

**International conference on gender & women studies
(Online)**

**Abstracts of the Sixth International Conference on
Gender & Women Studies 2019**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

17 – 18 June 2019



**2019
International Center for Research & Development
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Published by

International Center for Research & Development

info@theicrd.org
www.theicrd.org

Published in Sri Lanka
August 2019

ISSN 2659-2460



9 772659 246009

@ICRD August 2019
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Sixth International Conference on Gender & Women Studies 2019

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Table of Contents

	Topics of the Abstracts	Presenting Authors	Page No.
1	Closing the Gap: Recognition of Dual-Named Families and Family-Targeted Services in Japan	Akiko ORITA	9
2	Determinants of Violence against women and girls within the communities in Nigeria	Dr. Akanle Florence Foluso	10
3	Politic of Identity, Between Conflict and Compromise to Construct the Social Identity: The Case Study Toward the Wearing of Hijabs by the Christian Woman Students on Serve as Paskibraka in Halmahera Selatan	Dr. Flavius Floris Andries, MA	11
4	Women in Management and the Irish Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector	Aisling Gartland	12
5	Islamic Feminism, The way towards an international womanism	Amira Fetian	13
6	Violence against Women in Northern Nigeria: An Islamic Rules on Domestic Abuse.	Dr. Aishatu Abubakar Kumo	14
7	The Relational Uncertainties of Male Homosexuals Engaged in a Secret Same-Sex Romantic Relationship	Baylosis, A.B.	15
8	The feminist archetype in Pakistani Fiction: Exploring works by women writers	Dr Ambreen Salahuddin	16
9	Women Inventors of the turn of the 19th to the 20th century	Dr. Maria Helena Teixeira da Silva	17
10	Dreams to Aspire: English language as a medium of social empowerment and mobility among migrant domestic workers	Anindita Chatterjee	18
11	Bodies and Seeing in Karen Duvé's Novel <i>This Is Not a Love Song</i>	Dr. Sayaka Oki	19
12	State-Sanctioned Structural Violence: Women Migrant Domestic Workers from the Philippines and Sri Lanka	Sophie Henderson	20
13	'Gender Based Violence in the Middle East and North Africa'.	Aleisha Ebrahimi-Tsamis	21
14	Management of Women's Dual Roles: A Phenomenological Study of Indonesian Entrepreneur and Educator Figures	Christina, Ekawati	22

	Topics of the Abstracts	Presenting Authors	Page No.
15	Does Sex Matter? The Association of Socio-Demographics and Social Participation with Resilience Among Elderly Taiwanese Women and Men	Deleon N. Fergus	23
16	Female Wage Inequality in the Brazilian Labor Market: A Vision for Oaxaca-Blinder	Ana Paula, dos Santos	24
17	Justice After the Violence: An Assessment of Peruvian Legal Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence	Elim Shanko	25
18	The impact of the women's inclusion in peace negotiations	Fahimeh M Kashkooli	26
19	Fertility Dilemma in China: The Universal Two-Child Policy, Female Reproductive Autonomy and Social Position	Libin Fan	27
20	Women Labour Migration and Its Impact on Household Decision-making Power in Northwest China	Longkui Wang	27
21	Masculinity as a Transference to Divine Power: The Performance of Masculinity by the Hijos del Nazareno in Quiapo, Manila's Annual Black Nazarene Procession	Mary Harmony I. Guevarra	28
22	"My nudes are not an invitation!": A Feminist Social Constructivist Approach on Female Alters	Gutierrez, Riel Glenn L.	29
23	Thinking About Rawls, Feminism, And the Family: New Critics, New Directions	Shadi Heidarifar	30
24	A Study of the State of Women-Centric Films in Bollywood	Kabbyashree Dasgupta	31
25	Use of Barsha Pump on Access and Control of Financial Management in Women's Farmers in Waingapu, Sumba.	Dr. Kadek Indrayanti	32
26	Physical Violence Against Women in Uganda: The experience of 30 female prisoners convicted of murder	Kiconco Milliam	33
27	Online bhikkhuni: Thai bhikkhuni movement and its use of social media	Dr. Kakanang Yavaprabhas	34
28	Contemporary perspectives on the social and economic status of women in Jamaica	Karen Levy	35
29	Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Growth Through Financial Inclusion	Dr. Madhu Sharan and Ms. Priyanka Dale	36

	Topics of the Abstracts	Presenting Authors	Page No.
30	Embodiments: Performance and Theatre work in Indonesia as a vital tool for cross cultural communication and women empowerment	Michaela Nocker, M.A.	37
31	Gulu, Uganda: A Gendered Response to Women’s Rights Work by International Development Organizations	Michaelsen, Sonia	38
32	Tribal cultural perspectives hindering gender empowerment: A comparison of societies with special emphasis on Indian Matrilineal society	Minakshi Keeni	39
33	Information and Communication Technologies, Gender Cultures and the myth of decent work: Young women in South African call centres.	Dr. Sisa Ngabaza	40
34	Diluting the Impact of Cruelty Law in India: Necessity and Implications	Nidhi Sinha	41
35	The Roles and Challenges of Local Non- Governmental Organizations in combating Violence Against Women among Pashtuns	Saeeda Khan	42
36	Disability and Desire: Research into the Portrayal of Sexuality among the Female Disabled in Mainstream Cinema	Dr Michelle Philip	43
37	Comprehending and critiquing the concept of ‘honour’ in contemporary Muslim communities.	Sanah Mehnaz	44
38	Child in Utero: Viability and the Relative Voice on Right to Live	Sasi V.	45
39	The impact of sexuality on physical health and depressive symptoms in the older Chinese adults: A multi-group path analysis	Dr. Shuyan YANG	46
40	Kidnapped, Raped, Rescued and Rejected “Boko Haram wives”, “Sambisa women”, “Boko Haram blood” Experiences of Women and Girls formerly held Captives by Boko Haram in North-East Nigeria	Rahmatu Buba	47
41	Age-Dependent Birth Outcomes for Mothers at the Shiphrah Birthing Home in Rizal, Philippines	Lauren Tsao-Wu	48

	Topics of the Abstracts	Presenting Authors	Page No.
42	What works to advance the case against child marriage: grassroots experiences from India	Sneha Sharma	49
43	Reflection on reasons for declining women's work participation rates: continuum of paid and unpaid work for women in India	Srishty Anand	50
44	The Rainbow Sheep Effect: A Thematic Analysis on the Narratives of Four Transgender Individuals in Davao City	Lyen Krenz Yap	51
45	Socio-Cultural Perceptions of Sexuality and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Karamojong Adolescent Girls in Uganda	Stella Achen	52
46	Reciprocating Hate Speech: Radical Online Feminist Movement in South Korea, Megalian Feminism	Wonyun Lee	53
47	Retrieving and (Re-reading) My Teenage Online Diaries: Space for Cultivating and Becoming Girl's Sexuality	Mattanyu Meksawat	54
48	Leadership Education and Mentorship Influences: The Empowerment of Young Females in the Fight for Gender Equality	Lee, Laurel	55
49	State and Abortion in Southeast Asia: Implications for the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women	Pushpika Sapna Bara	56
50	Will women be a part of India's future workforce?	Meena Nair	57
51	Women and access to family planning Women's right to decide: A distant reality in India	Ms Nanki Singh	58
52	Progressive and innovative primary prevention approaches by government to eliminate violence against women (Australia)	Jessica Shulman	59
53	Women's Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations.	Dr. Afaf Omer	60

Closing the Gap: Recognition of Dual-Named Families and Family-Targeted Services in Japan

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In Japan, the only country to legally forces a change in family name after marriage, 98% of couples choose to take the husband's surname. Families are generally recognized as having one common family name, while people also use their names to denote social position and context. Usually, services targeting family prerequisite the same family name thus maternal families and step-families are excluded from their definition. The purpose of this paper, therefore, is to examine how dual-named families in Japan are recognized by both commercial services and ordinary people. To this end, we first surveyed how service providers treat dual-named families, finding that delivery services and credit cards strictly limit the definition of a family as those with the same family name not merely family members on the same national family registry; this includes mostly paternal relatives. Airlines, travel companies, and mobile phone services, meanwhile, are more flexible in defining families to include de facto marriages, LGBT partnerships, and stepfamilies. We then conducted an online survey to investigate how dual-named families are recognized by ordinary Japanese citizens. The results indicate that dual-named families are likely to be recognized as users of maiden names or remarried couples, especially with children, reflecting the contemporary social reality. In actuality, a family name cannot always identify an entire family, but it does symbolize the family unit in certain contexts. It is therefore necessary to reconsider how to confirm family relationships not only with a family name but also through other measures.

