

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM 89

Symposium:

POWER, ALIENATION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Coordinators:

Name of Coordinator 1: Melissa J. Deehring

Institution: College of Law – Qatar University

Professional Summary: Attorney (California) and Clinical Assistant Professor at Qatar University Faculty of Law in Doha. Founding director and creator of her college's Externship Program and has taught advocacy, ethics and professionalism to Qatari law students since 2011. Research focuses on SDGs 5 (gender equality) & 16 (peace, justice & strong institutions) and how culture affects local legal professions and legal education. Advocate for the global Women, Peace and Security agenda and works to encourage more women in the Middle East, to pursue legal, judicial and diplomatic careers. One of her College's first female faculty members, has been a prominent voice encouraging women to lead in Qatar's legal profession. In 2018, organized and hosted Qatar's first Women in Law Conference, won her college's Excellence in Community Service Award, and was awarded a NIFTEP fellowship. Volunteer with the UNODC, THIMUN Qatar, researchers at the University of Oxford and in 2019, was awarded two consultancies with the UNODC and named an 'Education for Justice (E4J) Champion'. Presented conference papers and taught seminars to advance SDGs 5, 16 & Women, Peace & Security in Qatar, the US, the UK, Russia, Indonesia, and China. In addition her interactive research exhibit, Voices of Qatari Women in Law and International Diplomacy, attracting more than 1,000 visitors and receiving more than 300 pledges in support. Melissa is also an admitted degree candidate pursuing her MLA in International Affairs through Harvard Extension School, Harvard University and she is a student Board Member for the Harvard Extension School International Relations Club.

Name of Coordinator 2: Marisa Almeida Araújo

Institution: Faculty of Law – Lusíada University – North (Porto)

Professional Summary: Marisa Almeida Araújo, with a master's degree from the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto, is currently an Assistant Professor of International Law, Human Rights Law and Civil Liability at Lusíada University – North (Porto). and an integrated researcher at Centre for Juridical, Economic and Environmental Studies (CEJEA). At the University Marisa also is a Member of the School Council of Lusíada University. Marisa is a lawyer and tutor at the Portuguese Bar Association; a referee at CAAD; and Member of the Justice Council of Porto's Football Association. Marisa is currently researching in Private International Law, Human Rights, Civil Law, and Bioethics, particularly the ethical and legal issues arising from biotechnology, mainly assisted reproductive technologies, 'reprogenetics', 'biocrossing', and the impact on Human Rights, predominantly on Women's Rights. Marisa is also cooperating with the Education for Justice Initiative, of the Doha Declaration from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Line(s) of discussion (symposium description):

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets gender equality, non-discrimination and the empowerment of all women and girls as goals and critical foundational principals of the human rights system. Multiple UN Security Council Resolutions affirm the importance of women in global leadership and in peace and security affairs. However, the





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twenty-first century is still offering – old and new – forms for objectifying women, promoting inequalities, exclusion and, in many cases, creating a true ‘social death’ (using Orlando Patterson’s expression). As examples, complex issues arise from biotechnologies and new forms of ‘the sexual contract’ that create new systems of exploitation and alienation; genetic selection available in modern Assisted Reproductive Technology has been found to negatively affect female birth rates; AI tools and algorithms have been shown to reproduce bias; and long-standing gender challenges remain as evidenced by the catastrophic impact the COVID pandemic has had on women.

The truth is that more than 150 years after Mills’ “The Subjection of Women”, in many ways and in many societies, women still lack rights and the power to claim them. As former US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton stated long ago in Beijing, “women’s rights are human rights” yet as she recently pointed out, what good are legal rights without the power to claim them?

This panel is interested in socio-legal contributions integrating, analyzing and addressing all gender dimensions, substantive feminist questions and gender issues related to the following lines of discussion:

1. Contemporary challenges to women’s rights;
2. Women’s’ empowerment and agency.

**Languages of abstracts that will be accepted for presentation:
English (X)**



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