

ICGP'17 CALL FOR PAPERS



1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER AND POLITICS
(ICGP'17)

WOMEN AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY: THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

October 24-26, 2017

at Kenzy, Farah Azghor, Ouarzazate, Morocco

Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate, IbnZohr University (Morocco)
University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)



Academic context

Along with the emergence of popular movements for democratic change in MENA region countries, the past few years have also brought clear evidence of crisis in longstanding democratic and undemocratic states. Democracy in many parts of the world appears today to be under threat, as more nations roll back the hard fought for democratic freedoms. In parts of the world where democracy was taken for granted and where it was institutionalized, like the US and in Europe, democratic institutions are now being threatened more than in any time over the last 25 years and uncertainty looms especially among youth as to the future of freedom and rights.

In Europe, this is evident in the treatment of refugees, immigrants and minorities, and in the curtailing of press freedom. In the US, the attacks on women, Muslims, Jews, racial and sexual minorities have increased alongside undemocratic discourses as evident during the 2016 presidential elections. Liberal democracy is under greater threat internationally. There is, for example, a lot of uncertainty about whether the US will continue to play a role as an advocate of human rights globally. In Africa, while there have been gains in democratization in countries like Ghana and Tunisia, there have also been retreats in countries like Uganda, South Africa, and Ethiopia. The Middle East is the least free region of the world and instability continues to threaten possibilities for democratization in many of its countries.

Given the new uncertainties in the world and the challenges to democracy and democratization, the meaning and value of democracy, as well as the responsibilities it entails are continuously being questioned. In recent years, as the process of democratization has expanded in some countries and retreated in others, the complex relationship between governance, women's empowerment, and gender equality has come under increasing scrutiny by academics, development practitioners, and grassroots constituencies.

Although it is generally acknowledged that democracy is good for women's rights, questions still remain about how women, who have traditionally been excluded from full involvement in economic and political arena, can gain greater control over the circumstances that influence their lives. Violations of human rights, such as women's political rights, can deepen alienation, isolation and exclusion and lead women to violent radicalization. Building women's political skills can foster a greater sense of ownership of political processes; generate strong and sustainable organizations, and exert a stabilizing influence, as well as empower them to be able to resist violent extremist propaganda and radicalization.

The conference provides an excellent venue for academics, researchers, students and professionals in private and public organizations to address these issues and share their work from their respective disciplines of study, be they gender studies, political science or any other associated disciplines. The aim of this conference is to explore the relationship between women's empowerment and democracy/democratization by asking the following questions:

- What are the prospects for women's political rights given the new uncertainties in the world and the new challenges to democracy and democratization?
- What are the challenges to women's rights in the emerging democracies and how are they different from challenges in older democracies?

Keynote speakers

- Fatima Sadiqi, Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco
- Dahlerup Drude, Stockholm University, Sweden
- Miriam cooke, Duke University, USA
- Aili Mari Tripp, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

Conference topics

Papers may address, but are not restricted to any of the following themes:

- Gender and citizenship;
- The role of women and women's movements in sustaining democracy;

- Gender quotas and women's political representation/participation;
- Women's rights and gender(ed) policies in established democracies;
- Political economy/capitalism, democracy and gender;
- The implications of the retreat of democracy for women in politics and society;
- Gender rights and democratic transition;
- Women's rights and gender policies before and after the Arab Spring protests;
- The role of women in countering terrorism;
- Gender, Politics and masculinity;
- Gender, conflict and militarization;
- Gender and peacemaking/peace building/conflict resolution/mediation;
- The relation between gender, democracy and violence;
- Women's leadership and democracy/democratization;
- The role of international institutions in fostering gender equality in relation to democracy.

We seek a broad range of contributions on (but not limited to) politics, philosophy, psychology, gender studies, history, economics, law, organizational studies, and sociology as well as interdisciplinary proposals. We welcome a variety of presentation formats, such as individual paper presentations, panel sessions and roundtable discussions. We especially welcome an intersectional approach to any of the topics.

Authors of high quality papers will be invited to submit their work for potential publication in a special issue in the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS).

PROPOSALS DUE: April 20, 2017

Email proposals and inquiries about the conference may be directed to Hanane Darhour: icgp.fpo@gmail.com.

For more information on the conference, please visit www.icgp.fpo.ma

Organizing committee

- **Conference Director:** Dr. Hanane Darhour, Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate (Morocco)
- **Conference Co-Director:** Professor Aili Mari Tripp, University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)
- Professor Youness Belahsen, Dean of the Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate (Morocco)
- Dr. Souad Regragui, Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate (Morocco)
- Dr. Otmane Ait Ouarrasse, Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate (Morocco)
- Dr. Salahddine Krit, Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate (Morocco)

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is made up of 22 members from different areas of expertise.

- Aili Mari Tripp, University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)
- Aitemad Muhanna, Middle East Centre(UK)
- Birte Siim, Aalborg University(Denmark)
- Dima Dabbous, Lebanese American University (Lebanon)
- Drude Dahlerup, Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Fatima Sadiqi, Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (Morocco)
- Hanane Darhour, IbnZohr University (Morocco)
- Hoda Awad, Misr International University (Egypt)
- Melanie Hughes, University of Pittsburgh (USA)
- Mieke Verloo, Radboud University (Netherlands)
- Miriam cooke, Duke University (USA)
- Moha Ennaji, Mohamed Ben Abdellah University(Morocco)
- Mohamed Moubtassime, Mohamed Ben Abdellah University(Morocco)
- Nawar Golley, American University of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)
- Otmane Ait Ouarrasse, Ibn ZohrUniversity (Morocco)
- Petra Meier, University of Antwerp (Belgium)
- Rachida Yassine, IbnZohr University (Morocco)
- Rita Stephan, North Carolina State University (USA)
- Shalaby Marwa, Rice University (USA)
- Souad Slaoui, Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (Morocco)
- Valentine M. Moghadam, Northeastern University (USA)
- Zakia Salime, RutgersUniversity (USA).