Keywords: Family Name, Identity

Determinants of Violence against women and girls within the communities in Nigeria

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In many countries of the world particularly in Nigeria a substantial proportion of women and girls experience physical, sexual and psychological abuse, marital rape and even abduction by militants. This study investigates the level or the magnitude of sexual abuse and physical violence among and within the communities in Nigerian. It also investigates the contribution of sex of individuals, age, religion. This to know is the most prevalent factors of physical and sexual abuse among Nigerians.

The population for the study consists of all dating, cohabitating and married people in Nigeria in intimate relationship. Stratified, purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to select a sample of 500 Nigerians woman and girls from different religion, age, educational background, states and with various ages of marriage and marital status.

A self-constructed instrument was used to collect data. The instrument is valid and has a reliability coefficient of 0.35. Descriptive and inferential statistics such as means, standard deviation, t-test, Analysis of variance and other appropriate ones were used to analyze the data and in testing the hypotheses and in answering the general questions. The study revealed the magnitude of violence experienced by women and points to the factors and variables which could be responsible for gender violence against woman and girls in Nigeria.

Keywords: Sexual abuse, violence, abduction

**Politic of Identity, Between Conflict and Compromise to Construct the Social Identity:
The Case Study Toward the Wearing of Hijabs by the Christian Woman Students on
Serve as Paskibraka in Halmahera Selatan**

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The existence of identity, individually or collectively, often causes conflict in our society. It is indicating that the current policy and regulation seems to be unfair. In this situation, a minority identity is weak and often becomes victim. It is good to study the phenomenon from identity politics point of view: between resistance and compromise identity in public. The issue raises two critical questions: 1) why does government policy treat the minority unfairly like a Christian student had to wear hijab when assigned in paskibraka? 2) How do people, the minority and the majority, react towards it? To answer, a qualitative research is conducted by collecting data, observation, interview and literature study. The data are analyzed using cultural study approach. The result shows that hijab-wearing for a Christian female student policy means the State gave unfair treatment towards the minority. It had a correlation with local politic dynamic. The policy split people in two debate sides: conflict and compromise. Conflict concerns religious identity awareness being discriminated and social identity meaning body, power, and femininity. Compromise deals with the minority survival strategy under the domination of patriarchy.

Keywords: Nation, Hijab, Resistant Compromise identity

Women in Management and the Irish Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector

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Prior research on the lack of women in senior corporate decision-making roles has focused on large organisations ignoring small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), who in Ireland generate over 70 per cent of job creation. The purpose of this paper is to address this research gap by examining the gender imbalance at managerial decision-making levels of Irish SMEs and to explore the feasibility of engaging in workplace flexibility practices in SMEs as a means of providing greater opportunities for women in management. This study adopts a mixed methods methodological approach conducted over three phases of investigation. First, a headcount measure is calculated to establish the gender imbalance at senior decision-making levels in the SME sector using data on the top financial performing SMEs in Ireland in 2017. Second, data is gathered from 133 surveys administered to employees, junior and senior managers, owners and directors of SMEs located in the South-East region of Ireland. The final stage of the study involves a focus group workshop with SMEs owners to discuss the feasibility of offering workplace flexibility in SMEs as a means of affording greater progression opportunities to women in management. Results thus far highlight a significant gender imbalance exists at top decision-making positions of Irish SMEs and this is coupled with a lack of awareness/interest in the SME sector in exploring gender issues and women in management. Findings from the survey identify that continual conflict between home life and workplace responsibilities due to a lack of workplace flexibility can substantially impact the career progression of women.

Keywords: *Women in Management, Gender Imbalance, Workplace Flexibility, Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs)*

Islamic Feminism, The way towards an international womanism

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Since the term of the “Islamic Feminism” appeared in the nineties of the last century and for more than three decades now the Islamic feminists are trying to change the stereotypes of the patriarchal Islam. A lot of studies and writings have been published about liberating Islam from the patriarchal understanding and antifeminist interpretation of the Quran. However, the “Islamic Feminism” is still facing rejection from those who see that Islam and Feminism can’t be compatible. Discriminating Muslim, Arab, black or disable women has to stop. Alice Walker – the first writer who used the term “womanism”1979 – has also criticized the discrimination strategy of the feminism especially in America.

This study is trying to connect the liberal understanding of women’s right in Islam with the early feminism – as a social movement in the first line – what was fighting for women’s rights to work, to study and to vote in order to create an inter-feminist-dialogue to destroy what the colonialism has rooted in our minds for hundreds of years. This dialogue can’t be achieved without emphasizing the common similarities in the three movements (feminism, womanism & Islamic feminism). The study is trying to explain the progressive values of Islam based on main Islamic principles which are “equality” and “justice” not only between man and woman but also between all the human been.

Keywords: Islamic Feminism, Womanism, Women’s rights, Women’s studies

Violence against Women in Northern Nigeria: An Islamic Rules on Domestic Abuse.

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Women and girls in northern Nigeria are experiencing many challenges that affect their lives psychologically, emotionally and physically. Some of them experience physical abuse and gender-based violence. The ineffectiveness of Islamic law application in many parts of the study area opens up to such acts. Absence of moral integrity and strict Shari'ah courts to adjudicate violent cases signals that the perpetrators can scale through after the evil deeds. Besides that, women are still at the vicinity of not being able to accrue their rights especially when it comes to domestic violence despite both western and Islamic enlightenments. Tradition has overpowered the Islamic awareness which makes the victim at the receiving end. This paper, therefore, aims to find out the injunction from the primary sources of Islam, the rulings to be applied in case of either of the offences. Being conceptual as well as empirical research, this paper interviewed some women as well as court cases in this aspect. The result indicates some lapses from the respective Shari'ah courts in dealing with some domestic abuse cases. It also reveals how some women disregard their humanly rights for the fear of the societal discriminations. Other aspects include demands by the judges for witness in cases of psychological and emotional abuse. It suggests therefore, that indiscriminate implementation of the Islamic rulings to any Muslim found to be guilty of the evil's deeds, is the only proper channel to minimize such problems.

Keywords: *Domestic, Violence, Women, Islam and adjudication.*

The Relational Uncertainties of Male Homosexuals Engaged in a Secret Same-Sex Romantic Relationship

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This qualitative study explores how a closeted male homosexual maintains his same-sex relationship with his openly gay partner despite having relational uncertainties towards himself, his partner, and their relationship. This study discusses their sentiments, experiences, and struggles; the strategies employed in maintaining a secret same-sex relationship; the relational uncertainties they have as a couple. Relational Uncertainty refers to the “degree of confidence people have in their perceptions of involvement within interpersonal relationships” (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999, 2002a). It is narrowly defined as the questions people have about participation in a relationship. (Berger & Bradac, 1982; Berger & Calabrese). It seeks to answer the question, “what are the content areas within the self, partner, and relationship uncertainty?” Findings show that only minimal relational uncertainties derived from the in-depth face-to-face qualitative interviews conducted. Identifying relational uncertainties in a relationship does not mean that the relationship will deteriorate. Besides, the implications of these relational uncertainties have been beneficial to the couple. Their relationship became stronger as both parties discuss their flaws, apprehensions, doubts, and uncertainties toward one another. As Knoblock (2007) has argued, negotiating relational uncertainty may provide the anticipation, attraction, and excitement people need to sustain relational bonds. People resolve uncertainty to foster intimacy so that they can able to strive through obstacles together (Knoblock & Solomon, 2002).

Keywords: male homosexual, gay, closeted, same-sex relationship, romantic relationship, relational uncertainties

The feminist archetype in Pakistani Fiction: Exploring works by women writers

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This paper explores the works of women fiction writers of Pakistan to ascertain the presence of feminist archetype in their works. This is a qualitative study. Data from fiction is collected through theoretical sampling and themes are extracted from collected text. The Pakistani women fiction writers have transformed living experiences of women into images that are mostly feminine or female but also at times, a few have tried to shatter the mould i.e. the form a society gives to a woman, and hence there is the presence of the feminist archetype in their works. The data, however, presents a rare occurrence of feminist consciousness in the works of few authors while the feminine consciousness is present in abundance in these works. It was observed during the reading of fiction produced by Pakistani women writers that the imprint of the age-old traditions of this region coupled with wrongly interpreted religious norms and customs have made the general attitudes of women of this region crippled to a major extent. It was observed that notions of liberty and freedom are highlighted all along in fiction by women writers, but the true liberal self is found in the writings of only a selected few. It is also seen that the symbolic representation of the feminist archetype is depicted through bodily expressions of dancing, swimming and running.

