

International Forum: Women's Voices in the Mediterranean and Africa: Movements, Feminisms, and Resistance to Extremisms

Dates : 5,6, & 7 May, 2017
Venue: Hôtel Les Mérinides, Fès

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Languages of the Forum: Arabic, French, English (with simultaneous translation)

Women's voices in the Mediterranean and Africa are increasingly rising against mounting gender-based violence in the name of radical Islam. Academics and activists of both sexes are concerned about the fate of hard-won rights and seek solutions beyond the victimization of women. Through feminist discourses and activism, women and men are denouncing biases, asking for justice, reclaiming rights in public spaces of authority, and reconciling older and newer generations of feminists in the Mediterranean and Africa. Such creative resistance constitutes the focus of this 8th edition of the "Mediterranean Women" Forum. Four major themes are addressed:

- *The contextualisation of extremism and women's resistances
- *Radicalized ideologies in the Maghrib
- *Radicalized ideologies in Africa
- *Islam and feminism/Islamic feminisms – Strategies of resistance

PROGRAM

Friday 5 May

9:00 h Arrival of participants
9:30 h Opening Session: Welcoming Speeches

Keynote Speech **Women's Fight Against Extremisms: From Resistance to Bold Action**
Assia BENSALAH ALAOUI, Ambassador at large for His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco

10:30 Reception

11:00 h **Inaugural Lecture**
Moderator: **Moha ENNAJI**, President, International Institute for Languages and Cultures, Fez
ضرورة استحضار مقام المقال الديني عند التلقي والإلقاء
The Place of Religion in Delivery and Reception Discourses
Driss FASSI FIHRI, Professor and Imam, Al-Qarawiyyin University, Fez

1st Session: Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistances I
Moderator: **Shirin EDWIN**, Houston State University, USA

11:30 h **Dissident Women: Authoritarianism, Feminism, and the State in Africa**

Alicia DECKER, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

11:45 h **Radicalization and Youth in North Africa**

Moha ENNAJI, President, International Institute for Languages and Cultures, Fez

12:00 h – 12.30 h: Discussion

2nd Session: Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistances II

Moderator: **Adryan WALLACE**, University of Hartford, USA

15:00 h **Religious Extremism and Transformation in South African Universities: a Feminist Perspective**

Mary HAMES, University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa

15:15 h **Algerian Women and their Anti-Terrorist Struggle**

Zahia SMAIL SALHI, University of Manchester, England

15:30 h **Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistance in Egypt**

Sarah FARAG, University of Zurich, Switzerland

15:45 h Discussion

16:15 h Coffee Break

3rd Session: Radicalist Ideologies in the Maghrib

Moderator: **Kébir SANDY**, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

16:30 h **Le rôle de la société civile dans la lutte contre l'extrémisme**

Khaled MEHIZ, Président, Bureau d'Alger de l'Association Nationale De Volontariat, Algérie

16:45 h **Femmes Jihadistes, actrices à part entière ou simples victimes?**

Nabila HAMZA, sociologue, activiste et experte en genre

17:00 h **Preventing Women's Radicalisation through Empowerment and Inclusion in Morocco**

Mohamed MOUBTASSIME, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

17:15 h Discussion

Saturday 6 May

4th Session: Radicalist Ideologies in Africa

Moderator: **Tushabe wa TUSHABE**, Kansas State University, USA

9:30 h **Contextualising Gendered Dimensions of the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria**

Charmaine, PEREIRA, Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), Abuja, Nigeria

9:45 h **Border Anxieties and Gender Identity in Post West Gate Kenya**

Awino OKECH, University of London, England

10:00 h **Imagining Change: Women in the Mediterranean and the Middle East**

Kum-Kum BHAVNANI, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

10:15 h Discussion

10:30 h Coffee Break

5th Session: Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Looking Back

Moderator: Lisa ARMSTRONG, Smith College, USA

10:15 h **When History Is Written, the Cameroonian Women Will Have an Honorable Place in its Pages” : Writing Anglophone Cameroonian Women’s Activism**

Jacqueline-Bethel TCHOUTA MOUGOUE , Baylor University, Texas, USA

11:30 h **Millennial Feminism in Ghana**

Akosua ADOMAKO AMPOFO, University of Ghana, Ghana

11:45 h **Alice Lakwena, Founder of the Holy Spirit Mobile Forces**

Helma PASCH, University of Koln, Germany

12:00 h – 12:30 h: Discussion

6th Session: Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Reconceptualizations I

