

DECOLONIAL FEMINISMS, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Maitrayee Chaudhuri – Feminism in India: The Tale and its Telling

This paper is a sketch of feminism in India which also raises some theoretical issues. It argues that postcolonial theory fails to recognize that what counts as “marginal” in relation to the West has often been central in the non-West. With a primarily textual orientation, postcolonial studies neglect the historical analysis of the constraints of social institutions and the possibilities of human agency therein. With this understanding, this paper traces the history of feminism from: India’s colonized past through its nationalist and gender struggles; independent India’s state-initiated development to the transformed context of globalization; and finally a contemporary India with a simultaneous assertion of marginalized communities and the rise of a “global middle class” with its paradoxical impact on feminism.

Keywords : Concepts and contexts, historicizing west/non-west, global middle class, assertions of marginalized communities, postcolonial theory, institutionalized feminism, structural constraints/ human agency.

Márgara Millán – From the Periphery to the Mainstream: Genealogies and Legacies of Latin American Feminisms

Since feminism is an ongoing process of practices and theorizing that unveils the complexity of the “subject” of feminism, in this essay I focus on Latin American genealogies and legacies. In the first part, I follow the anarchist, socialist and liberal roots of Latin American feminism. The 70s and 80s are marked by the processes of the radical left and repressive dictatorships. In the 90s we follow democratization with ONGisation, and what I call the de-centering of “illustrated” Latin American feminism and its process of multiethnic feminisms.

Keywords : Feminisms, Latin America, modernity, intersectionality, decolonization.

Stéphanie Latte Abdallah – Islamic Feminisms at the Beginning of the 21st Century: a Postcolonial Perspective

In the early 90’s, by producing new theologies, Islamic feminism challenged dichotomies linked to colonial and decolonizing discourses that were shaped throughout the 20th Century on women’s rights and movements in the region. This feminist theology shows the ongoing appropriation of Islam by women, the individualization of religious knowledge, authority and practices. Since the beginning of the 2000’s, Islamic feminism has entered a new period: it has started to influence political Islam and contributed to feminist mobilizations of the third wave in Arab and Muslim countries and communities. Being hybrid and pragmatic, these mobilizations have challenged ideological oppositions. As such, they are deeply linked to postcolonial times. Renewing feminism and Islamic exegesis, the third wave is part of a process of democratization

which started in the 90's and has become visible with the ongoing uprisings and revolutions in the Arab world.

Keywords : Feminist theology, women's religious authority, third feminist wave, political Islam, activism, democratization.

Élisabeth Marteu – Israeli and Palestinian Feminisms: Potscolonial Issues

The continuation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has undoubtedly weighed on Israeli and Palestinian feminist formulations that developed in parallel, as mirror images of each other, often in opposition and sometimes in dialogue. A crossover study of those movements makes it possible to re-examine the development of anti-colonial and anti-hegemonic feminists, revealing not only the interlocking but also the overturn of dominant/dominated positions between feminist movements rooted in national liberation struggles. This comparative approach aims at analyzing how coextensivity between power relations are captured by feminist collective action, including limiting the forms of solidarity across borders.

Keywords : Anti-colonial feminisms, Israeli feminisms, Palestinian feminisms, feminism and nationalism.

Tania Angeloff – Chinese Feminism: Between Breaks and Continuities

Since the beginning, Chinese feminism has been closely intertwined with the Chinese Communist Party through the latter's main representative, the All China Women's Federation. What is at stake in such a movement, what are its limits and specificities since its origins? Based on the work of Chinese feminists and academics and the study of concrete activism on a local scale, I will look at the issue of "State feminism" in China and ask whether an independent feminism really exists, as it claims it does through various Chinese NGOs created since the Fourth UN conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and in the context of "market socialism".

Keywords : China, State feminism, All China Women's Federation, activism, Beijing conference.

Anna Jarry-Omarova – Gender Ideology and Communist Inheritance: Mongolia in 2000 Year

In Mongolia, during the 1990's and following the perestroika, the new public space was invested by a surprising associative movement of women which was very dynamic and whose main purpose was to promote women in politics. We discovered that Mongolian women's discourse demanded equality between men and women, revealing a true "sex class consciousness" independently of social class, generation and "clan identity". The present article explores the communist gender ideology, spread by the Communist Party, who needed women to "build the progress" of the country during the seven decades of communism. In addition, the women's Party organ – the Women's Committee – allowed women to conceive a political action "as women" and for the entire nation, even though it was controlled by the leaders. This enables us to understand the emergence and the activities of the women's associative movement and

their inclusion in the international women's movement, with, for instance, the appropriation and use of the term "gender".

Keywords : Mongolia, gender, democracy, communist inheritance, activism.

Pierre L  nel, Virginie Martin – The Contribution of the Postcolonial Studies and of Feminisms of the “South” in the Constitution of a Renewed Feminism: Towards the End of the Occidentalism?

This paper deals with the islamic headscarf polemic in France. The authors try to offer a new paradigm of feminism from a radical approach. The article proposes a criticism of traditional French feminism which is considered as too universalistic and might in some ways be seen as racist. Intersectionality is the paradigm which allows the authors to mix gender, race and post colonialism studies and move beyond traditional Western feminism.

Keywords : Intersectionnality, feminism, Islamic headscarf, gender, universalism, postcolonialism.

Rosalva A  da Hern  ndez Castillo – From the Periphery to the Mainstream: Genealogies and Legacies of Latin American Feminisms

Since feminism is an ongoing process of practices and theorizing that unveils the complexity of the “subject” of feminism, in this essay I focus on Latin American genealogies and legacies. In the first part, I follow the anarchist, socialist and liberal roots of Latin American feminism. The 70s and 80s are marked by the processes of the radical left and repressive dictatorships. In the 90s we follow democratization with ONGisation, and what I call the de-centering of “illustrated” Latin American feminism and its process of multiethnic feminisms.

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Jean-Yves Moisseron, Manar Bayoumi – The Mediterranean: from Misrepresentation to Euromed Policy Failure

For almost the past half century the Mediterranean has been the central reference for European public action aimed at the countries bordering the Mediterranean. But repetitive difficulties has impeded these regional ambitions in contrast to the progress accomplished by the construction of Europe during the same period of time. Our thesis is that a partial responsibility for this failure finds its origins in the choice of using a geographic framework. The Mediterranean, as a concept and in its physical representation, is partially at the origin of its failure to integrate the euro-mediterranean region. The use of a “Mediterranean myth” leads us to ignore the true dynamics of the area, upon which a common space between Europe and the Arab World could be built.

Keywords : The Mediterranean, Arab World, Euromed partnership, Union for the mediterranean.

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