



FIND AN EXPERT |

IGALA 11

[IGALA 11](#) | [Programme Info](#) | [Programme Information](#)



Programme Information

Description of the 6 organised panels

^ Geopolitical Characteristics in Women's Empowerment through Language in Social Media

Organised by Annamária Fábián (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg) Liane Ströbel (RWTH Aachen University)

Language plays a significant role in women's empowerment (eg. McElhinny 2003; Ehrlich et al. 2003, 2014; Güntner et al. 2012), since it can influence the power women have in relation to colleagues, partners, and other people in society. Language also reflects to individual and collective emotions of women and men in gender activism and gender discourses.

Hashtags are an adequate tool for women to create a space to exchange knowledge and information about their rights, to find supporters in their fight for gender equality and also to share their experiences and to report violence.

Especially hashtags have proven potential for mobilizing worldwide attention and accountability to women's rights by increasing the visibility of several issues that are commonly under-reported. The use of hashtags has helped tremendously to bring several issues that negatively affect women to the forefront of political agendas.

The interaction of language, women's empowerment and geopolitical features is an emerging field of research (e.g. Fábián 2019; Gnau & Wyss 2019).

The focus of our panel is therefore on

#genderequality or #heforshe, etc.

- studying communicative patterns and strategies used in gender activism, gender discourses and women's empowerment.

Corpus Linguistics and a Feminist Geopolitics of Knowledge

Organised by Federica Formato (University of Brighton) & Brian W. King (The University of Hong Kong)

This panel explores the geopolitics of knowledge production in the field of language, gender and sexuality from the point of view of corpus linguistics. It is now a well-established notion in Sociolinguistics (indeed more broadly) that there is an imbalance of theory that favours the metropole (Milani & Lazar 2017) as well as an acknowledged tendency to mostly focus on languages from those same regions (Abbou & Baider 2016; Stanford 2016). To expand the view, the individual contributions to this panel broaden beyond a focus on theory to encompass how corpus-linguistic methods, and the implications of what is found, can be subject to 'epistemological imbalances and normative erasures' (Milani & Lazar 2017) that end up having a marginalizing effect. Furthermore, the development of feminist geopolitics challenges the predominant thinking that places geopolitics at the scale of the nation-state, instead focusing on less traditional sites and scales. It is necessary, in a feminist critique of geopolitics "...to consider reconfigured scales, abstracted wars, and the removal of the nation-state" (Massaro & Williams 2013: 574). Aligning to this insight, the panel broadens its scope beyond the metropole-periphery binary (though inclusive of it) to a more encompassing look at 'the margins', one that includes digital scales and spaces that exist independently of political borders. In this way the panel can shed light on less visible entry points for corpus study such as 'dark' online spaces (Paper 7), queer social media spaces (Paper 1), and news media spaces (Paper 5) that might normally exist 'under the radar' when using a South-North set of lenses. Throughout, the focus of the panel will remain primarily on the challenges these various scales bring to corpus linguistics techniques and epistemologies.

challenges can be further compounded by a scarcity of reference corpora in languages such as German (Paper 2) and Italian (Paper 3). In terms of challenges to the implications of research and circulation of findings, these processes can be complicated by geopolitics even when methods are relatively unproblematic. For instance, concepts emerging from the metropole such as 'political correctness' can have unstable analytic purchase in other linguistic settings like Italy (Paper 6), and this incongruence can create complications for comparative corpus-linguistic studies. Finally, the panel will reflect on the affordances and constraints of conducting corpus linguistic research on gender and sexuality while viewing them from a geopolitical standpoint, asking what anxieties are revealed by a preoccupation with objectivity (Paper 7) and what a feminist, transnational geopolitics of language, gender and sexuality should look like (Paper 8), and how corpus linguistic studies can contribute to such a feminist project.

Arabic and Gendered Power Relations

Organised by Nancy Hawker and Claire Savina

Nawal El Saadawi's *The hidden face of Eve* (in Arabic, al-wajh al-ʿāri li-l-marʾa al-ʿarabiyya 'the naked face of the Arab woman', 1977 [in English Beacon Press, Boston: 1982]) was categorical in its combination of emancipatory feminism and anti-colonial nationalism, in the name of pursuing Arab modernity. Forty years later, and veering on the contrary towards cultural relativism, Joseph Massad published *Desiring Arabs* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 2007). Massad applied Edward Said's framework of Orientalism to the cultural history of same-sex relationships, reclaiming some of the Arab knowledge, beyond modernity, that did not operate within gay/straight binaries. These milestones created waves in literary and political studies, and the language sciences are

changes of the last eight years, since the Arab Spring. The MENA context now seems to demand less categorical analyses, but the ethics of protest and protection also require critical thinking that cannot accept relativism.