Keywords: *Pakistani women writers, gender, feminist theory, women writing culture, feminist archetype*

Women Inventors of the turn of the 19th to the 20th century

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Judging by literature, the role of women in advancing past societies was subpar to their potential. By associating societal developments with technological inventions, we observe that female inventors are fewer than their male counterparts. However, women have always been part of the development process, even if their efforts are not always described. Women achieved the right to political participation and access to universities long after men, bearing in mind that access to knowledge is essential to research leading to new technology. A deficit in inclusive social policies explains the discrepancy between the number of male and female inventors. Acknowledging their role in technological advancement is part of empowering and valuing women. Thus, the objective of this article is to describe female participation in technological inventions from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. This was achieved by gathering information from patent applications filed in Brazil between 1883 and 1910. It is a documental and exploratory research, where 9137 applications were analysed. 74 patent applications were filed by women inventors from Brazil, Portugal, Italy, Argentina, New Zealand, The United States of America, England, Switzerland, France, Java, Belgium and Germany. The inventions range from garments to mining equipment. The research was conducted by the author of this article in January, February and March of 2019.

Keywords: women inventors, patents, technological inventions, the 19th to the 20th century.

Dreams to Aspire: English language as a medium of social empowerment and mobility among migrant domestic workers

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Despite a growing body of scholarship on the skill-centred labour market that places a high monetary value on English, the growing dominance of English as an aspirational mechanism among domestic workers has been much overlooked. The study focuses on migrant workers' perception of learning the high-status English variety as a route to quit transgenerational servitude and be empowered. My paper examines the desires of workers as they wish their children to acquire English, partly because it is perceived as status marker within the society. This vision of education reflects popular discourses that frame the analysis of the study. My research argues that English endangers local languages and perpetuates inequality among workers who have inequitable access to linguistic capital that itself reproduces power and hierarchy. Such discussion of class and aspiration for upward mobility is incomplete without the concept of agency: to what degree do individuals possess the power to act independently of the forces that conspire to reproduce the existing social hierarchy? Analysis has been drawn from an ethnographic study in both Kolkata and Delhi, to provide a comparative analysis to understand the trend of aspiration among workers to gain social status. Such a focus allows for an examination of language, gender and power through an intersectional lens, which incorporates the perspectives of both those who possess symbolic capital and those who seek to acquire it.

Key words: Language, Education, Gender inequality, Social Mobility

Bodies and Seeing in Karen Duve's Novel *This Is Not a Love Song*

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This study analyzes Karen Duve's novel, *This Is Not a Love Song* (*Dies ist kein Liebeslied*; 2002), focusing on post-feminist critical discussions of "Bodies and Seeing." Duve is a well-known contemporary German writer, born in 1961 in Hamburg. This novel became a bestseller in Germany and has been translated into thirteen languages. The specific features of this literary genre, which is constructed in the mosaic of low and high cultural citations, has already been analyzed in Heike Bartel's research (2006).

In the novel, there are several themes that influence the characterization of the protagonist, 30-year-old Anne Strelau. This study mainly discusses aspects of the relationship between Strelau and her old lover, Peter Hemstedt, as her feminist considerations are especially clarified therein. Namely, she travels to London to search for Hemstedt. On the airplane, Strelau worries that she should have maintained her figure and kept in better physical shape for a likely romantic reunion. On the flight, she recalls her school time with Hemstedt and obsesses about her "ideal" weight. During the stay in London, however, she begins to accept the fact that she is overweight and affirm her subjectivity by considering how to live her own life.

In this context, a discourse of seeing women's bodies through gendered physical stereotypes warrants a critical feminist viewpoint, which is partly voiced by the novel itself. As a theoretical basis, John Berger's book *Ways of Seeing* (1972) is noted during the interpretation of the novel.

Keywords: Bodies, gender stereotypes, pop literature, Karen Duve

State-Sanctioned Structural Violence: Women Migrant Domestic Workers from the Philippines and Sri Lanka

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This paper employs structural violence theory to contend that the promotion of overseas employment and commodification of labour by the governments in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, results in the structural violation of the human and labour rights belonging to women migrant domestic workers (MDWs). State sponsorship of overseas employment has long been a key feature of national development policy in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, as two of the leading sending countries of women MDWs in Asia. Both states are often accused of sacrificing the rights of their women MDWs in order to maximise remittances and advance economic growth. The paper draws on semi-structured interviews conducted by the author in 2018 with advocacy groups, government agencies and international organisations in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong to illustrate how structural violence is pronounced in the two sending states as part of their restrictive migration policies, which discriminate against MDWs on the grounds of their gender, race and class. In light of this, the paper argues that such state-sanctioned regulations create the conditions for the exploitation and abuse of women MDWs by recruitment agencies and employers throughout the migration cycle.

Keywords: *Gender, Domestic Workers, Rights, Violence*

'Gender Based Violence in the Middle East and North Africa'.

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Violence against women is entrenched in culture and justified on conservative religious interpretations of Islamic texts within the Middle East and North Africa. Institutions, including courts of law, routinely mirror the societal view that women are subordinate to men. Tunisia has used the Arab Spring to challenge deeply embedded gender discrimination and recently committed to eradicating in law all forms of Gender Based Violence ('GBV'). My research considers the Tunisian landscape with respect to this pioneering legislation and analyses critically the socio-legal approach needed for gender equality to be realised within a period of Transitional Justice.

Given Tunisia's leading role on women's rights in North Africa, the impact of the law will be significant throughout the Muslim world. The aim of the research is ultimately to better understand and contribute to successful efforts to address GBV and gender discrimination in conservative and / or Islamic countries. Empirical research seeks to enrich the project and interviews with female victims of human rights abuses, NGOs and government officials in Tunisia are sought.

Thematically, the paper will cover: GBV; national and international compliance in conservative countries; TJ; and gender equality.

**Management of Women's Dual Roles:
A Phenomenological Study of Indonesian Entrepreneur and Educator Figures**

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Purpose - This study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of how Indonesian women figure known as entrepreneurs and educators manage their dual roles.

Design/methodology/approach - This research was conducted with a phenomenological qualitative approach. The data collection technique used semi-structured in-depth interviews of three Indonesian women figure who were considered successful not only in their profession as entrepreneurs and educators, but also in living their family lives. Interviews also carried out to their families, staff and friends. Checking of document and observation was used to support data. Data analysis used the Interpretative Phenomenology Analysis (IPA) method.

Findings - The data collection technique used semi-structured in-depth interviews from three Indonesian female public figures who were considered not only successful in their profession as entrepreneurs and educators but also succeeded in their family life.

Originality/value - Research on dual roles involving Indonesian women leaders or figures is very rare. This study uses participants of women public figure who received wide recognition from the community of Indonesia because they were considered successful in carrying out their profession and family life.

Keywords: *phenomenology, dual roles of women, entrepreneur, management*

Does Sex Matter? The Association of Socio-Demographics and Social Participation with Resilience Among Elderly Taiwanese Women and Men

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Introduction - Resilience studies are important to the elderly as they face a myriad of challenges often linked to their age. Men and women share unique characteristics and experiences which influence their current condition which may affect their resilience. The aim of this study is to determine if there is an association between socio-demographics, social participation and resilience according to sex on an elderly Taiwanese population.

Methods - Data was used from 2016 Taiwan Elderly Mental Health Survey. A representative sample of elderly Taiwanese was examined. The personal strength dimension of Friborg's Resilience Scale for Adults was used to measure resilience. High and low resilience was determined from the median value. Independent sample t-test, χ^2 and multivariate logistic regression was used to examine predictors for resilience then stratified by sex.

Results - Women were less likely to be highly resilient than men. Religion, family relationship scores and time spent on hobbies were significant predictors of resilience in both elderly men and women. Women who were married, uneducated, unsatisfied with their living environment and in poor health were more likely to be less resilient in comparison to those who were not.

Conclusion - There is a relationship between socio-demographics, social participation and resilience in the elderly in Taiwan. However, these relationships vary by sex. It is suggested that resilience interventions take into consideration the differences apparent in men and women.

Keywords: resilience, sex differences, socio-demographics

Female Wage Inequality in the Brazilian Labor Market: A Vision for Oaxaca-Blinder

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Wage gap between men and women is usually the focus of studies and public policies all over the world. Widely mapped, wage inequalities are the object of researches by either observable or unobservable characteristics. If unobservable inequalities can, on the one hand, somehow reflect the limitations of women's choices in comparison to men's when it comes to job availability, on the other hand, there's an intra-gender disparity that reflects the visible and invisible barriers between white and black women. This article's motivation is to investigate the wage differences between white and black women. Using the Oaxaca-Blinder method of decomposition to measure intra-gender wage differentials between white and black women in Brazil, we obtained as a result that, even with the same characteristics, but race difference, black women still receive less than white women for the same activities. The result shows that the effect of discrimination continues to explain at least one-third of the wage gap between women of different ethnicities. The results also show that, although there is effort for reduction given the public policies of the period, the historically-established and discriminatory Brazilian culture is reluctant to reduce. In fact, the wage gap is higher than it should be.

