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Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies – Gender Studies

Public online lecture

Feminist Readings of Classical Islamic Texts

Prof. Dr. Omaila Abou-Bakr (Cairo)

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 4pm CEST (5pm Cairo, 3pm Fez)

The lecture discusses two specific areas within the broad field of Islamic studies in which a feminist approach, such as examining the representation of women and gender issues and critiquing patriarchal concepts, can contribute both to contemporary Islamic knowledge and to feminist reform. First, drawing on feminist methods of investigation and analysis, one can revisit Islamic history texts with a focus on unearthing women's presence and voices for present empowerment. Second, within the field of theology, or Qur'anic interpretative tradition specifically, studying the formation of gender issues in the influential exegetical discourses can be done both critically and constructively with the goal of establishing an ethic of gender egalitarianism and justice. The larger framework is how to interact with tradition—that legacy of a cultural and civilizational past—in ways that are meaningful and useful to the present moment, generating an alternative knowledge using the feminist lens.

Omaila Abou-Bakr is a Professor of English & Comparative Literature at Cairo University; a founding member of "The Women and Memory Forum" in Egypt. Her scholarly interests include women's mysticism and female spirituality in Christianity and Islam, feminist theology, Muslim women's history, and gender issues in Islamic discourses and Qur'anic interpretation.

This lecture is part of the lecture series "Re-locating Gender and Diversity Studies: Transnational Perspectives" organized in the framework of the project "Creating Spaces: Enhancing Multiversal Knowledge Production in Gender and Diversity Studies" (CreSp), an experimental lab for collaborative exchange. For more information on the lecture series and the project please visit our [website](#).



To attend the lecture on zoom please open the following [link](#):