



**Alliance Institute - Transnational Feminism(s)
The American University of Paris
March 12-14, 2020**

**THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY 55
of PARIS YEARS**

Preliminary Program

* indicates a student presenter

Wednesday March 11

18:00-20:00 Welcome Reception – Quai D’Orsay 801

Thursday March 12

8:30-8:45 Welcome – Quai D’Orsay 801

8:45-10:15 Panel Session – Quai D’Orsay 801

The #MeToo Movement and Social Media

Shahira Fahmy, Omneya Ibrahim, The American University in Cairo; Jade Burr*, John Cabot University; Shuruq Alghamdi*, Effat University*

The allegations of sexual harassment against one of the biggest Hollywood names, Harvey Weinstein, in 2017 have led to a large-scale female awareness movement entitled #MeToo, where women used different social media platforms to voice their experiences with or opinions of harassment or assault. The digital movement started in October 2017, when actress Alyssa Milano used social media to urge assault survivors and those who experienced any sort of sexual harassment or abuse to tweet about their stories. The #MeToo hashtag went viral, becoming one of the largest campaigns on social media. This panel will act as a testimony to the role of digital media in empowering transnational feminism, specifically in the context of the #MeToo movement online. The main contribution of this panel lies in revealing similarities and differences in the #MeToo global debate in the context of social media platforms and modern digital feminist expression tools.

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break – Quai D’Orsay 801

10:45-11:45 Individual Sessions – Quai D’Orsay 801

Moderator: Lissa Lincoln, The American University of Paris

Transforming Transnational Feminism from Theory to Practice: Media as a Viable Tool of Engagement

Jennifer Heaven Mike, American University of Nigeria

The media has been an instrumental means to collectively canvas for social justice with diverse stakeholders. Many social movements, from the #MeToo to the #BlackLivesMatter, have effectively engaged the public space to campaign for social consciousness. In a global world characterized by globalization and neo-liberalism ideals, the media has become a formidable voice for social movements to redirect focus to specific political and social issues. The media has reignited

conversations, actions and interventions on a massive global scale. The #MeToo Movement has shown that sexual harassment is a common concern for women and is more widespread than many realized. The spread of the movement was facilitated by the media, helping victims find resources and succor in the common struggles they share across the world. In this regard, this session will explore thought provoking ways of utilizing the powerful force of the media in transnational feminist movement and issues.

Social Media as a Tool of Resistance in the Transnational Feminism Movement: A Case Study of the #Arewa #MeToo Movement in Nigeria

Christine Vihishima, American University of Nigeria*

The #MeToo movement remains one of the most significant transnational feminism movements of the century that has spread across nations. Tagged, 'The Arewa Me Too' movement in Nigeria, it was sparked up on the streets of Twitter by a single tweet by a 24-year old pharmacist in Northern Nigeria. Sharing her personal experience broke the silence about assault of various forms on Northern Nigerian women and became a trending topic in the social media space. This movement has since given women across Nigeria the courage to speak out about their experiences and demand the justice they deserve, especially because discussing issues relating to sex/sexuality of women is regarded as taboo in the Northern part of the country. This session will shed light on the Arewa Me Too movement in Nigeria and how social media has served as a tool of resistance in support of this movement.

'Beyond the Classroom': Strategies & Experiences of Mobilising Transnational Feminist Activism within the Student Community

Nioshi Shah, FLAME University*

Ruled by a fascist regime that openly propagates anti-Muslim agendas, India recently saw the formalization of the Citizenship Amendment Act. This act discriminates on the basis of religion by excluding Muslims, rendering them stateless. Consequently, India is witnessing several widespread student-led protests. The struggle for gender justice gains new meaning, as many first-time women student protestors are becoming a symbol of this feminist activism. Additionally, a phase of digital campaigns has emerged as visuals of the protests are shared extensively on social media platforms. As a student who has participated in these protests, I wish to interview women student protestors from across class, caste, and religious backgrounds to understand the strategies, ideas, tactics, and barriers that existed through their process of mobilization. Moving beyond classroom discussions to negotiating conversations within families, swamping social media platforms, and protesting, I hope to present the mobilizing experiences of women within the student community.

