

# 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

Tunay Altay

Prof. Dr. Gökçe Yurdakul

Prof. Dr. Nadjé Al-Ali

Prof. Dr. Katharina Galor

### CONTACT

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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



BROWN UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR  
MIDDLE EAST  
STUDIES

 HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG



## SUMMARY ■

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 The papers presented will be considered for publication, and we encourage participants to submit original and unpublished work.

## 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) editor of *Gender, Governance and Islam* (2019); *Fragments of Culture; The Everyday of Modern Turkey* (2002)

### Phillip Ayoub

Associate Professor in the Department of Diplomacy & World Affairs 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); editor of *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](mailto: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.

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?*

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.

