



PANEL 1

Culture, religion and gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence, which is often associated with violence against women but in reality directed at any individual based on their gender and takes various forms of violent or aggressive behavior against someone because of their gender, is a serious social issue that is rooted in gender inequality, entrenched social norms, and abuse of power and violates the rights and well-being of individuals leading to dramatic physical and psychological health issues. While there are many factors that are associated with gender-based violence, culture and religion are the most important contributors on a macro level as they establish ideas and practices that impose power dynamics and gender relations. Religion is critical for the formation of any society as it conveys values and belief systems to members of that society through religious texts and interpretations of sacred books, traditions, teachings, and doctrines. Cultural traditions, practices, and values, as well as religious norms and customs, have significant impacts on the formation of the perception of women and men in society, their social status, and overall experience. Religious texts and cultural traditions are interpreted to justify gender discrimination and reinforce the power of men in society and are used to ensure that men and women conform to their prescribed gender roles and do not challenge the traditional order.

This session/panel calls for research that contributes to discussion and exploration of the intersection of culture, religion and gender within the context of violence. It opens the floor for discussion of how gender-based violence, religion, and culture are correlated and how and in what way cultural and religious norms and practices contribute to gender-based violence.

Abstracts of 300 words (max.) should be submitted by **15 April 2023** to Anne Wagner (anne.wagner[at]univ-lille.fr) with decisions made by **15 May 2023**.

Please specify the title of the panel you would like to participate in when submitting an abstract including your name, affiliation, country.



PANEL 2
Theorizing violence against women:
Integration of post-modernist theories in feminist perspectives.

Numerous feminist theories have implications for understanding violence against women. For example, radical feminist theory contends that patriarchy both causes and reinforces men’s use of violence as a means of maintaining gender hierarchy. It universalizes women’s experiences of violence by highlighting the common vulnerability that all women, by virtue of their gender, share for experiencing violence at the hands of men. Radical feminism perceives women’s oppression and violence as the effect of male domination and refuses to consider structure and experience of that oppression in different societies, periods of history and social classes. In its turn, liberal feminism emphasizes the role of the state and focuses on social and economic determinants of violence against women. As such, women’s oppression is a result of the denial of rights and opportunities promised by the liberal states; therefore, equality should be provided through legal activities and government actions. Both radical and liberal feminist approaches are criticized for promoting a homogenized account of violence against women, which ignores important variations in women’s experiences. In particular, postcolonial feminist theory rejects the radical feminist notion of a shared womanhood approach to violence against women and highlights the increased and differential vulnerability of women in socially, racially, and economically marginalized communities to violence based on their unique social position whereas the liberal feminist’s approach is criticized for reflecting the priorities of white, economically privileged, heterosexual women in the West.

This session/panel includes theoretical/conceptual works that contribute to the theorization of violence against women by integrating contemporary social theories (e.g., post-colonialism, theory of intersectionality, & post-modernism) in various feminist perspectives.

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