12:00-13:30 Lunch – Combes 101

13:30-14:30 Parallel Individual Sessions I & II

Individual Sessions I – Combes 102

Moderator: Barbara Fultner, Denison University

Hanoi Jane Française and the Vietnam War: Transnational Feminist Activism

Grace An, Associate Professor of French & Cinema Studies, Oberlin College

I explore the political engagements that actresses Jane Fonda and Delphine Seyrig pursued across national languages and cinemas, in particular "The Nature of War" and "Vietnamese Women," two

series of slides that I believe Fonda took when she first entered North Vietnam in 1972. The purpose of that trip was to document the American military bombing and destruction of Vietnamese agriculture and society. In *My Life So Far*, Fonda claimed that the CIA confiscated the slides, but she had given Seyrig a set for which Seyrig recorded voiceover commentary in French. Archival research confirmed that Fonda and Seyrig presented these series to anti-war groups in the US and France respectively. This media treasure trove unleashes new inquiry into the transnational feminism pursued by these two activist actresses in their work on Vietnam, especially in *Vietnamese Women*, which explores similarities among feminist struggles in Vietnam, France, and North America.

The Challenges to Contemporary Chinese Feminism

*Catherine Taylor**, *The American University of Paris*

This session explores the challenges facing women's rights and feminism in contemporary China as a result of its complex socio-political context. This includes discussing current censorship and patriarchal norms upheld by an authoritative government, minority women's rights, and the diverging experiences and identities of mainland and non-mainland Chinese women. These circumstances consider a broad range of social, cultural, political and historical factors, but all are crucial in understanding how patriarchal power emerges differently around the world. Equally important then, are the consequences and failures of transposing theoretical and practical approaches to Chinese feminism without considering such factors in order to truly celebrate a transnational feminist effort.

Born of Mother Earth? Gender and Environmental Ethics on the Philippine Arkipelago

*Min Gacayan**, *Franklin University Switzerland*

From September 20 - 27, 2019, millions all over the world took to the streets to demand action with regards to climate change. Though the impetus of the Global Climate Strikes' "impending environmental catastrophe" remains grim, its international scope and increasingly young demographic provides hope that people are not only cognizant of climate change but are empowered to act. The question, however, remains: How do we approach environmental issues, and how do we decide what actions to take next? This session thus responds to this question, looking more closely at the ecophilosophies of peoples indigenous to the Filipino Arkipelago as a means of providing a guiding theoretical framework for environmental activism. We will critique and expand popular strands of thought – particularly ecofeminism and deep ecology – to reveal the problematic and continuing colonial projects of gender essentialism and conservationism within them. Ultimately, we will center indigenous people in this discussion, and assert that postcolonial studies and gender studies should be a major consideration in environmental studies and praxis.

Individual Sessions II – Combes 104

Moderator: Juhi Sidharth, FLAME University

Transnational Gender Inequity in the Film Industry

Erika Tasini, *John Cabot University*

How can filmmaking function as a site of resistance? In parallel to the creation of feminist content, active resistance is needed to counteract gender inequality in the film market. By comparing national statistics, I will demonstrate the transnational character of this problem: a Tunisian and a Californian female director are faced with similar obstacles that are endemic to the worldwide entertainment industry, making this a specific case study for unfair working conditions vis-à-vis gender. Through a practical transnational approach, feminist organizations, including WOMEN IN FILM INTERNATIONAL and EUROPEAN WOMEN AUDIOVISUAL NETWORK (EWA), advocate for

the implementation of good practices, by devising and launching professional workshops, mentoring and shadowing opportunities, research and survey publication. I will highlight the impact of these practices on an individual, national, and international level, with particular emphasis to film education, by providing clips from the activist documentary HALF THE PICTURE and film feminist syllabi.

‘Dalit Panthers’: A Transnational Feminist Perspective on Pornography

*Damayanti Saha**, FLAME University

A specific genre of online pornography, marked by highly racialised and caste-ist language, and the invoking of figures of dangerous Dalit men to inflict sexual violence upon Brahmin women escapes scrutiny and censorship in aggregator websites owned by Mindgeek, a Canadian company. This demonisation of the Dalit man through sexual violence does not figure into the dominant frameworks used to study pornography in the West, or when dominant Indian frameworks are incorporated in transnational feminism. Through a critical discourse analysis of such videos I argue that the study of any transnational feminist concern is incomplete without taking into account local and specific forms of oppression and their relationship to globalisation.