The aim of this panel is to research the uses of varieties, modes, and registers of Arabic in their different adaptations to past, already changing, and future imagined, realities of gender. Using methods of linguistic anthropology and critical discourse analysis, the panel is preoccupied with power, namely the connections and tensions between discursive power and material power. Could the right words be said in speech acts that would claim recognition and therefore, somehow, protect from violence? What is the power of stereotypes and unconscious bias, expressed in language, to sideline certain forms of gendered existence, such as gays who do not conform to nationalist stereotypes, victims of gender-based violence, or women who sell sex? How are these stereotypes contested and utilised in their subjects' own favour? And, above all, where does Arabic discourse fit in the social and international dimensions of powerful producers of knowledge? The four papers address gay rights protests in Palestine, feminist writing in Egypt, testimonies of Tunisian women, and communications in the trans-regional sex trade. A new generation of scholars of gender and Arabic has emerged: it is entering the political and cultural debates, equipped with language sciences.

The Circulation of Anti-Gender Discourse within and across National Borders: Affordances and Challenges for Sociolinguistic Research

renamed guardians of good morals (Cezayirli, 2019), and in Turkey, the conservative, have publicly demonstrated their dissatisfaction at progressive laws on same-sex marriage and abortion. On Women's Day 2018, the Turkish Family Assembly rallied for the repeal of Act n° 6284 which prevents violence against women based on the argument that "the terrorism of gender equality and homosexuality is a crime against humanity", echoing anti-gender slogans used elsewhere. Such examples evince how gender has become an enemy (Borba,2019) that holds a weighty role in the current global conservative backlash and its dynamics of de-democratization (Prado and Corrêa, 2018). These campaigns are loosely linked by what is called "gender ideology", "gender theory", "genderism", "the gender lobby" – floating signifiers that encompass anything from LGBTIQ rights, to abortion, progressive school curriculums, feminism, communism, cultural Marxism, globalism to the political left (Corrêa 2018). Paternotte and Kuhar (2018) explain that these concepts serve as (1) a discourse, (2) a political strategy harnessing support for far-right populist groups, and (3) a transnational phenomenon with deleterious national effects. While the two latter dimensions have been scrutinized by analysts who discuss the historical, macrosociological and political effects of anti-gender campaigns, the former (i.e. discourse) is still under-investigated. Hence, this panel aims to bring the (trans)national circulation of anti-gender

(UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK)

In this panel we will explore the linguistics of globalisation, migration and workplace cultures from a gendered perspective. Drawing on the contemporary empirical work of a range of contributors from multiple geographical regions, including Australasia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America and South-East Asia, this panel will examine issues of gendered language, perceptions and representations of sexuality and the role of gendered stereotyping and cultural myths in global workplaces. In particular, we will focus upon a range of salient political issues which have global applicability, but which are also subject to often significant socio-cultural variation depending upon geographical location. This will include key issues of contemporary concern for language, gender and workplace researchers as we approach the third decade of the twenty-first century, including: the enduring global applicability of the stereotype “think leader, think male”; gender discrimination and bias from an intersectional

range of different cultural, linguistic and geographical contexts. Findings will be critically discussed against the backdrop of largely positive 'Discourses of globalisation', and will feed back into discussions of geopolitical dimensions of language, gender and sexuality scholarship.

Mobilizing Language, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Discourses of Global Migration

Organised by Lynnette Arnold (University Massachusetts), and Kristine Køhler

and of gender and sexuality become co-constitutive. Ultimately, the panel demonstrates that attention to language can provide important perspectives on how experiences of mobility are shaped by discourses of gender and sexuality.

THEMATIC DISCUSSION:

[Accommodation](#)

[Alumni](#)

[A-Z Schools and institutes](#)

[Business](#)

[Careers & Enterprise](#)

[Contact](#)

[Events](#)

[Global](#)

[How to find us](#)

[International students](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Library](#)

[MyQMUL](#)

[New students](#)

[News](#)

[Order a prospectus](#)

[Our brand](#)

[Parents](#)

[Professional services departments](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy and cookies](#)

[Site map](#)

[Contact the university](#)

Queen Mary University of London

Mile End Road

London E1 4NS

+44 (0) 20 7882 5555

Follow us:



[Edit Page](#)

[Public Engagement](#)

[QMplus](#)

[Staff directory](#)

[Staff intranet](#)

[Strategy 2030](#)

[Students' Union](#)

[Teachers](#)

[Term dates](#)

[Trade Union Facility Time](#)

[Modern Slavery Statement](#)

[Supplier fraud alert](#)

[OFS Data](#)