



Justice Beyond Human Rights: Lessons From Saudi Women's Activism

A Manchester Law School research seminar by Dr Nora Jaber, Edinburgh University.

Good afternoon,

I'm delighted to announce that Dr Nora Jaber will join us from Edinburgh University on the **19th of February 15—16.30 pm** (SB 1.01) for a talk on women's resistance and Islamic feminism in Saudi Arabia .

Abstract

This talk discusses Saudi women's struggles for gender justice, with a focus on how they challenge discriminatory laws and policies beyond the framework of international human rights. It explores Saudi women's engagement with 'Islamic feminism' as an example of an alternative rights framework that challenges international law in terms of its epistemic core and the emancipatory possibilities it offers. I argue that, while the engagement with Islamic feminism does disrupt international law's claim to universality as a framework for justice, its deployment as part of a struggle for legal rights (granted by the state) limits its liberatory potential. Through showing how both, international law and Islamic feminism produce and preclude particular subjects of rights, I consider options for more emancipatory feminist futures.

Bio:

Dr Nora Jaber is a Lecturer in Law in the Globalised Muslim World, based at the School of Law and the Al-Waleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, Edinburgh University.

Nora's research intersects law, feminist theory, and political economy. Her work primarily examines the role and limitations of international law in achieving justice in non-Western contexts, with a focus on gender justice in the Arab and Islamic world. It captures and centres non-Western/non-liberal frameworks and epistemologies that are largely overlooked in Western scholarship. In 2022, Nora was awarded the Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize (BRISMES) for her doctoral research on legal activism and struggles for women's rights in Saudi Arabia.

Before joining Edinburgh, Nora was a lecturer in law at the University of Exeter. She obtained her PhD in Law from King's College London and her LLM from the London School of Economics.

More on Dr Jaber's work can be found here: <https://www.law.ed.ac.uk/people/nora-jaber>

Best wishes,
Dr Hasret Cetinkaya

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 366 473 045 203

Passcode: 2Bk7hG69