Wingate Institute, Israel

Motivation is a key stone of sport success at all athletes' skill levels. The change in direction and intensity of motivation in sport can lead to negative impact in athletic preparation, up to a point of dropping out from competitive sport, especially among young female athletes. Due to the different requirements and structure of individual vs team sport it may be a cause that influences the sport motivation of young athletes. Therefore, the major aim of this research is to investigate the differences in motivational dynamics among young female athletes participating in judo as a representative of individual sport and in basketball as a representative of team sport. This investigation has been conducted focusing on the motivational pattern involved in joining and continuing participation in the sport activity, as well as the obstacles athletes face during their athletic careers. Participants included 188 girls who practice regularly in a competitive setting as part of a national project for advancing women's sport. They participated in basketball (n = 94) and judo (n = 91) and were divided into three age groups: 8–10 (young, n = 53): 11–13 (middle, n = 84) and 14–17 (adult, n = 48). Participants completed the modified Gould, Feltz, and Weiss (1985) questionnaire for examining young athletes' reasons for participating in sports which was tailored to the research objectives. Factor analysis revealed different interpretable factors for each section of the questionnaire. A two-way ANOVA's with repeated measures (2 b/j x 3 age groups) and post-hoc tests with Bonferroni adjustments were conducted to investigate differences between basketball and judo athletes across age groups in their motivation to start, to continue, and the obstacles they face. Results revealed that the motivation to start and continue sport participation was higher among basketball athletes compared with judo athletes. In addition, the judo athletes faced stronger obstacles compared to basketball athletes. Additional differences were revealed among the age groups in both sport disciplines. Results are discussed while considering the dynamic of motivational dispositions. Special attention is given to the importance of understanding what is the appropriate and specific psychological support based on variables such as sport discipline, motivational pattern, and age of young female athletes.

Biography

Dr. Iris Orbach is a researcher and a sport psychology consultant in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the Ribstein Center for Sport Medicine Sciences and Research, Wingate Institute and Head of MA program in "Sport and Exercise Psychology", The College of Management, Academic Studies, Rishon Lezion.

Dr. Orbach received her Ph.D. in Sport Psychology in 1999 from the University of Florida, Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences, in Gainesville, Florida, USA. She worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Sport, Fitness and Leisure Studies at Salem State University, Salem, Massachusetts, USA. In addition to teaching, Dr. Orbach has published three books, numerous articles and book chapters, and has given presentations at national and international conferences on topics related to sport psychology.

Dr. Orbach's current research interests include stress-performance relationships, children and motivation in sport, and the effectiveness of various mental training practices. Dr. Orbach uses her psychology skills as a consultant for athletes at all skill levels. In her free time, Dr. Orbach enjoys running, bicycling, swimming, weight lifting, and all kind of fitness activities.

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Selfish Bodies? Maternity and birth in Alice Birch's *Dead Ringers* and Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*

Emily Cox-Palmer-White

Independent Researcher, United Kingdom

Birth is a very Frankenstein-like experience. As emotionally messy as it is physically mortifying it is much like the doctor's bloody and visceral experiments which culminate in another "breathless horror": the hideous responsibility of parenthood. When the monster which he "labours" so long to create stands before him "it has the waxy appearance and 'dull yellow eye' of a sickly, undernourished baby" (Hanson, 49).

But there is another form of loss which permeates the birth experience: the loss of the mother – her possible loss of life as well as her loss of self: loss of bodily autonomy, loss of physicality or mentality through bodily damage or lasting trauma (physical or otherwise) as well as the loss of self through the new responsibility of a child. Few modern texts succeed (or even attempt) to capture the complexity of negotiating female bodily autonomy alongside child welfare. Shelly's *Frankenstein* does exactly this, exploring the horror and loss involved in creating new life, as Shelley gazes fearfully on his creation. Unshrinkingly, the novel exposes the messy business of bringing new life into the world and living with yourself afterwards.