Transnational feminism from feminist geography perspectives in the Galapagos Islands

*Sofia Zaragocin, Daniela Montalvo**, Universidad San Francisco de Quito

The relevance of transnational feminism for cases such as the Galapagos Islands implies that we can use a transnational feminist framework to study dynamics occurring at multiple scales within one nation-state. This session is based on a professor-student led research project on a multi-scalar analysis of gender-based violence in the Galapagos Islands. We will address the methodological implications from a professor-student led team as well as initial reflections on the results gathered from feminist geography perspectives. Our key findings point to how gender-based violence is spatially determined at a multi-scalar level. We will explore the conceptual implications of these findings to transnational feminisms within one nation-state.

14:30-15:00 Birds of a Feather – Combes 102, 103, 505

Small group discussions of Uma Narayan’s “Sisterhood and ‘Doing Good’: Asymmetries of Western Feminist Location, Access, and Orbits of Concern”

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break – Combes 101

15:30-17:00 Workshop – Quai D’Orsay 801

Crossing Borders for Resistance: An Online Resource

*Clara Román-Odio, Sofía Alpizar Roman**, Alex Alderman, Kenyon College

The workshop will provide attendees with a clear roadmap to create an online resource for the teaching of Transnational Feminisms, built around high-interest, current day women’s issues and the incorporation of freely available authentic materials. As a collaborative digital research project, students gained hands-on experience with transnational feminist theories and methodologies and direct, online exposure to women’s organizations actively engaged in feminist projects around the globe. The presenters will discuss the team approach, process, and best practices for creating the online resource and how the project was executed, from the creation of a research guide, to topic selection by students, to design, to final articulation of materials, and impact on students’ learning

experiences. Attendees will gain first-hand experience with use of the project website, as a means for them to gauge the pedagogical and research value this approach may have for their own classrooms.

Friday, March 13

9:00-10:30 Parallel Panel Sessions I & II

Panel I – Combes 102

Incorporating Transnational Feminism into Feminist Philosophy Courses

Adriel Trott, Alexander Koers, Wabash College; Barbara Fultner, Julia Tallant*, Denison University*

This panel reports on the experience of connecting two philosophy courses at two liberal arts colleges in an effort to integrate transnational feminist perspectives into feminist philosophy courses in ways that question some of the presuppositions of Anglo-American and European feminist philosophy. Panelists include faculty and students. We discuss how faculty constructed syllabi to include transnational feminist concerns, what we learned about facilitating conversation around transnational feminist concerns in ways that resisted exoticizing the “other,” while also resisting making transnational feminisms an occasion for participants to just think about the contingencies of their own experience without putting it into a transnational context, and what students have taken away from these classes and apply in other, perhaps less theoretical, domains and contexts.

Panel II – Combes 104

Feminist Perspectives from Select Muslim Countries: Morocco, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Nezha Hafdy, Denison University; Noran Al-Qahtani*, Effat University; Shehzadi Zamurrad Awan, Forman Christian College*

The session aims to establish the complex layers that underpin different dimensions of feminist debate in Muslim countries of Morocco, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. This academic gathering will be a collective attempt to make a distinction between "Islamic" and "Western" feminism, and at the same time will highlight the debate within these two streams, so that the women challenges in these societies are understood, both from transnational as well as global perspective. The focus of first presentation is to highlight the misrepresentation of Arab/Muslim women by Western media, its effects and strategies to deal with misperceived media portrayal, from the perspective of Saudi Arabia. The second presentation will highlight the prospect and challenges for feminist voices in Morocco, within the country's peculiar cultural context. The third presentation will focus on the origin, achievements and future challenges for the feminist debate in Pakistan. To be emphasized is that these case-studies will be focused within the socio-cultural environment of the respective societies.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break – Combes 101

11:00-12:00 Parallel Individual Sessions I & II

Individual Sessions I – Combes 102

Moderator: Jennifer Mike, American University in Nigeria

Learning in Action: A Transnational Feminist Approach to Experiential Education

Luisa Bieri, Antioch College

At Antioch College, we are working beyond a traditional study abroad model to actively engage our students in global issues by contributing to social movements at home and abroad through our Cooperative Education program. By doing so, we invite interconnectedness across national boundaries forming deep linkages between academia and activism. Cooperative Education embraces community led action and students' full participation in movements towards social, economic and environmental justice. We are working to develop valuable transnational feminist teaching and learning experiences forged through shared principles and reciprocal partnerships. I will share our pedagogical approach and discuss case studies, including examples of how student learning in action has dovetailed with movements to end gender-based violence, migrant justice and anti-carceral efforts, among others.