Moderator: Karima BELGHITI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

15:00 h **The Category of Religion as Substitute for Race and Culture. A Socio-political Phenomenon as Cause and Effect of Islamophobia and Extremism**

Ulrike LINGEN-ALI, University of Oldenbourg, Germany

15:15 h **Global Campaigns Against Gender-based Violence as Transcultural Learning Experiences? Reflections on the Ambivalences of Activist Networks**

Lydia POTTS, University of Oldenbourg, Germany

15:30 h **Funding Transnational Feminist Research: Learning from Case 173 in Egypt**

Ebony COLETU, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

15:45: Discussion

16:15 h Coffee Break

7th Session: Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Reconceptualizations II

Moderator: Khalid BEKKAOUI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

16:30 h **Sufi Epistemologies and Feminist Critique: The Short Stories of Alifa Rifaat**

Hoda El SHAKRY, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

16:45 h **Conceptualising Migration and Family**

Zaheera JINNAH, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

17: 00 h **The Missing Link: Women as Care-Provider and Countering Violent Extremisms**
Fatma OSMAN IBNOUF, University of Khartoum, Sudan

17: 15 h Discussion

8th Session: Layla - Film (98 mns – Director – Mijke de Jong)
Moderator: Lenie BROUWER, VU University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18 : 00 h: **Dutch-Moroccan Women’s Multiple Voices**
Karen VINTGES, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18 : 00: **Women and Radicalisation: Agents or Victims?**
Edien BARTELS, VU University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18: 15: **Film Screening**

Sunday 7 May

9th Session: Islam and Feminism/Islamic Feminism I
Moderator: Gabeba BADEROON, Penn State University, Pennsylvania

9:00 h **The Empowering Legacy of Women Saints**
Aziza OUGUIR, International Association of Religion and Gender, The Netherlands

9: 15 h **Gold Poured Off of her Hair: Interrogating Sudan’s Decolonial, Opposition Discourses from a Feminist Perspective**
Nada MUSTAPHA ALI, University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

9: 30 h **Gender, Ethics and Islam**
Sadiyya SHAIKH, University of Capetown, South Africa

9:45 h Discussion

10:00 h Coffee Break

10th Session: Islam and Feminism/Islamic Feminism II
Moderator: Maha MAROUAN, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

10:45 h **A Curious Correspondence: Parallels between Roman and Islamic Marriage Law**
Marjorie LIGHTMAN, Senior Fellow, Women’s Research and Educational Institute, Washington DC, USA

11:00 **Islamic Women’s Political Activism: A Bulwark Against Islamist Extremism**
Hanane DARHOUR, Ibn Zohr University, Ouarzazate, Morocco

11:15 h **Islam, Urban Poverty and Gender-based Violence: A Case Study of the City of Fez**
Souad SLAOUI & Hassan EL HAJJAMI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

11:45h Discussion

12:15 h Poetry Reading: **Gabeba BADEROON (English) and Fatima-Zahra ALAOUI (French)**

12: 45 h **Recommendations and Closure**
Moderator: Fatima SADIQI (Director of the Forum)

13: 00 h **End of the Forum**

15:00-17:00 Guided Tour to the Medina (Old city) and Ville Nouvelle (New City)

21: 00: Farewell Party: Local Women's Music

Organizing Committee

Fatima SADIQI
Helmut REIFELD
Abir IBOURK
Moha ENNAJI
Alicia Katharine DECKER
Gabeba BADEROON
Brahim AKDIM
Abdelilah BENLEMLIH
Khalid BEKKAOUI
Souad SLAOUI
Sadik RDDAD
Mohamed MOUBTASSIME
Mohamed YACHOULTI
Rachid ELOUARDI
Yousra BETTACHE
Loubna BARDA
Omar EL BOURKADI
Hind ENNAJARI
Othmane EL AMRI

Book Exhibit: Librairie Mékouar – Fez
Anouar Diffusion - Fez
Lefennec - Casablanca

Painting: **Khadija MADANI ALAOUI**, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

Exhibition of feminine products: **Rajae SLAOUI-HAMMOUDA**, President, ESPOD, Association for the Promotion of small enterprises, Fez