Keywords: *Gender, Race, Discrimination, Oaxaca-Blinder*

Justice After the Violence: An Assessment of Peruvian Legal Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence

Elim Shanko

*Report on an Independent Study Conducted During a HNGR Internship With:
Paz Y Esperanza, Ayacucho, Peru, May to December 2017*

This research was conducted in the city of Huamanga, in the province of Ayacucho, Peru. This paper is written through a combined study of quantitative and qualitative research. The country's toxic problem with femicides drew my attention and caused me to research how the legal protections put in place rescue women who are suffering violence as to prevent them from becoming victims of femicide. Using the legal case of a femicide victim (that I assisted on, during my stay in Peru, through the organization Paz y Esperanza) as a case study, I compare how the established rule of law plays out in the day to day lives of the most vulnerable women of Huamanga, Ayacucho, Peru. Through that case study, I draw conclusions on whether good litigation and rule of law are the the key to removing women from a life of violence and suppression safely, or if it works against the women it has intended to protect. The results showed that legal protections were either inefficiently implemented, or not structured correctly, to handle the day to day challenges of women battling to escape chronic abuse, violence and does not protect them from eventual death.

Keywords: femicide, women's rights, violence, law, Peru (maximum 6 words)

The impact of the women's inclusion in peace negotiations

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In the history of international law since the founding of the United Nation and Security Council, Resolution 1325 was the first formal and legal document from the Security Council to recognize women as a significant portion of the population. Despite being targeted through violence and repression, women are leading resistance efforts and forming peace zones to protect their communities. The inclusion of women in the decision-making process will influence the outcome of negotiations in numerous positive ways. This paper explores how it is important to draw fresh attention to the women, security and peace agenda as well as to try new approaches to this critical issue when looking for solutions. Accordingly, to evaluate this progress in different regions in the past years, extensive desk study has been conducted. The article examines case studies of women's situation in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Yemen to demonstrate how living and working close to the roots of conflict could mobilize to promote gender equality and fulfill women's rights in order to make difference in the peacebuilding process. In conclusion, the article recognizes women are not just victims of violence and war but also have the capacity to act and do so sometimes in the form of political activism that includes peace activism, nonviolent resistance, and political violence.

Key Words: Women; Peace negotiations; Security; Conflict

Fertility Dilemma in China: The Universal Two-Child Policy, Female Reproductive Autonomy and Social Position

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Based on the in-depth interviews of 50 Chinese women aged from 18 to 45 in different marital and fertility backgrounds, this paper examines women's social position after the universal two-child policy has been issued in China. Although this new birth-controlling policy aims at the progress on women's reproductive autonomy and social gender equality, Chinese women in turn face more reproductive pressure and lower social position on fertility vis-à-vis men in a patriarchy traditional society. The paper urges greater attention and effective political measures to women's social position and empowerment on fertility in China.

Keywords: *China, the universal two-child policy, social position, reproductive autonomy*

Women Labour Migration and Its Impact on Household Decision-making Power in Northwest China

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Power to make major decisions at home is important for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. This Paper investigates whether women rural-to-urban labour migration contributes to improvements in their household decision-making power, by using data from a 2016-2017 household-level survey of 29 rural areas in northwest China. Our results suggest that women's rural-to-urban labour migration has significantly increased their decision-making power, but considerable heterogeneity in different dimensions. In sample households, women with migrant work or experience of rural-to-urban labour migration have a higher probability of having the final say on major economic affairs and children's education and nutrition, while that is not associated with women's decision-making power in daily life consumption and fertility desire. Moreover, findings also show that women's decision-making power is significantly associated with the duration of being the migrant worker, income level, education level as well as husband's duration of being the migrant worker and income level.

Key words: *Rural-to-urban Labor Migration, Women's Decision-making, Northwest China*

Masculinity as a Transference to Divine Power: The Performance of Masculinity by the *Hijos del Nazareno* in Quiapo, Manila's Annual Black Nazarene Procession

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The prospective paper discusses how the procession of the Black Nazarene of Quiapo, Manila (yearly held on the 9th of January) has nurtured a space in which fanaticism, agony, and (to an extent) barbarism nourish this male-supervised Catholic feast. The overt display of religiosity that is characterized by adrenaline and frenzy rather than by peace and solemnity circles the iconic image of the Black Nazarene, who is principally surrounded by the *Hijos del Nuestro Padre Jesus*, the church-recognized group of Tondo men who are identified as the “official” guards of the image and are tasked to escort the *Poon ng Nazareno* throughout the streets of Manila. In his 2012 study, Austria discusses how the *Traslacion* activates the “warrior archetype” among the *Hijos* and sublimates this convulsion of masculine strength as the penultimate form of religiosity and devotion. Concurrently, this study analyzes how the *Hijos*'s protection of the Black Nazarene during the *Traslacion* has become a community performance of masculinity that paves for the transcendence of the Nazareno's providence to the devotees. The performance of this masculinity is embedded on a likeness to Christ's Passion, for it is mainly asserted through the subjection of the male body to struggle, distress, and violence; moreover, the masculinity they project provides new insights into the studies of urban Christianity and Postcolonial Christian/Catholic Masculinity, for the authenticity of their Catholic devotion lies in one's suffering and struggle during the *Traslacion*.

Keywords: masculinity, masculinities studies, urban Catholicism

“My nudes are not an invitation!”: A Feminist Social Constructivist Approach on Female Alters

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Due to the emergence of the Fourth wave of feminism, social media has become a platform for females to engage in a public discourse about women’s fight against oppression. One of the ways in which they do so is through self-expression. Alter Twitter, an anonymous social media platform, has served as a safe space for females to express themselves anonymously in ways they cannot in their real, offline world (e.g., post nude pictures, sex videos and other explicit content). Hence, through Alter, female Alters go against societal norms and expectations. We explored their expressions, experiences, and identity in Alter through interviewing ten female Alters. We used phenomenology as our framework to understand their experiences in Alters and used a feminist social constructivist lens to understand how they respond to societal standards. Results show that female Alters developed an identity which is explained through a Hypothesized Tripartite Model of Agentic Identity which shows the relationship between two kinds of self-expression and presence of oppression in a space.

Keywords: Female Alters, Feminism, Feminist Social Constructivist, Agentic Identity

Thinking About Rawls, Feminism, And the Family: New Critics, New Directions

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Diverse feminist attitudes particularly criticize John Rawls' approach on different matters, with Susan Okin's highlighting of his theory's failure in thoroughly embracing gender equality inside family known as a major one. She professes that his theory entails an internal paradox since the principles of justice should internally apply to the family while Rawls emphasizes vice versa. Another form of critique is to stress the distinguishability of the basic structure. For instance, Gerald E. Cohen maintains the criteria of its uniqueness is arbitrary and marks no meaningful difference between justice brought by coercion and that by other means. Clare Chambers employs these two critiques to demonstrate the inconsistency of the Rawlsian framework. She differentiates between "to internally apply" and "to directly apply", and mentions that in contrast with Okin, Rawls' theory was merely based on the latter. Additionally, Chambers assumes two meanings for being part of something, 'being within' and 'comprising', which she believes the latter is the one Rawls intends. However, there is another sense of parthood, constituent, that firstly, helps interpret the theory of justice without inconsistency, and secondly, based on textual evidences is the one Rawls means. For instance, family is a constituent of the basic structure and if inspected through the lens of the gender institution, all relationships between parties will be the matter of the basic structure.

Keywords: John Rawls, Basic Structure, Family

A Study of the State of Women-Centric Films in Bollywood

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This paper focuses on the revenue generation pattern of Women-centric films in Bollywood. Over the years, Female-driven stories tasting box-office success in Bollywood (India) is not a common case as revealed by the data, which mentions that only two women-centric movies entered the 100cr club in 2018 and created a benchmark. The objective of my research is to find out the reasons behind a) Why filmmakers do not make more women-centric films b) Why Bollywood actresses are not paid as much as the actors, and c) Why some production houses still consider it suicidal to invest in women-centric projects. The research involves analysing the secondary data gathered from various articles and journals. The findings of this research are that filmmakers are still reluctant to make and produce women-oriented movies because the right audience is not available for the film to be commercially successful. A woman protagonist is still doesn't appeal to many audiences and their sensibilities.

Also, talking about this genre, the budgets are probably one-tenth of the films with a male star. That's the reality, though it's changing. The research concludes that the new trend of female lead films doing well in the Hindi film industry is picking up, but still very far from pay and budget parity. There should be more focus on encouraging such meaningful cinema by the Indian government and audience.

Keywords: Bollywood, Revenue, Women-centric, Box- office

Use of Barsha Pump on Access and Control of Financial Management in Women's Farmers in Waingapu, Sumba.