Building Feminist Solidarities across the Divisions of place, Identity, Class, Work and Belief.

Jean G. Tompihe, Abidat Aderonke Ajibade, International University of Grand Bassam*

Teaching transnational feminism to a group of 23 women from several African countries, we noticed that they naturally viewed each other as different. Remarkably, given their proclaimed egalitarian societies, developed-world women were viewed with superiority and admiration rather than empathy, a building block of solidarity in which these African women would see themselves not as inferior sisters who need to be saved by developed-world women, but rather as global women whose very existence is tied up with each other. Our experimental design seminar helps build transnational feminist solidarities as empowering solutions to socio-cultural norms that have kept structures of gender oppression and inequality intact globally.

Transnational feminism as a transformative experience

Tanya Elder, Madelaine Vanderheyden, Caroline Dougherty*, Adrienne Cuffley*, The American University of Paris; Ambu Sironmani, Auroville Village Action Group; Kathy Walker, Eco-Femme*

Through the testimonies of AUP students and local NGOs in India, this panel will explore how encounters between feminists and students in the field contribute to shifts in perception and a deeper understanding of transnational feminism. From a questioning of preconceived notions, to an exploration of new methodologies, the students on the panel will share their understanding of feminism in Tamil Nadu, South India. In addition, this panel seeks to include the voices of local NGOs by having them share their perception and understanding of these transnational feminist encounters. What are their challenges and how do they create cross-cultural understanding? This panel provides a space for faculty, students and agents in the field to discuss how experiential education and communication can contribute to engaged learning.

Moderator: Sofia Zaragocin, Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Tracing Transnational Feminist Facets: Theorizing Pakistani Feminism

Muhammad Abdullah, Forman Christian College

Gender is one important variable in the study of social realities spread around us. It is an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, multifarious concept that transcends disciplinary boundaries and engages in wholesome episteme. Gender in the context of study of rights takes the form of feminism – a discourse on women rights. Feminism and its facets have been one of the most influential academic and activist interventions of the 20th and 21st century. This study will trace the genesis of the construct feminism and its contemporary modes and modalities. Feminism in Muslim contexts will also be discussed in the backdrop of recent postfeminist realizations of the notion. This student will explore Asian-Islamic-Femaleness in contemporary Pakistani women's fiction. The project is calibrated on two lines: one, feminism through Anglophone writings, second, accounts and lived experiences of those who associate themselves with it.

Middle Eastern Literary Activism as a Tool of Resistance in Transnational Feminisms

Sanna Dhahir, Effat University

In a world ridden with injustices against women of different classes and colors, can literature serve as a tool of resistance? Certainly, for reasons I intend to address in this session. Prominent features of our times (globalization, migration, national uprisings, imported labor, poverty and slavery) have seriously occupied many writers in the Middle East, whose works are premised to exert a timely influence on global perceptions regarding women (and other oppressed individuals). These works offer new literary models and textual practices that help us cultivate what Michael Allan (2016) calls sensibilities deemed integral to critical engagement in the world. They function as keen instruments that subvert prefigured notions about women and minorities, leading towards the deconstruction of norms held together by conventions and socio-political oppressive practices. As such, contemporary Arabic literature continues to bridge serious gaps in transnational knowledge, enrich the world's perception of political theory and practice, boost awareness of socio-cultural customs, and provide a more holistic foundation for global learning.

