CALL FOR PAPERS

QUEER FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES
ON POLITICAL HOMOPHOBIA
AND ANTI-FEMINISM
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND EUROPE

Digital Conference

SEPTEMBER
24 – 25, 2021

ORGANIZERS
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The conference is organized by Humboldt University of Berlin’s Department of Diversity and Social Conflict in cooperation with Brown University and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung
This two-day digital conference aims to bring together researchers, activists, and community organizers to discuss how discourses on gender and sexuality have evolved in the Middle East and Europe amid the rise of far-right and authoritarian movements.

Our conference has three objectives. First, to situate far-right and authoritarian actors in their respective socio-historical contexts, and second, to discuss how political homophobia and anti-feminism have developed as core ideological elements of the far right in a local transregional framework.

Finally, the conference aims to shed light on local, transregional, and global responses to homophobia and anti-feminism in the respective regions. Queer and feminist paradigms will significantly contribute to our conversation about the far right and social justice.

By adopting this lens, we bring an intersectional perspective to the study of sex, sexuality, gender, and intimacy: one that builds on the awareness of diverse context boundaries while focusing on the non-normative expressions, practices, identities, and desires at a time of a resurgence of far-right nationalisms.

The conference will take place on September 24 – 25, 2021, as a two-day digital event. The papers presented will be considered for publication, and we encourage participants to submit original and unpublished work.

**SUMMARY**

Emeritus Professor in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London

Author of *Concubines, Sisters and Citizens: Identities and Social Transformation* (1997) and *Gender, Governance and Islam* (2019); *Fragments of Culture; The Everyday of Modern Turkey* (2002)

**KEYNOTES**

**Deniz Kandiyoti**
Emeritus Professor in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London

Author of *Concubines, Sisters and Citizens: Identities and Social Transformation* (1997)

**Phillip Ayoub**
Associate Professor in the Department of Diplomacy & World Affair at Occidental College and Fellow in the Centre for International Security at the Hertie School

Author of *When States Come Out: Europe’s Sexual Minorities and the Politics of Visibility* (2016) and *LGBT Activism and the Making of Europe: A Rainbow Europe?* (2014)
CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers should engage issues of sex, sexuality, gender, or intimacy amid increasing political homophobia and anti-feminism in the Middle East and Europe.

Contributions can be reflective essays or research-based and address either region or both. For authors who would like to submit work beyond the scope of these regions, a short paragraph should detail how the submission will contribute to the conference key issues.

FORMAT

Aside from the two keynotes, the event will feature an opening panel, and a series of additional panel discussions in an interactive format. The keynotes and the opening panel will be broadcasted live. All other panels and additional events will require pre-registration.

TIMELINE

Please submit an abstract (around 300 words) and a short bio by April 25, 2021 to queerfeministperspectives@gmail.com. Participants will be notified by May 1, 2021.

As a preliminary step to the digital event in September, conference participants will attend a one-day workshop in June 2021 to discuss the papers.

Please submit original and unpublished work by:

- Extended abstracts (around 800 words) by June 1, 2021
- Full drafts of papers (5000-8000 words) by September 1, 2021

Pending review, authors of accepted papers will be notified by October 1, 2021.

Key issues the conference will explore:

- What are the sociopolitical factors shaping and connecting far-right discourses on gender and sexuality in the Middle East and Europe?
- What are the discourses, practices, and collective actions that have been mobilized to challenge political homophobia, anti-feminisms, and related social justice issues, in local, regional, and transnational contexts?