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This paper aims to obtain a holistic picture of the living conditions of female farmers in Waingapu. It focuses on women's experiences, opportunities, access and control in carrying out their roles both in the private and domestic spheres. Secondly, it discusses about government policies and programs related to gender mainstreaming as well as the implication of using barsha pumps on access and control of female farmers in the financial management mechanism.

This study was carried out in 9 village locations which received installation of barsha pumps in and focus group discussions were used.

The results show that experiences, opportunities, access, and control are still far from expectations. The City of Agriculture Departement does not have policies and programs with gender perspective due to the lack of fundings. However, the benefits of barsha pumps allow farmers to irrigate their fields in the dry season and become productive. The farmers agreed to pay 20% of income from the harvests with the barsha pumps manager who arrived at the location.

In the next year research, the financial management model and financial access among female farmers need to be empowered.

Key word: Female farmer, barsha pump, access and management control

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Physical Violence Against Women in Uganda: The experience of 30 female prisoners convicted of murder

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The aim of this study is to investigate the experience of physical violence among female prisoners convicted of murder in Uganda. Data is being collected from 30 female prisoners in Luzira female maximum security prison using in-depth interviews. Female prisoners were selected using criterion sampling. Luzira prison was purposively selected because all women convicted of murder in Uganda are accommodated here. Different forms of physical violence that include kicking, burning, choking and threats of harm among others are being investigated. The study is located within the qualitative tradition of phenomenology and feminist standpoint epistemology both of which advocate for researches that emphasize experience and participant's knowledge, in order, to understand social reality. The study is guided by socialist feminist perspective that looks at how class and gender interact to influence the victimization of women, which, eventually, leads to their offending behavior. The research is also guided by the classical framework of sociological imagination by Mills (1959), which urges researchers to understand the lives of individuals by locating them in the broader social and historical conditions that individuals have lived. Data collection is being conducted in a retrospective manner, whereby; female prisoners are reconstructing their history of physical violence prior to imprisonment. I am personally collecting data and I am in the final stages of data collection. Data will be analyzed using the stages of phenomenological data analysis.

Keywords- *Violence against women, Uganda, female prisoners, murder*

Online *bhikkhuni*: Thai *bhikkhuni* movement and its use of social media

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In Thailand, where around 95 percent of the population self-identifies as Buddhist and where Theravada Buddhism flourishes, full ordination is traditionally reserved for men. Only in 2003 that the first Thai woman received her full ordination from Sri Lanka and became Bhikkhuni Dhammananda. Regardless of controversy in Thai society, since then more and more Thai women have become ordained as *bhikkhuni* (fully ordained nuns, female monks). As of 2019, there are at least 270 *bhikkhuni* and novices in every region of Thailand. It can be said that the movement is gradually gaining more ground in Thai society. Literature often points to current Thai Buddhist landscape (such as a decline in monk numbers) as a factor contributing to the growth of *bhikkhuni* movement. None of them mentions the movement's use of social media to reach out to its current and potential supporters. However, many *bhikkhuni* monasteries (including Songdhammakalyani Monastery where Bhikkhuni Dhammananda resides) notably have their own Facebook's pages and/or accounts. Their Facebook's followers and/or friends also continue to grow every year, which is in accordance with the overall growth of Thai Facebook users. Following the *bhikkhuni* movement in Thailand since the start of my PhD in 2012 (including doing fieldwork in 2013-2014), I propose that the use of social media by *bhikkhuni* movement is an important factor for its continual prosperity.

Keywords: Women's movement, Bhikkhuni, Social Media, Thailand

Contemporary perspectives on the social and economic status of women in Jamaica

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The history of the status of women is well documented and over the decades, it is fair to say we have progressed. Progressed to the point where it now seems, in Jamaica's popular culture, that women are preferred, more privileged, and better off than men. Many men believe that they shoulder all the bigger expenses in a family, have less chance of obtaining formal employment, are not treated kindly or with sympathy by the public or even by family, are more often targeted by the police, among many other ills, some of which are explored by this paper. One hundred men, ages 18 – 65, were selected to participate in a survey to glean their thoughts concerning the socio-economic status of women and men in Jamaica. Information from secondary resources were used to describe the socio-economic status of women and men. The perceived position of women according to men and the position of women as revealed by text were compared. The findings show that to some extent, women do receive preference, but predominantly men's perceptions of the status of women were biased and incorrect. Therefore, our educational institutions, media, men and women educated in the study of the struggle of women and empowerment must continue to educate our general population on the continued dominated position of women despite the progress we have made over several decades.

Key words: Status of women; Empowerment; Dominated

Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Growth Through Financial Inclusion

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Economic empowerment of women, especially rural women, goes a long way in easing several other constraints placed on them by tradition and society. Inter-temporal and inter-spatial comparisons have further established the strong linkage between increased gender equality and higher economic growth. Financial inclusion seeks to make credit available to the hitherto 'unbanked population', and has succeeded in benefitting the poorer sections of society. Recognizing this, Government of India has accorded priority to financial inclusion and civil society too has responded in equal measure.

This paper talks about the joint initiative of Hand in Hand, India (a leading NGO), Department of International Development (DFID) and Small Industries development Bank of India (SIDBI), to empower more than 50,000 women in Madhya Pradesh (India) through a multi - pronged strategy to build capacity for proper utilization of credit facilities extended to them. The financial literacy training programmes augmented their skills in the area of financial planning and management of funds while simultaneously promoting and strengthening women identity. Gender issues were interwoven in all these initiatives for greater value addition. As part of the change management strategy, the menfolk and influential members of the communities were also included to support the process of change & transformations in women's lives. We seek to present empirical evidence of empowerment of rural women which has enabled them to make informed choices to improve their financial and social well-being.

Key words: Gender, Equality, Financial Inclusion, Financial Literacy, Empowerment

**Embodiments: Performance and Theatre work in Indonesia
as a vital tool for cross cultural communication and women empowerment**

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Embodied performance encourages scholarship on bodies as sociocultural, political, physiological, psychological, and virtual entities in performance and performative contexts past and present. Drawing predominantly on the thinking of John Dewey and Maurice Merleau-Ponty et al. the body's role within teaching and learning will be presented in this study as a process of enfolded critical thinking in selected performance projects of the performing artists and drama educator collective 'Mada[R]t Contemporary', in an institutional context in Indonesia attempting to teach for greater student inquiry with regards of gender related issues and female empowerment. Personal, embodied understandings of the lived terms of inquiry enable the teacher and drama educator to seek out the lived terms of inquiry in her classroom alongside students. Theories are taken up as working notions for the teacher to examine as philosophical/theoretical/pragmatic processes to be worked with, and concomitantly, working as dynamic practice at the core of the student's thinking and experiences. The theory/practice conjuncture of inquiry is thus enfolded, gaining embodied understanding of cross culture, critical thinking and gender awareness. Embodiment as the medium enhancing comprehension is evidenced as holding worthy implications for academic education. The study addresses identity as and in performance and the interaction of bodies and history, bodies and space, and bodies in motion. It majorly deals with questions of representation and documentation of bodies in performance that will encompass not only artist/practitioners but also those working in discursive fields such as literature and languages.

Keywords: Embodiment, performance, language and literature teaching

Gulu, Uganda: A Gendered Response to Women's Rights Work by International Development Organizations

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Introduction. Women's rights have become a main priority for many development actors. Gender equality is Goal #5 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals put forth by the United Nations. However, when such initiatives are introduced by foreigners in traditionally conservative, patriarchal communities, what is the reaction of local community members? How do women versus men respond? The town of Gulu, Uganda, presents the ideal opportunity to explore such questions, having experienced a large influx of international development organizations (IDOs) after a 20-year civil war, with many projects focused on empowering women. **Methodology.** Focus group data from a larger mixed-methods study exploring local citizens' attitudes towards IDOs in Gulu was analyzed. Six focus groups were held (3 female, 3 male), for a total of 50 participants (28 women, 22 men). **Results.** No woman mentioned women's rights or empowerment in the context of IDO work. Many did, however, mention how IDOs support vulnerable women, such as widows or mothers. Women also mentioned how they had personally benefited from IDO work supporting women, through education and skills training. Men, on the other hand, explicitly brought up terms such as women's "rights" or "empowerment". Many claimed IDOs had made women "stubborn" and "insolent" and that "men's rights were no more". Domestic violence was mentioned as an indirect consequence of the work of IDOs. **Discussion.** While women's rights are human rights and necessary to strive towards, the way in which these issues are approached within development projects is important.

