
Workshop “Feminism in Research: MENA and Beyond”

Convenors: Bettina Dennerlein, Meriem El Haitami, Sarah Farag, Dominik Folger, Sina Ritt

NIMAR

**3, Avenue Mohamed El Fassi 10010
Hassan Rabat, Morocco**

20.-21. September 2024

The workshop “Feminism in Research: MENA and Beyond” is organized by scholars from the research project “Gender, Politics and Critique in the MENA: Towards a Critical History of Feminism, 1970s until Today” funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Presenting and discussing ongoing work in conversational settings, the workshop aims at rethinking epistemological, methodological, ethical and practical contours of researching feminisms as feminist scholars working on and in the Arabic-speaking MENA region. Based on the practical experience of two independently operating research networks between Switzerland and the MENA, this workshop builds on current conceptual debates for developing new perspectives on feminisms in the MENA region (Makdisi/Bayoumi/Sidawi 2014; Elsadda 2018). Specifically, it aims at exploring post-2011 formal and informal modes of non-dominant articulations of feminism across activism, art and research.

As widespread representations of feminism in the MENA remain based on a narrative of the colonial origin of women’s rights set in contrast to local discourses and dynamics of (re-)appropriation, the workshop will centre newly emerging articulations of feminism beyond preconceived definitions of feminism and/or political activism (El Said/Meari/Pratt 2015; Sadiqi 2016; Pratt 2020). Post-2011 articulations of feminist activism have deliberately moved beyond established political and ideological frameworks and sought to build alliances beyond social divides in searching for a holistic, intersectional and structural critique against injustices, violence, war, dispossession and destruction. Based on ongoing research on and from the MENA region, the workshop intends to open up new perspectives on such shifting forms of feminist critique and aims at grasping their specificity as variously configured sites of entangled histories of critique across the region.

This workshop furthermore aims at (self-)critically engaging with institutional settings and material conditions for collaborative research and academic knowledge production and at exploring avenues for mutual learning cutting across established boundaries between disciplines and institutions. Based on specific examples from collaborative debate and research, we are looking for perspectives and practices that draw on transformative methodological models and allow for ethically grounded forms of engaged scholarship.



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Workshop “Feminism in Research: MENA and Beyond”

Workshop Program

20. September 2024

9:15

Welcome & Introduction

9:30- 12:30

Paper Panel: **Researching Feminisms in Motion**

Ramina Yachkaschi: “The emancipation journey of Iranian women from Iran to the Diaspora”

Osama Amer: ““A man’s name Mīyy?”: Jamīla al-‘Alāyī Negotiating her Position in the Literary Canon through her Relationship with Mayy Ziadeh”

Meriem El-Haitami: "Feminism’s Sufi Turn? Normative Spiritualism Meets the Recasting of the Feminine in Morocco".

Coffee Break

Sina Ritt: “Rapping Critique: Palestinian Rap as Feminist Space”

Raja Rhouni: “The Demons of War and Militarism and Decolonial Rituals of Conjunction in Fatema Mernissi’s Work”

Chair: **Bettina Dennerlein**

14:30-16:30

Roundtable: **CreSp Young Scholars Network**

Network introduction with Q&A and open reading session “ Travelling Critique / Transnational Feminism”

Osama Amer, Dominik Folger, Rowa Nabil, Sina Ritt, Ramina Yachkaschi, Yahya Cheiby

Chair: **Katrin Meyer**

Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Key Note Lecture

Souad Eddouada “The Politics of Gender in Morocco: an Ethnography of a Village in Sidi Kacem”



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21. September 2024

9:15 - 12:30

Paper Panel: **Shifting Contours of Feminist Research**

Abdelmjid Kettioui: “Mischievous pedagogies, non-hegemonic ethics of care: gender theory re-building from non-western perspectives”

Dominik Folger: “Reimagining Political Representation: Exploring the Interplay of Political Claim-Making and Mobilization in Feminist Movements”

Moulay Driss El Maarouf, Omar Mounni: “Routini Alyawmi: Erotic Display between Female Imagination and Social Precarity”

Coffee Break

Helena Rust: “Working with looted property? Some Reflections on Research Ethics”

Sarah Farag: TBA

Chair: **TBD**

14:30-16:30

Research in Conversation (Roundtable)

Roundtable with inputs

Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Paneldiscussion: (Schol)activism - Beyond Academia

Hafsa Rmich, Soufiane Hennani, Dominik Folger, Meriem El Haitami

For participation please register via sina.ritt@uzh.ch

Venue: NIMAR, 3, Avenue Mohamed El Fassi 10010 Hassan Rabat, Morocco