



CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE HELD ON APRIL 18TH TO 19TH, 2018

Women, Activism and Social Change

In the twenty-first century, it is apparent that women of all social cleavages are still faced with a range of discrimination, oppression and vulnerabilities following the positive and substantial changes in laws, attitudes and social institutions brought by the women's movements of the 1960s. For instance, while women have secured some of the legal, political, and social rights that were once denied to them in the past (including bodily and socioeconomic rights), they continue to experience persisting inequalities and grievances such as violence, marginalisation, and unequal labour opportunities. Thus, feminist theorists and scholars across various disciplines have sought to reveal how women are mobilising as political activists to bring meaningful and sustaining change in and across their societies according to their lived experiences.

This year's interdisciplinary conference will provide a platform for students, faculty members and academics to critically assess how women are currently contesting their grievances. In particular, we are interested in papers that interrogate the different expressions or forms of women's activism (the *informal* and *gendered* forms of political mobilisation); how these forms of activism can relate to women's agency and empowerment; and how such activism are establishing change at all levels of society (locally, nationally and transnationally).

The Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Student Association (SAGSA) from the University of Ottawa invites all graduate students, faculty members and academics to submit a paper for its first annual conference on *Women, Activism and Social Change*, a two-day interdisciplinary conference held on April 18th and 19th, 2018.

The Conference will Include:

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A Keynote Speaker

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Guest Speakers

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Panel Discussions Based on Four Themes

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Research Workshops

ALL ABSTRACTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2018.

aecssa.sagsa.conferences@gmail.com



uOttawa

Faculté des sciences sociales
Faculty of Social Sciences



OVER TWO DAYS, THE CONFERENCE WILL CONSIST OF THREE SECTIONS:

DAY ONE:

The first section will begin with a 45-minute keynote address by **Dr. Dominique Masson**, who will highlight the themes of Intersectionality and Activism, Transnational Social Movements, Solidarity, and Social Change.

Following the keynote, the second section features four panel discussions where participants will have 15 minutes to present and share their research, and the moderator will call for a forum period where the audience will ask questions, all based on the following themes (*each panel is not restricted to the topics enlisted*):

Panel 1: Rethinking Social and Political Activism

- Theorizing modern-day activism
- Intersectionality and Activism
- Activism through Art and Media
- Cyber-Activism
- Private vs. Public Activism
- Grassroots and Transnational Social Movements

Panel 2: Women's Empowerment and Agency

- Activism as a form of agency and self-development
- Networking and solidarity between women and across activist groups
- The role of men

Panel 3: Case Studies of Women's Activism and Social Change

- Femicide and Violence Against Women
- Women's Sexuality and Reproductive Rights
- Gender and Ethnicity: Contesting Coercion, Discrimination and Marginalisation
- Equal Opportunities and Resources in Education and the Workforce
- Immigration and Refugee Laws
- The Underrepresentation of Women in Politics

Panel 4: The Particular Case of Gender and Sexual Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls

- Accessing justice and accountability for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
- Strategies used by women to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples
- Transnational social movements for the empowerment of Indigenous women

DAY TWO:

The third section of the conference will consist of three bilingual workshops throughout the day, where faculty members (who act as facilitators) will share their knowledge and experiences on research-related topics. Graduate students of various disciplines working on questions related to women, activism, and/or social change will have the opportunity to ask questions concerning their own work in progress.

Workshop 1: Consolidating Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Research

- In this workshop, students will learn how to mobilise theory to capture reality and the actual practices of activism conducted by women.

Workshop 2: Data Collection and Analysis

- As researchers often use women's narratives and life-stories for data, this workshop will focus on the various methods that students can use to analyse these data, as well as the ethics and challenges of conducting research on women, the use of their narratives, and our positionality as researchers.

Workshop 3: Empowering Women Activists and Implementing Change through Restitution

- In this workshop, students will learn the importance of the restitution of their findings to participants in a way that can facilitate the empowerment of women and have an impact on society.

SUBMISSION AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

SUBMISSION FOR PANELS:

If you wish to present your paper in the thematic panels, we invite you to submit an abstract. The length of the abstract should not exceed 300 words, written in either French or English.

In the abstract, please specify:

- The title of the paper
- Name and surname of the presenter(s)
- Contact information and a short biography including: e-mail address, university affiliation and program of the presenter(s), along with any special needs.

The abstract itself must contain the following elements:

- The subject of the paper
- The aim of the paper
- Basic themes that would be covered by the paper
- For empirical research, please provide information about the field and methodology

Submission Deadline:

All documents must be sent as Word documents or PDFs by **February 11th, 2018**.

Please submit all abstracts by e-mail to aecssa.sagsa.conferences@gmail.com.

PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS

If you would like to participate in or receive further information concerning the workshops, please contact us at aecssa.sagsa.conferences@gmail.com. All graduate students, particularly those who are studying women and activism, are encouraged to participate and ask relevant questions in regards to their dissertation chapters, journal articles or conference presentations.

Mansanga Tanga

Doctoral Student
School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies
University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences
President of SAGSA

Gishleine Oukouomi

Doctoral Student
School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies
University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences
VP of Social Affairs for SAGSA

*Participation in all activities of the conference is **free**.*