Keywords: *Gender equality, women's rights, women's empowerment, international development*

Tribal cultural perspectives hindering gender empowerment: A comparison of societies with special emphasis on Indian Matrilineal society

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Recognition of cultural beliefs and traditions are what anchors an individual to his/her society. In central to this, the need for social acceptance is what pushes women to adhere to these norms, resulting in an impact on their empowerment levels. It is hence, hypothesized that perceptions of women, influenced by cultural traditions, is the reason behind which their empowerment levels are relatively low. This survey involves data collected from two states of India- Meghalaya and Assam. To get a better understanding, this case study compares cultural perceptions of the two residing tribal societies- Karbis (patrilineal) and Khasis (matrilineal). Along with which T-test analysis was then used to compare certain empowerment factors. It further attempts to understand the impact of cultural traditions on empowerment levels of women. With special emphasis on a matrilineal society, the study will look into the differences of cultural traditions between a patrilineal and matrilineal society, and its respective impacts on women empowerment. It also hypothesizes that cultural traditions of the Khasi matrilineal society have led to the prevalence of domestic violence and a high total fertility rate. This calls for an initiation in the review of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the inclusion of women into local governance institutions as well as the cooperation of the government with the church for a stronger impact of family planning programmes.

**Information and Communication Technologies, Gender Cultures and the myth of decent work:
Young women in South African call centres.**

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Call centres rely on digital technologies, to drive the service sector across the globe. This paper explores conceptions of call centres as modern work environments that use state of the art technology to offer decent work to multitudes of young people in areas of high unemployment in South Africa. The paper adopts a feminist intersectional lens, that looks at multiple factors which work together to shape the experiences as well as the meaning of work, particularly for young women who appear to constitute most of the industry's workforce. The paper utilises data from a research project that explored young women's participation in the call centre industry in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were conducted with young women who worked as call centre agents in several call centres in the two cities. Drawing on focus groups and in-depth interview data, the paper indicates how, through use of ICTs, call centres remain highly precarious employment spaces, and continue to reproduce gendered hierarchies and patterns that perpetuate gender inequality in the participation of women in the workplace. This paper, whose argument is located within the broad global concerns in the development arena, on gender equality and the empowerment of women, questions the industry' capability and possibility to offer 'decent work' to young women who constitute the majority of its labour force.

Keywords: Call centre, gender cultures, women's work

Diluting the Impact of Cruelty Law in India: Necessity and Implications

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Indian society is a patriarchal set up where since independence, governments and women's rights organizations have vehemently worked towards uplifting the female section of society. But despite their best efforts, domestic abuse remains a huge menace in India. Reports suggest that at least 70% of married women in India face domestic violence at the hands of their husbands and in-laws. Though the law on cruelty under section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is very stringent, it still remains as one of the most under-used provisions. It is saddening that at least 90% of the domestic abuse victims do not report the crime to any law enforcement agency either because they try to justify the violence or because they fear their husbands might forcefully separate them from their children. Out of those who report the crime, a large portion have reported apathy by the police officers to whom they try to register their complaints with. At the same time, reports of misuse of this provision by few women also surface. This has led to a movement towards diluting the impact of section 498A and has the support of Courts as well as the Government. This paper is an attempt to understand and verify the veracity of the arguments given to dilute the impact of section 498A IPC while also looking at the implications of this movement.

Keywords: *Domestic Abuse, Cruelty, Diluting the impact, Section 498A IPC*

The Roles and Challenges of Local Non- Governmental Organizations in combating Violence Against Women among Pashtuns

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The purpose of this study is to observe the effort of local Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) in combating violence against women in Peshawar, Pakistan. This study uses descriptive qualitative method in gathering and analyzing the data. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the administrative bodies of five local NGOs active for the cause in 2018. The results of the study are interpreted through the lens of social action and Patriarchy theory. The findings show that the cultural norms of Pashtunwali are greater challenges for the organizations in addressing gender-based violence among Pashtuns. It is evident that most of the violence against Pashtun women is supported by the cultural practices. The workers of these organizations are highly stigmatized and in most of the tribal regions such organizations are not even allowed to speak for gender rights. It is not possible to transmute the cultural norms and work against them because the organizations are labeled as 'westernized' then. But through the provision of awareness in the light of religion allow women to preserve their human rights. And the inclusion of cultural norms and male members of the society in the mechanism of discoursing violence against women will smooth this process.

Keywords: *NGOs, Violence against women, Pashtunwali, women rights, Pashtuns.*

Disability and Desire: Research into the Portrayal of Sexuality among the Female Disabled in Mainstream Cinema

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In a society where sex itself is considered taboo, the desires of the disabled are in danger of being either ignored or misrepresented. Discussion of sexuality among the disabled is generally faced with denial-the disabled being seen as victims to be either pitied or demonized. Research into the sexual rights of the disabled is miniscule and hence it is my intention to study the shifting attitudes towards women with disabilities as portrayed in mainstream western and Indian cinema with particular focus on *Margarita with a Straw*, a film in which Kalki Koechlin plays the role of a woman with cerebral palsy dealing with the way in which people around her react to her bold expressions of desire. This research is an attempt to examine how film which forms a large component of mainstream media treats the desire of women with disability and is directed at creating a healthy discourse which can in turn influence the perception of society towards the disabled.

Keywords: disability, desire, culture, gender

Comprehending and critiquing the concept of ‘honour’ in contemporary Muslim communities.

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The notion of ‘honour’, a term encapsulating a complex of meanings around pride, reputation, shame, and so on has increasingly become an important talking point over the past few decades, through media coverage, activist campaigns and within academic literature. The attention to ‘honour’ has been specifically projected onto ‘honour-based’ crimes and murders especially in Muslim communities in the UK and abroad. Yet deeper analysis of this umbrella term and the broader implications of its impact on the lives of Muslim women in particular have been greatly overlooked.

In this paper, I examine the implications of contemporary ‘honour’ ideals and praxis on the lives of Muslim women, offering an in-depth critique of the very notion of ‘honour’ itself. Focusing specifically on terminology, I explore the analytical and methodological challenges of trans-contextualisation of terms and ideologies that arise from traditional understandings of Arabic terms referring to ‘honour’, as they appear in early Islamic authoritative sources. Further, I address the challenges of using the English term ‘honour’, which results in subjective Western understandings and experiences being universalised in the study of contemporary ‘honour’-endorsing Muslim communities. I thus argue that in order to challenge negative ‘honour’ praxis in the lives of Muslim women, the notion of ‘honour’ itself must be reconceptualised using frameworks from *within* honour-endorsing Muslim communities, which in turn will allow more analytical depth and nuance, and form a starting point for discussions about how to combat negative readings of ‘honour’ that are detrimental to the wellbeing of Muslim women

Key words: honour, women, Islam, Muslim

Child in Utero: Viability and the Relative Voice on Right to Live

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Humans' sixth sense is as insidious as progressive; the motives of creation often contrast the use of end product. A kit for foetal sex prediction, might be used by a parent for painting the nursery pink or blue, whereas a rural parent having three girl children might use it for *sex selective abortion*. Medical advancements have pointed the legal lacunae in rights of unborn children. This can be attributed to the occurrences of illegal abortions despite number of saving statutes. There always persists a tension among the pro-life and pro-choice campaigners. Crimes against unborn children are '*Foeticide*' including *abortion & homicide of fetuses* and the '*Pre-natal Injuries*'. Unlike contemporary debates that commonly revolve around the 'issue of legality' and 'freedom of parent', this paper focalises on the 'right of child in utero', juxtaposing the same with the rights of parents, health of mother and desire of the State; it tries to map the prevailing practices of granting 'human(e)' rights on the basis of viability of the foetus and related conundrums; dissects the existing laws and opinion regarding the rights of unborn children, the issue of compensating a deformed child, the conflict between the right to life of a foetus and the right to liberty of a parent, by comparing the laws of different countries with India, their applications and finally arrives at a conclusion.

The impact of sexuality on physical health and depressive symptoms in the older Chinese adults: A multi-group path analysis

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Despite having the largest population of older persons in the world, sexuality among older Chinese has been overlooked by researchers, practitioners, educators, and policymakers. To date, few studies have investigated the links between sexuality and health-related factors among seniors. This study aims to address this research gap by exploring how sexual interest and sexual activities affect physical health and depressive symptoms, using a representative sample of 688 older adults in Tianjin, China. Model development was guided by continuity theory and sexual script theory. Goodness-of-fit indices indicated a satisfactory model fit was obtained, and the moderating effect of gender was confirmed. Results show that increased incidents of sexual activity and availability of sexual partners significantly reduced depressive symptoms in older men but had an insignificant effect on older women. Furthermore, we conducted a series of path analyses of individual sexual activities (i.e., intercourse, sexual touching, oral sex, orgasms, use of sex toys, and initiating sex) on physical health and depressive symptoms, separately. The path analyses showed that oral sex was associated with physical health, while intercourse, sexual touching, and initiation reduced depression symptoms in older males, but not older females. The established path models highlighted the role of sexuality on physical health and depression for older Chinese males in urban regions. For frontline health professionals, our work suggests that intervention programmes, such as guidance on elder sexuality, can be designed to promote the physical and psychological health of older urban Chinese, particularly males.