Fast-forwarding to 2024, Alice Birch's recent gender-swapped reimagining of Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers* imagines the original's twins as female Gynaecologists with questionable Frankenstein-like ethics who simultaneously care passionately about female welfare. Yet it bears little relationship to the first film (based on the novel *Twins*) and arguably has much more, spiritually, in common with Shelley's novel. Where Shelley perhaps had to explore the contentious topics of female autonomy, birth, and child-rearing through the lens of a male, mad-scientist, Alice Birch's take on *Dead Ringers* is able to explore these themes by bifurcating Dr Frankenstein into two reflections of very female concerns. The cocaine-snorting, morally flexible Beverly twin is full of smug self-assurance and hubris: desperate to make birth tailor-made to suit women in whatever way they might desire. The shy, uncertain Elliot counterpart is desperate for a baby of her own, mourning miscarriage after miscarriage. Together they mirror Dr Frankenstein's melancholic poetic spirit as well as his arrogant meddling with nature, simultaneously raising questions about where female-centred desires for bodily autonomy end and the need for child preservation begins.

Biography

Dr. Emily Cox-Palmer-White is a post-doctoral researcher specialising in gender theory, science fiction and philosophy. Her research is concerned with developing new avenues in feminist philosophy using the work of Giorgio Agamben and Gilles Deleuze. She also writes on the relationship between gender theory, posthumanism and female robots in science fiction and real-world technology. She has been awarded the SFRA Support a New Scholar Grant and is a winner of Foundation's essay competition. Her book *The Biopolitics of Gender in Science Fiction: Feminism and Female Machines* was published recently by Routledge. Her current research is on motherhood studies, birth and pregnancy in relation to modern obstetric technologies and science fictional representations of maternity.

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Migrants of Desire: Transnational Sexualities and the Korean Context

Robert Hamilton

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea

This research seeks a new approach to understanding the complexities of sexuality in South Korea with an analysis of the experiences of ethnically non-Korean sexual minorities from the year 2000 onwards, a period that marks a significant milestone in the country's LGBT rights movement with the first gay parade. Drawing on such theories as Goffman's stigma, D'Emilio's gay urbanization, and Muñoz's disidentifications, this research attempt to build on a transnational approach to Western sexual identities and their relevance in the context of South Korea's rapidly changing social landscape. The study uses a qualitative methodology that involves data acquired from in-depth interviews conducted from 2016-2018, informal discussions from 2019-2021, as well as analyzes of media and popular cultural representations of these groups in the country. Overall, the research seeks to capture a more nuanced understanding of ethnically non-Korean immigrants and expats who navigate the intersections of race, sexuality, and nationality. The study aims to offer new insights into the dynamics of sexuality through a transnational lens in South Korea and its implications for immigrant sexual minorities.

Biography

Robert Hamilton earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan--Ann Arbor in the U.S. and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea. He presently works as a professor of Korean-to-English interpretation and translation at the Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

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Feminist Frameworks for Engaging in the Pursuit of Food Justice

Cecilia Herles

University of Georgia, United States

How can teachers and administrators promote food justice, decolonize practices in teaching, and encourage civic engagement and community-building? In response to this question about the role of teachers and administrators, I turn to an ecological feminist framework inspired by Val Plumwood and focus on the pedagogical and administrative strategies for curriculum that I glean through teaching Women's Studies service-learning courses on food studies. These courses are connected to student led organizations including a community garden and a Campus Kitchen organization addressing food waste and food insecurity. This approach to teaching and learning in Women's Studies faces challenges, however, it has potential to sustain reciprocal learning about the violence of erasure in food politics, decolonize teaching, and promote epistemic and social justice through community building.

Biography

Dr. Cecilia Herles, the Assistant Director of the Institute for Women's Studies, earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy (2006) and graduate certificates in Women's Studies and Environmental Ethics from the University of Georgia. She was a Service-Learning Fellow in 2009-2010, and has developed service-learning courses on The Gendered Politics of Food and Environment, Gender, Race, Class. She has also created a course on North American Asian Feminisms and serves as a member of the NWSA (National Women's Studies Association) NAAF caucus. She is the recipient of the Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award (2019), the Creative Teaching Award (2016), the Sustainable UGA Outstanding Faculty Award (2016), and the Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Academic Advising.

Dr. Herles' recent publications have focused on ecological feminisms and feminist pedagogy, and she has mentored undergraduate and graduate student research on various issues including colorism, food insecurity, and climate change. She is the undergraduate coordinator and advisor to undergraduate students in Women's Studies, and she currently serves as the faculty advisor for WSSO, Campus Kitchen Project at UGA, and Triota Honor Society. She is committed to serving the community including participating in a USDA Higher Education Grant on Food Scholars and serving as a board member of The Cottage Sexual Assault Center & Children's Advocacy Center

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Non-hegemonic feminisms: Latin American contributions

Gabriela Balcarce

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

will be interested in addressing some perspectives of the Movimiento de Mujeres y Diversidades Indígenas por el Buen Vivir (Movement of Indigenous Women and Diversities for Good Living), a recently created collective that brings together 36 indigenous nations in Argentine territory and neighboring countries and establishes an alliance with animal rights activism and distances itself of what to consider a hegemonic feminism linked to the Academy and the Global North.