Where We Stand Today: Women's Rights in Saudi Arabia

Faiza Arshad, Effat University*

This session will first break down the contemporary state of women's rights in Saudi Arabia and the various efforts it took to bring us here. We will move on to discuss what the young female students of Saudi Arabia think of the recent change and progress especially in the light of the implementation of new laws giving women the freedom to drive, the ability to travel abroad after the age of 21 without the permission of a male guardian, and a push to integrate more women in the Saudi workforce as a part of the Vision 2030. After discussing their views, we will move on to discuss what they think the impact of this change in Saudi Society is and how the changes have affected them personally, if it has changed anything at all. Lastly, the conversation will conclude with what they think the future has in store for them: Should the movement for equality continue? If it does, what should be its focal point? Other things related to the growth of equality among Saudis in the Kingdom will also be discussed.

12:00-13:30 Lunch – Combes 101

13:30-15:00 Panel Session & Workshop

Panel Session – Combes 102

Transnational Feminist Pedagogy for Justice in the Liberal Arts

Nurten Kilic-Schubel, Shawn Ruiz, Kenyon College; Matthew Mitchell, Allegheny College; Keun-joo Christine Pae, Denison University,*

With a focus on the intersection of gender, race, sexuality, and religion, the panel engages in transnational feminist pedagogies and transnational solidarity. The panel discusses (1) how we can apply a critical transnational feminist methodology to the intersection of religion, race, gender, and sexuality in the historically particular context, for example, Buddhist nuns' limited agency in early modern Japan, and women's writing and literary networks in premodern Muslim Central Asia; and (2) with a critical awareness of an American liberal arts education in the neoliberal global power structure, how we can create a learning community of students and professors that builds alliance and solidarity with U.S. and Third World women for justice.

Workshop – Combes 104

Decolonizing Conflict Resolution Processes to Promote Equity, Inclusion, and Peace

Léna Crain, Gabriella Nutter, Denison University*

Campus approaches to addressing student's (mis)behavior are historically modeled on criminal processes, with limited opportunities for dialogue and restoration. Like their criminal justice counterparts, such practices employ oppressive mechanisms that disproportionately harm underrepresented communities. Applying transnational feminist ideologies to identify, critique, and dismantle traditional student conduct practices and the inequities they reproduce empowers us to promote healing, equity, and social justice through peace. Alternatives have emerged to address conflict while promoting peace, many of which were realized by including the voices of underserved and indigenous communities. Through reflection and collaboration with a TNF lens, participants will explore conflict resolution practices as means of resistance and engagement within and beyond campus systems. Participants in this session will identify the history of criminal justice practices and their influence on college disciplinary systems, explore adaptable and restorative conflict resolution practices, and develop plans for de- and reconstructing conflict resolution policies and practices.

15:00-15:30 Birds of a Feather Discussions – Combes 102, 103, 104

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break – Combes 101

16:00-17:30 Parallel Workshops I & II

Workshop I – Combes 102

Teaching and Learning Transnational Feminism through Digital Technology and Oral History

María Claudia André, Carolyn Wetzel, Hope College; Cheryl Martens, Keyla Tanguila*, Universidad San Francisco de Quito*

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to uses and applications of digital technology and oral history narratives as means of teaching and implementing transnational feminism in the classroom and faculty-student academic research projects. The workshop aims to encourage critical discussion of institutionalized systems of power, privilege and oppression in different regions of the

world; foster collaborations across cultural, social, racial and geographic borders; and bridge feminist theory with praxis. Participants will learn how to plan, develop, and publish an oral history project and upload it on the Oral History Liberal Arts (OHLA) website. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops and use their own video or sound sources for the oral history component. To prepare for the workshop, we recommend that participants upload recordings ahead of time to Vimeo, YouTube, or SoundCloud.

Workshop II – Combes 104

Cultivating Student Community Engagement and Activism

Kana Takamatsu, Chisato Hayakawa, International Christian University*

Transnational feminism in liberal arts education purports to teach the feminist theories how the global economy and politics impact gender and sexualities of peoples across nations and cultivates student community engagement. In the context of Japan, where gender inequalities are deeply embedded in all the social structures, we need to examine issues from a global feminist perspective and to recognize how the global feminist perspectives intersect with student community engagement in Japan. This workshop aims to interactively discuss and learn about how we can cultivate and support student community engagement and activism. Also, this workshop tries to build our network with other GLAA institutions for collaboration and resource sharing. This workshop addresses community engagement and activism against gender inequality and shares the feminist perspectives of all participants from various locations of the world. This workshop will include 1. A short presentation by students (sharing activities and challenges); 2. Small group discussion (exchange comments and ideas); 3. All-participant discussion. Participants of this workshop will find new ways and ideas to support students by sharing knowledge and resources and building a strong transnational feminist network.