Key words: *Sexuality, physical health, depressive symptoms, older Chinese*

Kidnapped, Raped, Rescued and Rejected

“Boko Haram wives”, “Sambisa women”, “Boko Haram blood” Experiences of Women and Girls formerly held Captives by Boko Haram in North-East Nigeria

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This paper examines the challenges of many women and girls who were formerly held captive by Boko Haram armed group in northeast Nigeria. While much is written about Boko Haram and the horrific threat it poses to people and their communities, little empirical research exists on the stigmatization and rejection of survivors of the Boko Haram Insurgency. A qualitative methodology was employed for the study, with secondary sources as instruments of data collection. The study has taken a feminist approach towards understanding discrimination, rejection and re-victimisation of women, girls and their children, as well as their unborn babies, from their families and community through gender narratives. These narratives were analyzed using thematic analysis. The research findings indicate that the formerly abducted women and girls are finding it very difficult to cope with life. Due to their association with Boko Haram, the society still considered them as changed persons who cannot leave behind their Boko Haram experiences. They are deprived living a normal life and as they struggle to build, they shattered lives, they continued to be highly stigmatized and marginalized.

Key Words: Women/girls, Kidnap, rejection, Boko Haram, Nigeria

Age-Dependent Birth Outcomes for Mothers at the Shiphrah Birthing Home in Rizal, Philippines

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Young maternal age (<20 years) at childbirth in low to middle-income countries is associated with adverse birth outcomes for both mother and child, including increased risk for infant mortality and later adverse childhood outcomes. Current laws in the Philippines mandate adolescent mothers to give birth in a facility equipped with an operating room; however little research indicates this as evidence-based practice to best address the needs of adolescent mothers. The purpose of this cross-sectional study was to compare pregnancy and birth data for adolescent and adult mothers to discover associations between maternal age and birth outcome. Results suggested young maternal age had a positive linear correlation with gestational age at birth but a direct negative correlation to birthweight. Birthweight reached a maximum for mothers aged 20-35 but decreased at ages below or above this group. Factors such as access to prenatal care, nutritional status, and socioeconomic status may be greater determinants of new-born health than maternal age. Regular prenatal care and increased nutritional surveillance are recommended for adolescent mothers.

Key words: *Maternal and infant health, adolescent pregnancy, Philippines, midwifery*

What works to advance the case against child marriage: grassroots experiences from India

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Gender equality is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and includes a target on eliminating child, early and forced marriage. India, due to its population burden has the highest number of child brides in the world. In this context, this study (with support from Ford Foundation) was undertaken to review select developmental initiatives across 7 states in India to understand what works to advance the case against child marriage. Marriage and especially child marriage, rooted in a rigid, normative structure, reinforces gender inequality and constitutes gender-based violence at multiple levels and hence, requires layered strategies to be addressed effectively. The review suggests that investing in building adolescent girls' agency, through feminist engagement leading to the creation of an enabling environment for adolescent girls is one of the most successful strategies, irrespective of the context. In addition, building convergence between various state actors such as the police, social welfare functionaries, health, education and judicial officials to create a responsive accountability mechanism is also critical. While the study provides valuable insights into the nuances how the matter of "choice" for young girls is compromised in the context of child marriage, it also aids the bigger picture understanding that legislative and judicial measures alone cannot address the issue that is fundamentally rooted in gender unequal social norms.

Keywords: child marriage, agency, adolescent girls, India

Reflection on reasons for declining women's work participation rates: continuum of paid and unpaid work for women in India

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India has recorded declining female labour force participation rate since 2005. Between 2005 to 2017, while the economy has been growing, the decline has been recorded from 29 percent to 24 percent. In addition to this, on an average, Indian women spend 297 minutes daily on unpaid care work.² In this context as part of a larger project funded by the Ford Foundation, undertaken by ICRW, this paper will present trends and analysis of women's workforce participation based three rounds of NSS (National Sample Survey) data from India. Further the paper will present analysis of relevant civil society initiatives, government policies and schemes related to women's work to understand enablers and barriers for women's access to and sustainability in undertaking livelihood options. The perspective will be based on the environment in which the women works including her immediate household work which includes unpaid work (care and domestic), workplace (mobility, transport, creches and so on) and macro conditions of work (social security, occupational safety and so on). Overall the paper will map the reasons behind the decline in women's economic participation along with institutional provisions keeping in mind the continuum of paid and unpaid work to grasp the problem better. Largely, the paper is rooted in building an understanding around Goal 5 'Gender Equality and Empowerment' of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs).

Keywords: female employment issues, care work, paid work, unpaid care and domestic responsibilities, declining work participation rate for women,

² <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/skill-india-rural-jobs-for-women-entrepreneurship-rural-employment-5593549/>

The Rainbow Sheep Effect: A Thematic Analysis on the Narratives of Four Transgender Individuals in Davao City

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Because of internal, external, and conceptual differences present in the experience of Transwomen, whom we respectfully recognize as women, this qualitative study aims to view the concepts of masculinity and femininity in their eyes while utilizing Thematic Analysis. The thesis further unearthed their experiences in dealing with the heteronormative pressures from society since childhood to adulthood, their thoughts on the current status of the LGBT in the Philippines, their logic behind the cause of discrimination, their perceptions of a heteronormative society, their views on gender roles, their gender fluidity, their agenda, their high regard for their family, their measurement of faith, their desire to become parents, their message of self-love, and their expressions of faith. The study introduces a unique concept called The Rainbow Sheep Effect, and contrary to the already existing literature that seems to romanticize the experiences of the LGBT Community as that of subordinates to the heterosexually dominated society, the study offers a more positive and engaging evaluation, highlighting their agency, structure, and self-efficacy in coping with their challenges as Trans individuals. In a world amidst sexual segregation, the gender fluidity of these individuals allows them to adjust to whatever the situation requires of them.

Keywords: femininity, rainbow sheep effect, gender fluidity, gender equality

Socio-Cultural Perceptions of Sexuality and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Karamojong Adolescent Girls in Uganda

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Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is a significant part of general health, which from adolescence sets the stage for life beyond reproductive years. SRH is regarded as a personal subject and issues concerning this matter are rarely addressed openly. Socio-culture and health are intertwined and are manifest through the values, norms, and beliefs of the people in society. Recognizing the impact of socio-culture on SRH is providing better SRH services to adolescent girls in pastoral communities. The study aimed at exploring how the socio-cultural perceptions of sexuality influence SRH of Karamojong adolescent girls. It sought to answer the question “what are the consequences of the perceptions of sexuality on the SRH of Karamojong adolescent girls?” The study answered this question through qualitative methods where data were obtained through in-depth interviews, Focus Group discussions, and key informant interviews with participants in two sub-counties in Moroto district between the periods April 2018- January 2019. Results showed that courtship rape obligated girls to marry the men who raped them. Furthermore, girls were perceived as wealth and a powerful labour force responsible for family welfare. Maturity and readiness for marriage were measured by a girl's ability to perform assigned roles and responsibilities. Socio-cultural perceptions of sexuality define the adolescence phase and often times undermines the SRH of adolescent girls. Interventions seeking to better SRH of adolescent girls should seek first to understand the socio-cultural dynamics.

Key Words: Uganda; socio-cultural perceptions; Sexual and Reproductive Health; Adolescent girls

Reciprocating Hate Speech: Radical Online Feminist Movement in South Korea, Megalian Feminism

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South Korean online feminists have come up with a brilliant way of responding to misogynistic hate speech: "mirroring". This group of militant online feminists were radically anti-PC, anti-sensitivity, and anti-censorship. They vigorously recruited hate speech to critique it. And this tactic turned out to be linguistically, politically, culturally, socially, and ethically explosive. Going further than Judith Butler's concept of repeating, re-appropriating the hateful language (e.g. queer), they produced a lexicon of "mirroring speech", the mirror reflection of misogynistic hate speech. This not only problematized and critiqued the original hate speech, but also "reciprocated" the discrimination, injustice, and damage that were originally inflicted by misogynistic hate speech.

For example, against the popular expression "A key that can open many locks is called a master key, but a lock that can be opened by many keys is a shitty lock", online feminists came up with a new rhetoric which provided a subversion of this idea. The new rhetoric described men's penis as bananas, and women's vaginas as a mouth. Now the original misogynistic ideology representing men as agents of pollution and women polluted by sex is not only critiqued, but also subverted. Within this inverted version of "mirroring" language, it is now women that were polluting men through sex.

