

10.02.2010
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Nadje Al-Ali is Chair of the Centre for Gender Studies, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her main research interests revolve around gender theory; feminist activism; women and gender in the Middle East. Her most recent book (co-authored with Nicola Pratt) is entitled *What kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq* (2009, University of California Press).

Dr. Fouzieyha Towghi (Zürich)
Representing Women: Producing Gendered Tribalism in Human Rights Discourse

Engaging transnational feminist theories (including co-formations of gender, race, ethnicity, and postcoloniality) the paper addresses how human rights and feminist arguments about universal rights for women end up re-invigorating primordial-biological notions that characterize tribal identity at the cusp of the 20th and 21st centuries. The rhetoric of universalism relies on a distinctively colonial type of relativism constructed on the bodies of native women. The human rights discourse on honour killings construes a tribal and rural based notion of honour as a totalizing condition producing honour killings. As such, all Pakistani women are constructed to be equally victims of „tribal honour killings,“ thus requiring protection of the Pakistani state and the human rights NGOs. The paper argues and explicates how the human rights discourse on „honour killings“ and the demands on states to apply stricter measures against „tribal“ men produce a series of racialized material effects including the indirect endorsement of the Pakistani State to perpetuate its exclusionary practices against particular groups of the nation.



Fouzieyha Towghi is an Anthropologist and currently a Post-doctoral Researcher (MOVE Project) at the University of Zürich. Her postdoctoral research in Pakistan, India, US, and Switzerland focuses on the global circulation of gynecological research and therapeutics. Her work engages biomedicine, global health policies and practices, knowledge production, and epistemology in contexts of South Asia and the transhistorical and transnational traffic of bio-scientific technologies of interventions.

Ort: Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main
Campus Westend, Grüneburgplatz 1
I.G.-Farben-Haus, IG 1.314 (Eisenhower-Raum)
Casino, Cas 1.801
Zeit: jeweils mittwochs, 18 bis 20 Uhr, c.t.

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Homepage:

HochschullehrerInnen:

- Ursula Apitzsch (Soziologie, Politikwissenschaft)
Geschäftsführung
- Hille Haker (Ethik/Katholische Theologie)
Stellvertretende Geschäftsführung
- Ulla Wischermann (Soziologie)
Stellvertretende Geschäftsführung
- Nikita Dhawan *Politikwissenschaft*
- Barbara Friebertshäuser *Erziehungswissenschaft*
- Ute Gerhard *Soziologie*
- Marlis Hellinger *Englische Sprachwissenschaft*
- Susanne Komfort-Hein *Literaturwissenschaft*
- Kira Kosnick *Kulturanthropologie*
- Andreas Kraß *Germanistik*
- Verena Kuni *Kunstpädagogik*
- Thomas Lemke *Soziologie*
- Katharina Liebsch *Soziologie*
- Helma Lutz *Soziologie*
- Susanne Opfermann *Amerikanistik*
- Brita Rang *Historische Erziehungswissenschaft*
- Birgit Richard *Kunstpädagogik*
- Sigrid Roßteutscher *Politikwissenschaft*
- Uta Ruppert *Politikwissenschaft*
- Ute Sacksofsky *Rechtswissenschaft*
- Heide Schlüppmann *Filmwissenschaft*
- Joachim Schroeder *Erziehungswissenschaft*

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Weitere Informationen zur Arbeit des Cornelia Goethe Centrums sind im Geschäftszimmer des Centrums (AfE-Turm, Raum 106, I. OG) erhältlich.

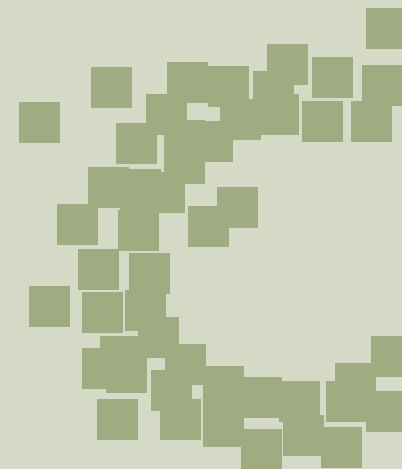
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Cornelia Goethe Colloquien

Gender and ‘the Political’ in a
Postcolonial World: Negotiating
Normativity

Wintersemester 2009/2010



Gender and 'the Political' in a Postcolonial World

The aim of this international lecture series is to reflect upon the meaning of 'the political' in a postcolonial world. Internationally reputed scholars are invited to explore the implications of race, class, gender and sexuality as shaped through colonialism for the structuring of contemporary global politics, which continues to be confronted with the legacies of empire.