Biography

Gabriela Balcarce (PhD, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2011) specializes in contemporary philosophy, initially focused on the contributions of Deconstruction to the Posthuman debate. Currently, she is doing research on the subject of Postnaturalism and the notion of “good living”. Assistant Professor in Metaphysics and Animal Philosophy at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (UBA). She is a Researcher at CONICET (National Council for Scientific and Technological Research). She is the author of *Derrida (Galerna, 2016)* and *Posthumanismo espectral (2023)*.

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The Effects of the Male Guardianship Cultural Heritage on Saudi Muslim Women's Mental Health

Wafa Alhajri

St. Ambrose University, Unites States

There is a growing women's rights advocacy movement in Saudi Arabia – much of which explicitly targets the male guardianship system. In this system, Saudi women are restricted by the male-dominated culture and face obstacles that hold them accountable to their male guardians. These beliefs have been codified into law for decades. Women were asked to provide written approval from their male guardians to work, continue higher education, travel, or be hospitalized. A few years ago, recent changes in the law system have become crucially important to women's lives. However, this system is embedded in societal, conventional, and systemic oppression due to extremist religious beliefs and strongly ingrained customs. A recent study showed this oppressive system caused severe mental health issues such as depression, stress, and suicidal thoughts experienced in the past. It also showed common themes closely linked to mental health, such as self-esteem, self-confidence, socially withdrawn and isolation, and physical well-being. Social expectation emerged as a significant common theme that led women to endure the situation, which added considerable pressure to tolerate the status quo. Analyzing the participant narrative showed that crucial chronological circumstances negatively impacted women's mental health due to their subordination to their male guardians. Most women shared incidents in their lifetime and disclosed continuous interference with personal liberty, decision-making, and mobility restrictions. These factors played an essential role in their mental health.

Biography

Wafa Alhajri, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at St. Ambrose University. Her study area is women empowerment, the social work needs of Muslim women, systemic oppression, religious-based bullying, and minority and diverse populations.

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The causes of Sexual and Gender-based Violence among South Sudanese Refugees in refugee settlements vs. urban centers in Uganda

Sonia Michaelsen

University of Montreal, Canada

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a serious social and public health issue that can lead to negative physical and mental health consequences. Both males and females within complex humanitarian crises are at increased risk for SGBV. One such example is the current crisis in Uganda, where over one million people have fled South Sudan due to civil war and sought refuge in Uganda. Uganda has a unique refugee policy that has produced two possible pathways for refugees. Officially, refugees are given free plots of land, humanitarian assistance, and free access to health and social services, if they remain in designated areas known as refugee settlements. However, these settlements often lack infrastructure and economic opportunities. Some refugees therefore choose to leave and move to urban environments, forfeiting their right to humanitarian assistance. This presentation is based on current ongoing research in Uganda. Using a method called Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping, I explore the perceived causes of SGBV towards South Sudanese refugees across 4 sites: 2 refugee settlements (Palabek and Pagirinya) and 2 urban environments (Gulu City and Koboko Town). The perspective of 4 groups of stakeholders are sought; male refugees, female refugees, local cultural/religious leaders, and service providers/organizations. This research is expected to conclude in March 2023. The final results will be presented, through a socio-ecological lens, to identify whether the 2 different environments (settlements vs. urban centers) produce different risk factors for SGBV. The results will generate context-dependent recommendations for addressing SGBV in these 2 environments.

Biography

Sonia Michaelsen is a PhD Candidate in the School of Public Health at the Université de Montréal, and holds an MSc in International Development from the University of Birmingham. Her research interests are how crisis situations and migration status affect and intersect with sexual and gender-based violence. She has also previously worked with several non-governmental organizations on projects related to youth empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, and community development in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan. When she is not working abroad, she works at a women's shelter for intimate partner violence in Montreal, Canada.

