

Interuniversity Doctoral Program in Gender Studies

Transnational Feminist Ethics

Workshop with Serene J. Khader

October 19/20, 2022, University of Bern

Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern

Wednesday, 10-17: Room 228

Thursday, 10-17: Room 320

In this two-day PhD workshop, we will focus on several topics of Prof. Khader's renowned work. Specifically, we will discuss the multidimensional topic of adaptive preferences and women's empowerment (Khader 2011) as well as the cross-sectional subject of decolonizing universalism (Khader 2018), and we will also touch upon Prof. Khader's current work on the core values of feminism.

Serene J. Khader is a visiting professor in the inter-university doctoral program in Gender Studies in Switzerland for the fall semester of 2022. She is the Jay Newman Chair in Philosophy of Culture at Brooklyn College and Professor of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. Serene Khader is interested in the values that underlie feminist theory and political practice, and much of her research focuses on issues related to women in the global South. She is currently writing a trade book entitled *The Freedom Myth*, which in her own words is about why we need to stop thinking feminism's core value is freedom and start thinking it's equality.

Her most recent book, *Decolonizing Universalism: A Transnational Feminist Ethic* (Oxford University Press 2018) asks what values should guide transnational feminist solidarity. Khader shows how feminism can respect cultural and religious differences and acknowledge the legacy of imperialism without surrendering its core ethical commitments.

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Program

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 : «Women's Agency»

Venue: Room 228, Mittelstrasse 43, Bern

10:15 – 10:45 Welcome

10:45 – 13:00 Input/Introduction by Serene J. Khader:

Text Discussion with Serene J. Khader (incl. Break)

- Khader (2018) (mandatory); Khader (2011) (recommended)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Project Presentation by Dominik Folger:

« The Making of Women's Political Representation: Processes and Determinants of Shifting Power Dynamics in Tunisia and Morocco »

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 16:45 Project Presentation by Anukriti Dixit:

« Problematizing Sexual Harassment at Workplaces: A context of anti-SHW policies in India »

17:00-18:00 Informal Exchange and Scheduling Meetings One-on-One

19:00 Networking Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 2022 : «Decolonial Feminism and Intersectionality»

Venue: Room 320, Mittelstrasse 43, Bern

From 09:30 Arrival with Coffee and Gipfeli

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome

10:15 – 11:45 Text Discussion with Serene J. Khader

- Khader (2020) (mandatory); Khader (2013) (recommended)

11:45 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:00 Project Presentation by Stephanie Deig :

« Towards a Feminist Theory of Rights »

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 **«Freedom? Equality? Human Rights ? New Perspectives on Feminist Core Values »**

Public Roundtable with Serene J. Khader, Bettina Dennerlein (Gender Studies and Islamic Studies, University of Zürich) and Patricia Purtschert (IZFG, University of Bern) (tbc)

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:15 Final Discussion

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Reading List

Mandatory

Khader, Serene J. (2018): Autonomy and the Secular: Do Muslim Women Need Freedom? In: Serene J. Khader: *Decolonizing Universalism. A Transnational Feminist Ethic*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 76-98.

Serene J. Khader (2020) Introduction: Symposium on Serene J. Khader's Decolonizing Universalism: A Transnational Feminist Ethic. In : *Journal of Global Ethics*, 16:3, pp. 343-348.

Serene J. Khader (2020) Reflections on Decolonial Feminist Political Philosophy: a Reply to Alcoff, Arya and Táiwò. In: *Journal of Global Ethics*, 16:3, pp. 388-403.

Recommended

Khader, Serene J. (2011): Introduction. Adaptive Preferences and Global Justice. In: Khader, Serene J. (2011): *Adaptive Preferences and Women's Empowerment*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 3-40.

Khader, Serene J. (2013): Intersectionality and the Ethics of Transnational Commercial Surrogacy. In: *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 68-90.

All texts and further reading suggestions are on Switch-Drive.

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