

Gender, Citizenship and Resistance in Minoritized Communities

Conference organized by Centre for Gender Research (UiO) and Fafo Research Foundation

Date: 11-12 March 2024

Location: Tøyen Hovedgård, located in the Botanic Garden. Trondheimsveien 23B, Oslo.

Introduction to conference topic

This is the final conference of the 3-year ALCITfem project ([ALCITfem - Kurdishstudies](#)), where we investigated Kurdish women's activism and its implication for their rights and dynamics of citizenship in different social, cultural and political fields. Our team members did research on contemporary Kurdish society and politics with a particular emphasis on gendered citizenship in subaltern context and on various forms of marginalization and repression; on social movements and activism in the Global South; and on the study of a variety of experiences of women in Kurdistan and the diaspora, and the interlinkages between life in Kurdistan and in the diaspora.

We now open the floor for debate with scholars from outside Kurdish Studies who have worked on similar topics and would like to explore comparatively how gender plays a role in activism and citizenship in communities that have been minoritized and sidelined in national, international, and post-colonial contexts. During the two conference days, five invited scholars and ten ALCITfem team members will investigate how their research on citizenship practices in marginalized communities intersect, connect, and inform each other. Each day consists of five presentations with a discussant and Q&A, as well as an afternoon debate in which a moderator connects the day's topics and gives a lead for further discussion.

The following questions will be touched upon during the presentations and debates: How may we approach the understanding of citizenship in postcolonial and (post-)violent realities? How have indigenous, queer, and other minoritized subjects changed the notion and practices of citizenship? How useful are recent theories on citizenship (including lived citizenship; intimate and sexual citizenship; acts of citizenship) to better understand the totality of citizenship practices in today's world? What is the importance of indigenous approaches towards ecological citizenship and how can we better validate and include them? And how can analyses of resistance be better geared towards the realities on the ground of marginalized people who have little space to resist?

Program

Day 1. Monday March 11

- 9.00-9.15 Morning coffee, welcome by Wendelmoet Hamelink, UiO
- 9.15-10.00 Presentation 1
Speaker: Dr. Sophie Richter-Devroe (Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha). Discussant: Dr. Kaziwa Salih Dylan
1. *Palestine Embodied: Naqab Bedouin women's everyday resistance in Israel.*
- 10.00-10.45 Presentation 2
Speaker: Dr. Joanna Bocheńska (Jagiellonian University, Cracow).
Discussant: Dr. Lena Gross
2. *Performing heritage and citizenship in minoritized communities: combined capabilities, moral imagination and empowerment of Kurdish women*
- 10.45-11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15-12.00 Presentation 3
Speaker: Dr. Wigbertson Julian Isenia (University of Amsterdam).
Discussant: Dr. Nerina Weiss
3. *Queer postcolonial sovereignty and sexual citizenship in the Dutch Caribbean*
- 12.00-13.30 Lunch break
- 13.30-14.15 Presentation 4
Speaker: Dr. Wendelmoet Hamelink (University of Oslo).
Discussant: Dr. Silvia Posocco
4. *Affective citizenship and activist placemaking: small-scale activism in Kurdistan*
- 14.15-15.00 Presentation 5
Speaker: Dr. Esto Mader (Freie Universität Berlin).
Discussant: Rodi Huseyin Keskin
5. *Agency in queer spaces in Berlin. A sociological study on practices of precarious subjects*
- 15.00-15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30-16.30 Reflections and discussion led by Dr. Nerina Weiss (Fafo Research Foundation, Oslo)

Day 2. Tuesday March 12

9.00-9.15 Morning coffee

9.15-10.00 Presentation 6
Speaker: Dr. Azad Hajiagha (Jagiellonian University, Cracow)
Discussant: Dr. Sophie Richter-Devroe

6. *The invisibility of Kurdish women's activism in Rojhelat (Eastern Kurdistan, Iran): Roots and consequences*

10.00-10.45 Presentation 7
Speaker: Dr. Silvia Posocco (School of Social Sciences, Birkbeck, University of London). Discussant: Dr. Hayal Hanoglu

7. *Rethinking violence, emerging subjects: Indigenous perspectives in Central America*

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.00 Presentation 8
Speaker: Marcin Skupiński (University of Warsaw and CUE).
Discussant: Dr. Esto Mader

8. *Life as resistance: resilience of Kurdish women activists in Rojava*

12.00-13.30 Lunch break

13.30-14.15 Presentation 9
Speaker: Dr. Lena Gross (Centre for Sami Studies, The Arctic University of Norway and NIKU). Discussant: Dr. Karol Kaczorowski

9. *Sámi feminism, ethnographic refusal, and Indigenous resurgence: Why looking at epistemic privileging, power asymmetries, and failures of implementation of Indigenous knowledges in governance systems and decision-making processes is good feminist practice*

14.15-15.00 Presentation 10
Speaker: Dr. Dobrosława Wiktor-Mach (Cracow University of Economics). Discussant: Dr. Wigbertson Julian Isenia

10. *Territories of resistance and hope: Kurdish environmental and climate justice activism in the context of Indigenous movements*

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 Reflections and discussion led by Dr. Nerina Weiss (Fafo Research Foundation, Oslo)