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The Representation of the Socialist Abortion Ban as Women's Reproductive Burden in Postsocialist Romanian Cinema

Mirela Violeta David
University of Saskatchewan, Canada

This paper investigates the representation of back-alley abortions in postcommunist Romanian film and unpacks the history of trauma of banning abortion during the socialist period 1966-1989, when Decree 770 was in effect. These coercive pronatalist policies hinged on the role of women's reproduction for socialist construction and offer a cautionary tale of government's control over women's bodies. The acclaimed Romanian film *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (2007) directed by Cristian Mungiu that won a Cannes award, tells the story of a university student, who has to resort to an illegal abortion and shows the fear and despair she goes through to obtain an abortion. This story is not unique, but tragic by its ubiquity among women in communist Romania, a country with the most draconian population control policies. Nonetheless the female characters in Mungiu's film show reproductive agency, resisting the gaze of the government and that of the secret police, who were actively scrutinizing of their reproductive bodies. Back alley abortion became a way of reclaiming Romanian women's bodies from the state and was an attempt of self-empowerment. Mungiu also shows how the underground abortion social networks worked between procurers and providers. In the documentary *Children of the Decree*, director Florin Iepan explores Ceaușescu's pronatalist policies by subversively juxtaposing official propaganda images with a series of interviews with medical professionals, abortionists and women who experienced back alley abortions. The male dominated secret police and the medical establishment all monitored and controlled women's fertility. Women suspected of inducing abortion were often threatened with arrest. Doctors performing illegal abortions were imprisoned if caught. The militia was in charge of the hospitals and gynaecology wards. Doctors forcefully checked for pregnancy in factories (Iepan 2005). Women were disproportionately carrying the reproductive burden, as they had to procure illegal abortions or raise the children. Such reproductive choices were also motivated by the scarce availability of food in the 1980s. Romanian women showed resistance to the state control of their reproduction, by accessing a deadly system of illegal back-alley abortions, often performed by amateurs lacking medical knowledge.

Biography

My research is situated at the intersection of Modern Chinese history, gender history, intellectual and cultural history and medical history. I am interested in different forms of eugenics in praxis, in particular birth control praxis and venereal disease policies in 1930s China. I am also interested how different ideas pertaining to eugenics insert themselves by means of translation into other debates on love, birth control, population and sexuality in 1920s Chinese women's magazines.

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Earth-Quaking the Canon: Establishing the Trans Hero

Tiajuana L. Tillman

Morgan State University, United States

This presentation is interdisciplinary, in that it is a literary study that draws from various sub-disciplines and statistics; the sub-disciplines are sociological and psychological, including statistics concerning the death toll of trans individuals within the United States—especially trans persons of color. Excerpted from the second chapter of my dissertation: *Trans Heroes: An Existential Critique of Identity Politics in Transgender Memoirs*, this presentation will center on establishing the transgender individual as the existential hero. Chapter two entitled “Establishing the Trans Hero: A Critique of Existentialism, Authenticity, & Heroism in Transgender Memoirs” focuses on seven transgender memoirs published from 1993 to 2022. These memoirs offer trans protagonists who experience/ed bullying, sexual abuse, bigotry, and discrimination due to their gender identity and as a part of the LGBTQIAAP+ community. In this presentation, I focus specifically on two of those memoirs: Janet Mock’s *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love, & So Much More* (2014) and Charley Burton’s *The Boy Beneath My Skin: A Black Trans Man Living in the South* (2022), examining protagonist/transgender individuals as existential heroes. I argue that when viewed through an existential lens, in a world of conforming and judgmental individuals, transgender persons are more within their right to live, to express, and to transform their lives as they see fit. I will touch on the following questions: How can literature play a part in defining and shaping how transgender individuals are viewed in the United States? How do we expand the canon to include the voices of oppressed, transgender minorities? This will be a paper presentation.

Biography

Tiajuana LaTanya Tillman is a Ph.D. candidate at Morgan State University. She holds a Master’s degree in English Literature from Howard University, a Master’s in Business Administration from Trinity Washington University, and she’s studied Critical Theories at Georgetown University. She is a Toni Morrison Scholar due to her scholastic capstone project/thesis: “Scholarship Established on Toni Morrison’s Works from 2000 to 2016,” and has become a 2SLGBTQ+ Existentialist due to her current research on trans identity politics and the(e) non-binary. Her specialties include Existentialism and Trans Identity Politics concerning the Black—as well as multi-cultural body, Gender Studies, Literary Theory, and Professional/Technical writing. Her dissertation focuses on establishing the trans protagonist/individual as the existential hero—under the ideology of French Existentialist Jean Paul Sartre—along with the importance of expanding the canon to include the voices of oppressed and stigmatized transgender minorities. Tiajuana is a published author, a TEFL Instructor, a Doctoral Exams Coach, a WGST and LGBTQIA+ Council Advisor, the recipient of numerous honorary awards, and officer of several Greek organizations. She enjoys travelling cross-country and presenting at intriguing English/scholastically conferences.

