

Transnational Islamic Feminisms: A Student's Conference
January 26 – 27, 2018
Leibniz Universität Hannover
Englisches Seminar; in cooperation with the Ringvorlesung "Gender, Queerness, and
Activism in Contemporary Contexts"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Reyhan Şahin

The theorizing of Islamic feminisms has a long history by no means limited to the university. Within academic discourse, Islamic feminist inquiry is perhaps best iconized by Fatima Mernissi's 1975 sociological study *Beyond the Veil* and Leila Ahmed's 1992 historical study *Women and Gender in Islam*, but authors and activists such as Sineb el-Masri, Rafia Zakaria, Reyhan Şahin, Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Ayesha S. Chaudhry, Lila Abu-Lughod and many others continue to evolve the discourse and its critiques. Beyond its role in debates about the position of women in Islamic societies, Islamic feminisms stage important critiques of Western or liberal feminism, particularly when its advocates presume that women's emancipation follows only one specific trajectory. For this conference, we are interested in exploring the state of the field of Islamic feminisms writ large.

We welcome paper proposals on any subject engaging with Islamic feminisms, whether Islamic feminisms are considered the subject or the methodology of the paper. Questions we would like to consider include:

- How are Islamic feminisms being theorized and enacted today? What tools and concepts are engaged in Islamic feminist analysis?
- How do Islamic feminisms continue expanding our perspectives on gender and sexuality?
- What role do social media play in the theory and praxis of Islamic feminisms? What is the potential for enacting justice through Islamic feminisms, whether online or in daily praxis?
- How does the nation figure in Islamic feminist critique? How are Islamic feminisms transnational? What might we learn from Islamic feminisms to de-escalate the alliance of patriotism to xenophobic political practices?
- How do Islamic feminisms stage a reconstructive critique of white/liberal/secular feminisms?

We also welcome papers that engage Islamic feminisms as methodology in order to critique literature and film, etc.

Undergraduate and graduate students are especially invited to submit paper and/or panel proposals.

Paper proposals should be 250 words long and include a title and any audio-visual requirements, as well as a brief biography of 30 to 70 words. Panel proposals should include: a 250-word abstract for the panel as a whole; paper proposals of 250 words for each paper included in the panel; brief biographies of up to 70 words for each participant.

**Please submit proposals in English to islamicfeminismsconference@gmail.com
by 4 January 2018.**

Email queries are welcome in Arabic, Chinese, English, German, Georgian, and Ukrainian to islamicfeminismsconference@gmail.com.