Addressing issues like cosmopolitanism, global governance, democracy, human rights, transnational justice, development politics, decolonisation, war and peace from a feminist-postcolonial lens, this lecture series will simultaneously explore how norms are negotiated in the postcolony as well as the potential for normative violence. Thinking about gender and 'the political' from a transnational perspective will contribute to rethinking the nature and practice of feminist politics.

04.11.2009
Cas 1.801

**Prof. Dr. Chantal Mouffe (London)
Which Democracy in a Multi-Polar World?**

I will examine what are the consequences of advocating a multipolar world for the way we should envisage democracy. I will argue that we need to put into question the idea that Western liberal democracy has a privileged claim to rationality and that it should be universalized. Other forms of inscriptions of the democratic idea in different historical and cultural contexts should be recognized as legitimate.



Chantal Mouffe is Professor of Political Theory at the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster in London. She has taught and researched in many universities in Europe, North America and South America. She is the editor of *Gramsci and Marxist Theory* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1979) and the author of *The Return of the Political* (Verso, London, 1993) *The Democratic Paradox* (Verso, London, 2000) and *On the Political* (Routledge, London, 2005).

25.11.2009
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**Dr. Nitasha Kaul (?)
What is the gender of democratic normativity?**

I look at the way a recognisably political realm can emerge in states that have historically had a self-consciously non-modern understanding of politics but, except for religion, substantively modern gender relations in terms of the freedom of action available to women. I use the example of Bhutan, a Himalayan country, whose sovereign emergence in the international arena was perforce marked first, by its relations with the British empire in India and then, with the postcolonial democratic Indian republic. What are the gendered constraints of such high politics? Lacking the need of an anti-colonial independence struggle in the 20th century, the opportunities for women's entry into the political imagination

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were not provided by universal narrative of freedom heroes, but were instead, structured by the contextual nationalist narrative of valuable and worthy citizens. The consciousness of gender and its integrality to the cultural fabric gets reflected in economic questions over access to opportunities and livelihood much more than in the terms of conventional rhetoric of political participation.



Nitasha Kaul has a joint doctorate in Economics and Philosophy. Over the years, she has won many awards and recognition for her multidisciplinary research in areas of critical social theory, identity, political economy and democracy. Her book titled *Imagining Economics Otherwise: Encounters with Identity/Difference* was published by Routledge in 2007.

**Dr. Fumni Olonisakin (London)
Feminist perspectives on Conflict, Security and Development**

13.01.2010
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**Prof. Dr. María do Mar Castro Varela (Berlin)
Jun. Prof. Dr. Nikita Dhawan (Frankfurt/M.)
„Solidarity across borders?": Rethinking 'the political' in a postcolonial World**

In recent discussions on transnationalism, there has been increasing focus on the principle of cosmopolitanism as hope for 'solidarity across borders'. In the face of growing global interdependence, the project of cosmopolitanism promises to facilitate a transnational citizens movement, which could potentially galvanize the establishment of democratic global institutions, creating space for transnational political discourse.

Cosmopolitan democracy holds the promise of enabling world citizens to participate more directly in global political life. The representatives and protagonists of international civil society become indispensable in the implementation of cosmopolitan values and initiators of a more just alter-globalization. Our talk will critically engage with the discourses of cosmopolitanism from a feminist-postcolonial perspective. Addressing issues like global gender justice, development politics, human rights, decolonisation and democratisation, we propose to explore the potential and limits of 'solidarity across borders' in a post-colonial world.



María do Mar Castro Varela is Professor for Gender and Queer Studies at Alice Salomon University Berlin. Her research specializations are queer diasporas, anti-discrimination politics and feminist postcolonial theory. Recently she published *Untimely Utopias. Migrant Women between Self-invention and Learned Hope* (transcript: 2007).



Nikita Dhawan is Junior Professor for Gender and Postcolonial Studies, Cluster of Excellence „Formation of Normative Orders“ at the Goethe-University. Her research specializations are in the field of political philosophy and feminist postcolonial theory. Her publications include *Postkoloniale Theorie: Eine kritische Einführung* (with María do Mar Castro Varela) (2005), *Impossible Speech: On the Politics of Silence and Violence* (2007).

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**Dr. Nadje Al-Ali (London)
Women and War in the Middle East:
A Postcolonial and Transnational Feminist Perspective**

The importance of mainstreaming gender in (post)-conflict reconstruction and peace-building has been stressed by various international forums, as well as women's and feminist groups. Simultaneously, studies of conflict and post-conflict contexts emphasise the role of diasporic and migrant communities in peace-building and reconstruction within their countries of origin. My talk will address the interrelationships between these two areas „gender and transnationalism“ in the context of conflict, migration and (re)construction with respect to the Middle East. Taking a feminist postcolonial and transnational approach, my empirical focus will be on the recent invasion and occupation of Iraq, but my wider theoretical reflections are based on a comparative project between Iraq and Palestine to be published in a forthcoming co-edited volume.