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The Intersection of Age and Gender: Removing Barriers and Promoting Gender Equality in Adolescent Girls' Decision-Making

Alisha Parikh
Plan International, Unites States

While tremendous progress has been made in achieving nearly universal access to and completion of primary school throughout India, secondary school-age girls continue to lag behind their primary school-age and male counterparts in enrollment, completion, and quality of schooling. Access to meaningful higher education and economic opportunities still remains a challenge for these girls and young women. This research studies the main influences that secondary school-age girls in Mumbai's public schools identify as influencing their decision making, and the role of language in the prospective opportunities they feel they have. Through interviews, the research finds that parental support, socioeconomic status, and cultural values are the most significant factors that influence gender equality, or lack thereof, in decision-making. More importantly, the research highlights the gap between girls' and young women's ambition and reality due to their age and gender. Findings highlight the need for a holistic, inclusive, and innovative approach in developing solutions to promote gender equality in access to meaningful higher education and economic opportunities. As behaviors, practices, and mindsets contributing to gender inequality are often deeply engrained, shifting the needle on gender equality demands a transformative and innovative method. Recommendations for promoting gender equality and dismantling barriers that hold girls and young women back include integrating a gender transformative approach that addresses the root causes of gender inequality, placing girls and young women at the center of solutions that reflect their needs and priorities, and engaging all layers of the socioecological model – from individuals and communities to policies and institutions. The significance of this research lies in amplifying the voices that will enable future studies to push boundaries and spark innovative ways of thinking about gender equality.

Biography

Alisha Parikh is a passionate gender activist, promoting gender equality in and through education. Born and raised in the United States, having lived in Belgium, and strong roots to her Indian heritage, Alisha's identity is a blend of cultures that inform her work to advocate for gender equality around the world. Her background includes conducting research on adolescent girls' decision-making, working with young children and girls in diverse, low income contexts, and contributing to advocacy efforts for gender equality. She holds a M.A. in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University and is currently the Inclusive Quality Education Associate in Plan International USA.

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“Blackgirls Living in the ‘I Can’”

Janine Jones

UNC, Greensboro, Unites States

Some black feminist thought powerfully theorizes black women’s refusal: refusal “to disappear into the general categories of otherness or objecthood, that is, blackness and womanhood, and refuses to comply with formulations of racial and gender-sexual emancipatory projects these categories guide” (Ferreira da Silva (2018) *Hacking the Subject: Black feminism and refusal beyond the limits of critique*. *philoSOPHIA*, 8(1), 19-41p. 20).” Working with Black girls in the United States, I learned that some Blackgirls’ approach to the world might begin in an emphatic “I can.” In this talk, I discuss Blackgirls’ “I can” as exemplifying an enactivist theory of cognition, which understands perceivers as perceiving objects in terms of what “I can” do with them, and in terms of a pragmatic orientation towards the environment, which is physical, social, and cultural. Blackgirls’ enactivist “I can” makes it possible for them to perceive others as those to whom they can respond or with whom they can interact. I propose or suggest that many a Blackgirl-“I can” resides within and is prior to many a Blackwoman-refusal, which emerges when Blackgirls’ “I can” is unjustly shut down.

Biography

Dr. Janine Jones is an Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at UNCG, who teaches Introduction to Philosophy, Philosophy of Race and Gender (which is cross-listed with WGS), Philosophy of the Arts, and Philosophy of Mind. Her philosophical interests lie at the intersection of issues pertaining to imagination, language, socio-ontological reality, and race and gender. Her publications include “Cartesian Conceiving,” *Metaphysica* 5.1 (2004), “If You See Something, Say Something,” *Black Scholar*, winter 43.4 (2013), and more recently, “Moonlight Rift: Examining Rifts between Presentations of Black, Gay, Male humanity, and Representations of Black, Gay, Male non-Humanity in Moonlight,” *The Western Journal of Black Studies*. She is co-editor of *Pursuing Trayvon Martin: Historical Contexts and Contemporary Manifestations of Racial Dynamics* (Lexington 2012). She received her Ph.D. from UCLA in 1994.