I write an auto-ethnography of my experiences engaging in this short-lived online activism. I explore; 1) the linguistic experimentation, the production of novel feminist lexicon; radical subversion of misogynistic hate speech, 2) affective politics, how these activists attempted to guide South Korean women through certain affective trajectory in order to convert women into radical online feminist warriors, and 3) simultaneous rejection of the local misogynistic morality and international feminist ethics, aspiring to construct novel forms of morality and ethics.

Keywords: Online activism, hate speech, South Korea, Cyberspace Misogyny

Retrieving and (Re-reading) My Teenage Online Diaries: Space for Cultivating and Becoming Girl's Sexuality

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“Record, such as diaries, have been helping scholars to (re)write the history of women, and make the history of all people more complete and nuanced; there is the very strong possibility (and desirability) that weblogs may one day perform the same role” (Beattie, 2009)

Online diaries or weblogs are the media expanded in Thailand during 2002-2007, which includes three features: diary, web board, and chat room. Each user will write a memo about their own story to express good and bad experience. (Kuprasert, 2008). Joining Master of Arts program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies in 2015 and taking courses related to the issues of women, history and archives show a forgotten chapter of my life; studying 103 entries of my teenage online diary (2005-2009) published on “yenta4.com” will be retrieved and elaborated upon through the framework and practice of “autoethnography” as discussed by Ellis (2000), Dent (2002) including “gender and space” by Irigaray (2004). It reflects the passage of a rural girl in various ways, such as adjusting herself in a complex city, finding her space to develop her sexuality and identity. As the issues of “Girl Studies” by the girl’s (own) voice from a feminist perspective is rarely mentioned in the Thai academic circles of Women’s Studies, this research aims to open up, contribute and strengthen the body of knowledge in this area.

Keywords: girl studies, sexuality, space, girl’s writing

Leadership Education and Mentorship Influences: The Empowerment of Young Females in the Fight for Gender Equality

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Despite being the 21st century, women are still treated unequally in many parts of the world (Ridgeway, 2011). In order for society to operate at its maximum capacity, women's empowerment is imperative. How can our society advance if we exclude half of our population? This leads to the research question, 'How can young females who have received leadership education with a mentor be empowered to continue the fight for gender equality?'. Anticipating that these young females will become future leaders in society, this study could greatly contribute to the field of gender studies. This is an exploratory case study which examined leadership education and its influences on young females in a private university in western Tokyo, Japan. Believing that leadership identity can be reinforced through education and mentorship, the mentoring model theory (Johnson, Geroy, & Griego, 1999) and leadership identity development theory (Komives, Owen, Longersbeam, Mainella, & Osteen, 2005) is used in analyzing the leadership development of young females. Interviews were examined through the lens of culture and gender. It was found that empowered young women, through the emergence of their authentic voices, are willing to collaborate despite differences to work for the greater good of humanity. This study will allow educators to further understand the power of leadership education, possibly practicing these methods in another setting. In conclusion, leadership education and mentorship are significant in the empowerment of future changemakers of society.

Keywords: Leadership education, female empowerment, gender equality

State and Abortion in Southeast Asia: Implications for the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women

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The WHO report (2013) states that around 11 million unsafe abortions are reported in South East Asia alone, which adversely affects the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of women. Southeast Asian women resort to unsafe abortions due to socio-cultural, religious and economic reasons. In many Southeast Asian states, abortion is either illegal or restrictive. Malaysia's decriminalized abortion laws are restricted to some cases. Restrictive abortion laws curtail the space of women to assert their reproductive rights. They therefore resort to unsafe abortion facilities. According to WHO (2008), 14 % of maternal deaths in Southeast Asia was due to unsafe abortion and 16% was due to highly restrictive abortion laws like that of Indonesia. The study of the law of abortion is highly paradoxical. The decision to resort to abortion, is supposed to be personal to a woman. However, laws on abortion separate the act and the choice from their very bases in each woman's experience (Savage 1988). Each abortion either becomes legal or illegal within the state, making women passive compliers with the laws on abortion. Women in most societies are viewed solely as child bearers and rearers. Their reproductive rights are not acknowledged while formulation of abortion laws and therefore they are either illegal (Philippines, Myanmar) or restrictive (Indonesia). They are also formulated according to the demographic interests of the state. This paper attempts to study how the states in Southeast Asia have privileged socio-cultural and religious ideas over the reproductive rights of women, thereby making abortion restrictive, which coupled with economic constraints have resulted in unsafe abortions and affected the SRH of women.

Will women be a part of India's future workforce?

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This case study seeks to explain the low and declining female labour force participation in India, in context of the country's path to realising Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4 and 8. To parse the state of India's female workforce vis a vis the influences of global systemic issues and patterns of exclusion, a mixed-method approach was employed. Specifically, primary data was gathered from three districts of India, with high, medium and low levels of female workforce participation, to surface barriers and enablers to labour and vocational training from the viewpoint of the average Indian woman. By employing the Rao-Kelleher Gender at Work Analytical framework (2001) and applying factor analyses as well as structural equation modelling methods, it was found that education, in fact, has no linkages with labour outcomes for women. Instead, structural factors of marriage, safety during travel, and exposure to vulnerabilities from the informal/unorganised market were more significant in influencing female workforce participation. Additionally, the prevalence of restrictive and gender-bias beliefs and norms at the level of the household, in terms of menstruation and post-marital gender roles, has a significant influence on women and work. As India reckons with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, these barriers will continue to restrict the Indian woman's agency to make decisions relating to her livelihood independently, decisions instead defined by household dynamics and market infrastructure.

Keywords: Gender at Work, Female labour force participation, Gender equality, SDG 4 and 8

Women and access to family planning Women's right to decide: A distant reality in India

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214 million women of reproductive age in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy are not using a modern contraceptive method. Every time a woman cannot decide freely the number or timing of her children or is denied access to quality family planning services, her basic human right is violated. According to the United Nations Population Fund, the right to sexual and reproductive health is an essential component of the right to life, the right to health, the right to education and the right to equality and non-discrimination. Societal norms and attitudes about masculinity and femininity resulting in gender related norms have led to women not being able to exercise their rights impacting their health and well-being.

When women have the right to freely decide whether, when and how many children they want to have, they can make responsible decisions about their own bodies. This has an impact on their health and impacts the health and overall development of the family. Irrespective of their economic strata, all women should have access to high-quality health services. Arming them with the right tools and knowledge about reproductive health will put them in charge of making significant decisions like family planning. When women are in charge of planning their family, everyone benefits. Using contraception and adopting family planning not only allows people to attain their desired number of children and determine the spacing of pregnancies but also reduces the rates of unintended pregnancies, infant and maternal mortality.

Progressive and innovative primary prevention approaches by government to eliminate violence against women (Australia)

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The state government of Victoria (Australia) has been one of the most progressive governments in the world to respond to what is universally accepted to be a national emergency: violence against women. One woman per week is murdered in Australia at the hands of a current or former (male) partner. After issuing a Royal Commission into Violence Against Women in 2016, the government developed a 10-year plan to reform the gendered violence system involving key actions around primary prevention and promotion of gender equality:

- Enacting legislation to prevent gendered violence
- Developing gender equality legislation
- Establishing a Statutory Authority dedicated solely to the primary prevention of gendered violence; preventing violence before it starts by focusing on settings where inequality and violent behaviour are shaped
- Investing \$1.19 billion to implement every recommendation made by the landmark Royal Commission
- Investing over \$9 million in gender equality initiatives that increase women's leadership (in civil society, business, education and politics) to address gender inequality as a key driver of gendered violence

Their progress toward achieving the 188 recommendations of the Royal Commission has been rapid, and outstanding. One of Jessica's projects (the Gender Gap App) has been recognized globally by the World Health Organisation as an example of best practice in innovative governance.

This is a unique opportunity to share learnings and to illustrate what truly feminist governance can look like with the wider global community.

Keywords: *Gender equality, Behaviour change, Primary Prevention pending, Government*

Women's Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations.

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The aim of this paper is to underscore the importance of women's participation in peacekeeping operations. The paper will discuss UN mandates regarding increasing the number of women in peacekeeping operations. It will then discuss the advantages of women's presence in the context of making, building, and keeping peace. The presence of women peacekeepers works as a deterrent to sexual violence by having a 'civilizing' effect on male colleagues. This argument also addresses the fact that women are less likely to be perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse. There are also practical advantages to the presence of women peacekeepers. These advantages include the fact that women peacekeepers can search women at checkpoint; can establish better relationships with local women's groups; and can improve intelligence gathering about the local community, via better access to local women and/or a broader understanding of what constitutes a security threat. Women peacekeepers can also serve as role models or even mentors for local women and girls, thus contributing to more equal gender relations in the local community they serve. The paper then goes on to discuss the challenges of recruiting women to UN Peacekeeping Operations with a focus on United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Key Words: UN Peacekeeping, Women's Participation, Military