Saturday, March 14

9:00-10:30 Parallel Panels I & II

Panel I – Combes 102

The Global and the Intimate: An examination of Power and Agency in Intimate Relationships in India and the US

Juhi Sidharth, FLAME University; Cecelia Longo, Oberlin College*

Feminists have long recognized that intimate, sexual, familial, and other types of attachments are more than personal or private affairs; social, economic and political worlds are built around personal attachments (Pratt & Rosner, 2012: 8). Our session examines the contours of love, sex and intimacy in two vastly different contexts and times. The paper by Juhi Sidharth focuses on contemporary relationships in urban India by exploring the connection between local meanings of love, sex and intimacy and global youth sexual culture. The paper by Cecelia Longo examines the lives of sexually deviant woman in Seattle, Washington, through language and public media. We also examine the nature of young women's agency as they navigate ideas of honour and respectability through intimate practices.

Rethinking Gender in Rebuilding World Economies

*Lauren Hearit and Grace Parmeter**, Hope College; *Uzma Hanif*, Forman Christian College; *Emilia Zankina*, American University in Bulgaria

Little scholarly attention has been paid to the low number of women in finance and economics (Haines, Deaux, & Lofaro, 2016; Hearit, 2018). In the U.S., for example, women remain underrepresented in top financial positions despite the repeated finding in the academic (e.g., Adams & Ferreira, 2009; Blay-Loy, 2001) and popular press literature (e.g., Bruton, 2013) that woman representation on corporate boards has positive financial outcomes. Building on Iceland's prime minister's call to rethink gender in the rebuilding of world economies, this panel collates research across economics, public policy, and communication to examine the role of women in the economy. Ultimately, these four papers ask in what way(s) transnational feminism(s) informs public policy initiatives designed to increase gender equity in economic systems. How public policy promoting transnational feminism is communicatively constructed and discussed in the public discourse across a variety of economic contexts, including Iceland, Pakistan, and Bulgaria, is also examined.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break – AMEX

11:00-12:00 Parallel Individual Sessions I & II

Individual Sessions I – Combes 102

Moderator: Sanna Dhahir, Effat University

Disability Studies Through a Transnational Feminist Lens

*Alia Hadjar**, The American University of Paris

Transnational feminism is a discipline that seeks to be intersectional, and in order for any feminist discourse to be intersectional, disability must not only be conceptualised as among the identities, oppressions, and justice claims to be considered, but also be understood as having a “continuing, determinative importance in the lives of people across the spectrum of identities” (Garland-Thomson). Feminist work needs to include discourse on disability, and feminism needs to be an inclusive and accessible movement. Through addressing the ablist within feminism, as well as the inherent biases we have when living in a normalised society, we can learn how to implement much needed accommodations as well as obtain a critical understanding of the many different ways that disability is constructed. This presentation seeks to discuss transnational disability through a feminist lens, as well as address how feminism can be more accessible.

Abortion Activism in Chile and Argentina as a Transnational Feminist Practice

*Julia Tallant**, Denison University

Once considered to be a vanguard of abortion policy, Latin America is now home to some of the most restrictive abortion legislation in the world. In 2017, Chile narrowly legalized abortion in cases of rape, fetal abnormality, and danger to the mother's life. Chilean feminists continue to fight for the proper implementation of the law and for the legalization of elective abortion. The movement to legalize elective abortion in Argentina made international news in 2018. Despite the legislature's failure to enact the law, Argentinian feminists built on a movement that continues to grow in strength and numbers and plan to present the same bill again and again until they are successful. Chilean and Argentinian feminists consider abortion rights to be a transnational issue and actively engage with

other activists in and outside of their own countries. As a result of their treatment of abortion rights as a transnational issue, Chilean and Argentinian feminists have achieved unprecedented levels of mass mobilization and built transnational feminist networks that have strengthened the feminist movements in their respective countries. In an age when reproductive rights are being threatened internationally, the successes of Argentinian and Chilean feminists in their treatment of abortion rights as a transnational issue can provide valuable information on how to achieve meaningful change in the realm of reproductive rights.