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STORIES FROM THE RAINBOW ROAD-2SLGBTQIA+ Identified Youth Experiences of Mental Health Service Delivery in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

Kathy De Jong

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

The purpose of this research project was to understand how publicly funded mental health service provision to 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youth in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) was influenced by cis and heteronormativity. In a review of the associated literature, there was a notable focus on the barriers to mental health services experienced by queer and trans youth in general; however, there was very little information about the actual service delivery experiences of those youths who manage to access mental health supports. This research project “stepped into” these identified gaps to give 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youth in the province of NL the opportunity to share their stories of mental health service delivery concerning cis and heteronormativity.

Ten 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youths were recruited for this project. A triangulated research design was employed as follows: 1) Narrative-based interviews were conducted with study participants regarding their respective service delivery experiences with regard to cis and heteronormativity. 2) Four youths participated in the development and production of a personal digital story which highlighted their mental health service delivery experience as a recipient of services, 3) Four youths took part in a storytelling circle where they shared their personal digital story with other storytelling circle participants.

The outcomes of this study were significant. They provide timely and salient recommendations for the improvement of mental health service delivery for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in the province of NL and have significant application to service delivery systems across the remainder of Canada and to other countries beyond.

Biography

Kathy de Jong (she/they) completed their PhD at Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener, Ontario Canada. Prior to this, she spent 23 years working in Children’s Mental Health in various capacities She is currently employed at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador as an Assistant Professor, teaching in the Bachelors; Masters and Doctoral programs.

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Undergraduate Students' Artistic Expressions of Vaginal Imagery

Danné E. Davis

Montclair State University, United States

Women, womanhood and femininity have long been art subjects and objects. Art historians credit the mythical Roman goddess, Venus of Hohle Fels, as the oldest known artwork in the world. Absent the genre nomenclature, Venus of Hohle Fels' embodiment of "the power, independence, quality, dignity, and identity of women" is considered early feminist art (Beckinsale, 2010).

While anyone can produce female centered expressions, Brand (2006) posits "feminist [art]works are ...informed by a strong familiarity with and empathy for women's lived experiences" (p. 167). The Feminist Art Movement in the United States would introduce a genre of expressive artwork chiefly by women but wholly highlighting the marginalization along with the magnitude of women. Launched during the 1960s, The Feminist Art Movement sought to challenge dominant discourses and patriarchal practices in the visual arts (Meagher, 2011). Coinciding with 1960s era demands in the U.S., feminist art highlighted equality, civil rights, and women's liberation. Those themes are typically evident in artworks of paint, pencil, and soil material. Yet, to disrupt those media associations to traditional male creations, women and feminist artists employed "femmage" (Lauter, 1990) by utilizing materials and techniques historically linked to female domesticity—e.g. textiles hooking, appliqueing—to create expressive pieces. Artistic representations of the vagina in traditional media and femmage are also disruptors.

Hear and see the results of assigning general education undergraduate students with creating feminist art instead of writing a final paper. The assorted vagina and vulva centric artwork suggest students' willingness to challenge expressive norms.

Biography

Danné E. Davis has an earned Ph.D. from Boston College. Her scholarship centers on diversity and inclusion, the arts as pedagogy, and teacher education. These topics inform her many publications, presentations, and workshops. Dr. Davis' current research involves increasing elementary teacher candidates' awareness of and responsiveness to LGBTQ+ diversity. Using music and song to teach about the Black experience is another scholarly focus. Dr. Davis is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions.

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Making Queer Feminist Space for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Nonconforming Peoples

Stephanie Bonvissuto
Hunter College, Unites States

The constitutive impact of social spaces on gender and sexual identity formations is often so ubiquitous as to be unrecognized, underappreciated, and consequently under-researched. This gap of knowledge is especially troubling in the current cultural moment of gender panic in the US and UK as those social spaces ‘friendly’ to transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming (GNC) communities such as public restrooms fall under increasingly negative surveillance and subsequent corrective legislation. While some critics argue that their trans-exclusionary admission policies is a pro-woman politic, I argue instead that it is inclusive gender spaces which foster a queer feminist anti-foundationalist spatiality, and therefore work as liberatory practice that should find a welcoming home in Women’s and Gender Studies. Such a position, I claim, takes up spatial equity as social justice and therefore stakes an oppositional stance to the essentialist dichotomy of the current gender binary. Yet, as I conclude, while queer spatiality creates discursive room for “something else” such environments does not automatically guarantee a progressive politics. Lack of political accountability to privileged gender, racial, and classist standpoints can allow oppressive policies and practices to be reproduced despite progressive spatial intentions.

