

MARCH 10, 2023 | OUDE
BOTERINGESTRAAT 38 - COURT
ROOM | 9:15-13:00



Gender, religion and secularity: European contestations

*Public symposium in honor of International
Women's Day*

On International Women's Day, advances in gender equality are celebrated, and attention is sought for the issues that still need to be addressed.

Yet, the exact ways gender equality and sexual freedoms should take shape in practice are subject to continuous contestations. Religious and secular actors, values, and practices play different roles that deserve further examination.

In the symposium, several invited speakers will share insights from their research on gender secularity and religion from a variety of perspectives: research on anti-gender movements, women in polygamous marriages and on religious activists for gender equality. How are the contestations and contradictions addressed by researchers? How do they intervene in such contestations?

ALL WELCOME, SIGNUP REQUIRED (BEFORE 6
MARCH):





Monica Cornejo Valle

Early in 2005, Spain held the first large demonstrations in Europe against gender policies. Since then, the strategies of the anti-gender movement have changed strategically in order to gain more cultural resonance and presence in the political arena. In doing so, the Spanish activists have been attempting to hide and disguise the Christian background of the agenda by asking the clergy to avoid participating in public demonstrations and introducing themselves as scientifically supported. This presentation will explore the language and aesthetics of this strategic secularism in the context of the conservative campaigns against reproductive and sexual rights in Spain.



Yafa Shanneik

The displacement of Syrians since 2011 has increased Muslim women's hypervisibility and their religio-cultural practices have become subject to public scrutiny. These practices are presented as repressive gendered problems and countering them is embedded in a global discourse of gender equality. As a result, EU State institutions and humanitarian organisations have advocated the implementation of policies to fulfil UN conventions on gender and human rights protection such as: the blanket refusal of what is referred to as 'child marriages'; the registration of Muslim marriages and the non-recognition of polygamous marriages. This talk explores the impact of such rules on the lived realities of Syrian Muslim refugee families.



Alberta Giorgi

This contribution explores how religious female activists navigate feminism, religiosity, and secularity. Religious-feminist activists and religious activists for women's rights fight to change the role of women within their communities, fighting for the recognition of religious rights and freedom in the broader society. In this sense, they face a triple challenge: they are often marginalized in their religious communities, overlooked in the public and feminist discourse, and the issues they promote are under attack by right-wing and far-right populists. Hence, religious women's activists are uniquely positioned in relation to multiple axes of marginalization. This talk explores two fieldworks: religious women active in an interfaith association contrasting gender violence in Italy, and religious-feminist podcasters.