Veiling and Other Cultural Misconceptions

F. Shaahida Nizar, Effat University*

It is perceived that wearing a headscarf and/or a face veil is a depiction of oppression and wearing revealing clothing indicates being more liberated. Due to this and other factors, women's movements fight for liberation and freedom of expression. However, many activists fail to comprehend the fact that liberation is not just freely displaying our bodies but also being free to practice religion and cultural traditions without being discriminated. This session will address the common misconceptions and stereotypes Muslim women face such as: Islam is a religion that oppresses women, and that Muslim women have no freedom to make their own choices, and that these women are forced to wear a headscarf and/or face veil. This session will also reveal the real reasons why Muslim women dress the way they do and whether or not these misconceptions are true.

Individual Sessions II – Combes 104

Moderator: Kana Takamatsu, International Christian University

The Subaltern: The Intersectionality of Caste, Class, and Gender in Relation to Labor Interests in India

Devi Dang, Neeta Sharma, FLAME University*

In India, significant violence is inflicted upon lower-class lower-caste daily wage female laborers by upper-class upper-caste male landowners. This illustrates the gender, class, and caste-based oppression that these women face as a subaltern group in India. The legal framework seeking to reduce this discrimination does not consider the intersectional nature of the oppression faced by these women, perpetuating the violence. This session will use the concept of the subaltern to provide a diverse discourse around feminism through the lens of intersectionality, with regards to India-specific social categorizations such as caste. By considering a social category that is often overlooked in the understanding of intersectionality despite its dominant presence in India, the conversation can go beyond gender being the only identity of an Indian woman. Thus, the session will emphasize the need for transnational feminists to recognize the intersectionality of class, caste, and gender in India, vis-à-vis labor interests.

"That's What Mothers Do." The Evolution of Transnational Motherhood for Filipina Domestic Workers in France

Adriana Culotta, Denison University*

This study examines transnational motherhood of Filipina migrants in France and the ways in which they establish a sense of mothering from a distance, through methods such as remittances or technological communication. Furthermore, it details ways their life abroad affects their opinions of what it means to be a "good mother." I draw on samples of qualitative testimonies gathered by the researcher Dr. Asuncion Fresnosa-Flot, personal field work via weekly luncheons with a Filipino Association in Paris, and quantitative data from the Filipino Overseas Commission. I argue Filipina

domestic workers in France establish new relationships towards mothering in which they distance themselves from their home country and children in place of forming a deepened connection to social spheres within their host country. In presenting this argument, I propose that new identities for overseas mothers in host countries may influence their methods of transnational parenting.

12:00-13:30 Lunch – AMEX

13:30-14:30 Student Panels – Combes 102, 104

Moderator: Lissa Lincoln, The American University of Paris – Combes 102

Moderator: Barbara Fultner, Denison University – Combes 104

14:30-15:00 Birds of a Feather Discussions – Combes 102, 104

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break – AMEX

15:30-17:00 Panel Session – Combes 102

Transnational Feminisms and Translocal Coalitions from/of the Global South

Ishita Sinha Roy, Allegheny College; Christina Holmes, DePauw University; Annie Dandavati, Hope College; Anuradha Dingwaney Needham, Oberlin College

This panel represents interdisciplinary transnational feminist perspectives from the global south, emphasizing the positionality of agents, processes, and audiences of transnational feminist projects. We examine debates about Bollywood celluloid feminism, feminist coalitions behind a woman-centric political agenda in Chile, the activism of Mexican-American and Chicana feminist artists in cross-border ecological protests, and the politicization of rape in India in (inter)national media discourses. Prompting a conversation about unlearning presumptive models for understanding global feminisms, the panel enjoins a diversity of knowledges and practices that produce many transnational solutions, rather than a singular global one. Each panelist's disciplinary identity is inextricably tied to the global south in the subjects and pedagogies they address, and therefore their teaching and research highlights the importance of cross-border - i.e., transnational perspectives/coalitions.

17:00-17:15 Closing Remarks – Combes 102