Biography

Stephanie Bonvissuto received her Ph.D. in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Stony Brook University in New York, USA, where she defended her dissertation Making Room for Queer Spatiality: Discursive Designs of All-Gender Spaces, an interdisciplinary examination of the potential queer impact of gender-inclusive spaces. Her current research centers on gender and sexual identity formations in context of social space and public discourse. Professor Bonvissuto has co-authored peer-reviewed papers, written book chapters, and continues to participate in LGBTQIA activism. She is currently an adjunct assistant professor in The Dept. of Women’s and Gender Studies at Hunter College, New York, USA.

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Queering the Amazonian Archive: Decolonizing Practices in Contemporary Peruvian Art

Meloddye Carpio Rios
DePaul University, United states

Two young guys playfully look at the spectator and smile in a contagious and flirtatious way. Their stylized bodies dressed in colorful bathing suits cheerfully and seductively pose as if they were inviting those who observe them, to join them. Behind them, a metallic blue wall fuses with multiple silhouettes of birds, crossed hearts, sunsets, musical notes, flowers, and palm trees. This intricate symbiosis of aesthetics, colors, and objects entitled *Cuando va cayendo el sol* (2000) is part of the extensive visual work of the Peruvian Iquiteño painter, Christiana Bendayán.

This presentaion explores an analysis of the artistic discourses of contemporary Peruvian artist Christian Bendayán, which reformulate absence and silence through art. In his incorporation of figures that portray gender non-conformity and disruptive gender roles, real and imagined characters, and his detailed representations of the intimate and sensual, I recognize a positioning of what otherwise would be considered precarious and unwelcomed bodies, as forefront elements in his visualizing and sensing of the vibrant and popular culture of the Peruvian Amazon. Through an interdisciplinary Latino, Black, and Native queer feminist reading I articulate how Bendayán's paintings have the possibility of constructing images capable of accounting for the processes of colonization and resistance experienced by other, racialized, gendered, and ignored bodies.

Biography

Meloddye Carpio Rios is a Post-Doctoral Humanities Mellon Fellow in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies at DePaul University with a Ph.D. in Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies and a Concentration in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research focuses on decolonial studies, queer/cuir/marica methodologies, as well as transfeminist approaches to cultural and visual productions in Latin America and U.S. Latinx communities.

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Coming Out in the College Classroom as a Lesbian/Queer Identified Professor: Disrupting Heteronormativity to Help Create an Inclusive Classroom

Janet Dahlem
St Catherine University, United States

This professor has used pedagogical techniques to come out to 264 college classes over the span of 33 years revealing her lesbian and queer identity in a variety of ways at St Catherine University in Minnesota. She will use the intersection of the lived experience of storytelling and research studies (Clarke & Braun, 2009; Smith & Osborn, 2008) illustrating the benefits of college professors coming out in classes to disrupt heteronormativity and to help create inclusive and social justice practice in the classroom. Despite popular beliefs about progressivism in higher education, the classroom is still not an entirely safe place for LGBTQ+ professors to come out. Particularly those with black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) identities. This is an increasingly challenging time for professors to be out” given the harsh conservative wave of anti LGBTQ+ attitudes and discriminatory practices. Despite this anti LGBTQ+ wave, in a ground-breaking 2022 study (Busch, Supriya, Cooper, & Brownell) demonstrated the importance of faculty by “sharing personal information can help instructors build relationships with students, and instructors revealing concealable stigmatized identities may be particularly impactful”. This important study (2002) went on to say “Most students perceived the instructor revealing her LGBTQ+ identity positively impacted them”.

In a heterosexual hegemonic culture, in the absence of communication about sexual orientation, faculty are automatically assumed to be heterosexual. Professors’ courageous willingness to “come out” challenges classroom heteronormativity and helps to create an inclusive social justice classroom for all.

Biography

Janet Dahlem, MA is a scholar activist who was the department chair that led to the development of the innovative Holistic Health graduate program in 2004 at St Catherine University in Minnesota, USA. In 2016, she was awarded the prestigious Sr Anne Joachim Moore lectureship award for her excellence in teaching, service, scholar activism and commitment to social justice. She has been an active leader in the LGBTQ+ communities since the 1970’s. She was engaged in a decade long research project a collaboration between the LGBTQ+ community, Cultural Wellness Center, and Allina Health systems called The Backyard Initiative (2016).

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Provider Theory: A Novel Perspective on Male-Female Relations

Roy F. Baumeister

University of Queensland, United States

Some politically motivated theories about men and women feature invisible, empirically vacuous notions such as oppression, patriarchal conspiracy, and misogynistic hate. This talk presents a more plausible alternative account based on cultural animal theory. Birthing brains large enough for culture proved impractical, so human brains must grow considerably after birth, requiring a long childhood dependency and much protein. Women enabled culture by recruiting men into a provider role, unknown among other apes. Multiple biological changes (examples: face to face sex, increased female orgasms, romantic passion, fatherly love) helped bond men and women together for long periods. Men responded to their greatly increased workload by learning to work together in groups (e.g., in hunting). This brought more resources into the group. Women selectively and successfully bred men for high sex drive, desire to protect and provide for women and children, competitive ambition, and gullibility. Gender inequality arose because of male innovations such as religion, philosophy, technology, science, economic trade, military organization, and political government. While men created more resources and complex social systems, women adapted to extract resources from men for self and children, such as by sex appeal and controlling the conversation. Throughout history, men and women were cooperative partners more than antagonists. Women's extensive contributions to shaping modern society have often gone underappreciated.

Biography

Roy F. Baumeister is a social/personality psychologist and, unusually, a generalist seeking a big-picture understanding of the human mind. Gender is just one piece, but an important one. Baumeister has over 700 scientific publications. They have been cited (mentioned in other scientific publications) over a quarter million times. Over 60 of his publications have each been cited by at least a thousand other scientific works. He is now finishing his 44th book, a scientific theory of free will.

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Auto-ethnography of gendered and classed migration

Galina Scolnic
University of Windsor, Canada

I would like to take this opportunity to speak on gender and migration. Specifically, my talk will envision an auto-ethnography of gendered and classed migration. The questions this talk will tackle are the choice, manifestation, and aftermath of migration for gendered individuals.

This talk aims to challenge and negotiate with settler colonialism, racism, heteropatriarchy, and imperialism in Canada and globally through the intervention of biographical narratives from gendered migrant peoples. Canada, as a settler colony that has a history of displaced and perpetrated genocidal violence experienced by the land's original Indigenous inhabitants, is often taken for granted as a "land of immigrants," but we are yet to see racialized immigrant narratives being fully represented and embraced as "Canadian."

While I am coded as "white" in North America, my Eastern Europeanness is still coded as the 'other,' however, as a gendered migrant from a working-class background I find more commonalities with BIPOC than with those subscribing to racialized solidarity.

Biography

Galina Şcolnic is a sessional instructor in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Windsor in Windsor, ON, Canada. She recently defended her PhD dissertation titled, *Secularism versus Awkwardness in Public Spaces: An Online Ethnography with Muslims in Windsor, ON, Canada*.

Dr. Şcolnic's scholarly interests lie at the intersection of gender, migration, religion, and class. Specifically, given that neoliberal discourses impose western hegemonies upon historically oppressed groups, how do we find commonalities of resistance across these intersections.

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“We experience what they experience”: Reflections from Black birthworkers and nurses on racial concordance as part of reproductive justice for Black women and birthing people

Roberta Suzette Hunte
Portland State University, United States

Drawing on a focus group with US based Black nurses and community health workers who provide home visiting care for Black women and birthing people, this talk will share lessons learned on the impacts of racism-related stress on patients and those who provide them care. We will discuss the benefits of racial concordance in addressing Black maternal health needs. We will also explore the impact of doing this work on the Black home visitor, and ways to support people in this work. We will discuss the importance of reproductive justice and community care as a culturally-informed approach to home visiting. Participants will: deepen their knowledge of some of the history of Black birth workers as critical to the well-being of Black communities; understand the parallel process between staff and clients as they navigate the realities of racism within healthcare and communities; analyze the impacts of racism-related stress on home health workers and patients; discuss how systems can support cultural responsiveness and racially concordant home visitors; link reproductive justice and community care as a culturally informed approach to address Black maternal health needs.

Biography

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