Follow-up Workshop / Atelier de suivi
"Mediterranean Women's Rights in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings"
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ABSTRACTS

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Women's Rights and Violence
Abdelhaye, Bakhta and Babou, Amina (University of Mostaganem, Algeria)

Basically, we strive to dissect the various aspects of gender-based violence, in the round not just as a static description of this phenomenon, but as a scientific tale of the complex interlocking networks that play a crucial role in violence arousal. A plethora of academic evidence is enlisted to bolster the claim that misunderstood signals between males and females may engender job discrimination, rising divorce rates, physical aggression, sexual harassment and rape.

L'irruption de deux sujets tabous dans les débats post-révolutionnaires en Tunisie : la religion et la sexualité
Arfaoui, Amina (Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates – ATFD, Tunisia)

La société arabo-musulmane est une société extrêmement conservatrice, or, voici qu'avec la révolution, ces deux sujets tabous se sont imposés dans les débats d'une façon inattendue et spectaculaire et avec une violence inouïe, qui a atteint son paroxysme avec les actes de Amina Femen et le "Jihad el Nikah". J'essaierai d'exposer pourquoi et comment cela est arrivé et je m'interrogerai sur les éventuelles conséquences des polémiques qui ont eu lieu à ce propos.

Masculinity. The family: a stronghold of patriarchy
Arfaoui, Khédija (Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement – AFTURD, Tunisia)

I examine perceptions of masculinity, how the fabric of life is affected by them and how gender-sensitive parents are trying to correct them. Feminist NGOs are focusing on erasing inequalities between femininity and masculinity but although progress has been achieved, it remains weak in particular because the regions tend to remain more conservative, allowing women very little chance of freeing themselves from the grips of masculinity, but also because of political Islam whose main target is women.

When Women Negotiate Space for the Spring to Come
Belhabib, Soumaya (Ib Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco)

Like their male counterparts, women were key players in what we call the Moroccan Spring. The use of technology and social media has opened up the scope for more mobilization and more visibility around women's causes. Fighting violence against women has triggered different cyber initiatives like the women's rights group "Woman Choufouch" or the "Qandisha e-magazwine" and revealed women's determination to raise issues formerly considered to be taboo like rape or sexual harassment.

Women and institutions
Borchorst, Anette (University of Aalborg, Denmark)

Women have been able to influence public institutions, but there are also many examples of failures. The options for being successful depend among on other things on the political mobilization of women and the ability of women's organizations to unite across generations, classes and ethnic groups

New Gendered Agricultural Labour Modalities in the Region of the Sais in Morocco: Bargaining with Gender Ideologies and Changing Subjectivities
Bossenbroek, Lisa (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)

I will analyse the changing agricultural labour relations in the region of the Sais in Morocco and their signification with regard to gender equity. The labour relations in this region have been strongly altered along the last three decades, due to increasing agrarian dynamics. We indicate how this resulted in the emergence of new gendered labour hierarchies, which are strongly embedded in existing gendered socio-cultural ideologies.

MENA Women: Opportunities and Obstacles in 2014
Bouaggache, Kahina (Legal Consultant, Manaar Legal Consultancy, Algeria)

The winds of change are blowing, we see more and more calls for equality and justice, an urgent need for reform. These reforms must boost job creation, while reducing policy distortions that have limited private sector development. The elimination of obstacles to the role and participation of women is a source of economic development by unlocking the potential of women allows countries to register higher levels of enrichment and achievement.

Women's Rights in the New Islamist-Led Government in Morocco
Darhour, Hanane (Ibn Zohr University, Ouarzazate, Morocco)

The paper explores public opinion among the main political and social actors in Morocco on the status of gender equality and women's rights after the constitutional reform and the rise of an Islamic party in leading the current government after the 2011 elections. The paper tries to look the attitudes of the main actors in women's organizations towards the PJD-led government's gender policies and agendas, and the probable impact of reforms on women's daily lives, and the prospects for the future.

Moroccan Women's Empowerment Through Art
Elaissaoui, Kamal (University of Meknés, Morocco)

Women are a powerful force in society. They are often the cornerstones in any community since they are able to create major changes and breakthroughs that affect not only their surroundings but also the community at large. In particular, women painters. Art causes people to look a little closer. To look closer at the social issues, at other people and their emotions, at the environment that surrounds them, and the everyday objects and life forms around them.

Ennaji, Moha (University of Fez, Morocco)

Arab Women and Judiciary: Time for a Different Approach
El Saman, Radwa (Cairo University, Egypt)

Women's right to hold judicial positions and pass judgment is still arguable in the Arab World. A good case study is Egypt situation. The new Egyptian Constitution for the first time grants Egyptian women the right to their appointment to judicial bodies. A question arises in connection with whether the New Egyptian Constitution represents a victory for Egyptian women's rights to judicial office, or some factual, historical, and organizational problems would work as a barrier before this victory.

Moroccan Women and Economic Empowerment
Fadil, Siham (Ministry of Religious Affairs, Rabat, Morocco)

Moroccan women's roles in economy evolved quickly and varied enormously from one region to another. Besides, the appearance of cultural activities presents different job opportunities via fabricating high-value products. These challenges result in different obstacles and responsibilities women meet. That is to say, women are often facing difficulties when they try to participate wholly in the market work such as the lower level of remuneration they could earn.

Competing Frameworks: Moroccan Western-leaning Muslim Feminists and Islamic Feminists Differ over Best Path to Moroccan Women's Empowerment
Feather, Ginger (Kansas University, USA)

This study assesses competing frameworks of women's empowerment in Morocco: the Western-leaning Muslim Feminists (WLMF) perspectives and the Islamic Feminist (IF) perspective. These contrasting perspectives flavor the way women perceive successful implementation of gendered legislation, determine the pitfalls and challenges to the legal reforms, and advocate for women's continued empowerment. The data for this project came from in depth interviews conducted in 2012 and 201.

Financial Independence as a Path for Freedom
Ghaddar, Hanin (Managing Editor, Now News, Lebenon)

I want to talk about women's economic empowerment and how being financially independent could help women achieve freedom, leading to a sense of agency and willingness to change social and political barriers.

The Moroccan Constitution
Khannous, Touria (Louisiana State University, USA)

In this paper, I plan to discuss the manner in which the Moroccan constitution was drafted, its substantive contents, the ways in which identity politics (i.e. minorities and women) figure in the constitution, the place accorded to Islam with regards to the state. The paper will also assess the kind of change that has been affected due to the constitution, as well as set out a number of recommendations that could be considered in Morocco's future reform effort.

Egyptian Women and Sexism
Khurshid, Sara (Freelance Writer and Journalist, Egypt)

Sexist and discriminatory attitudes among Egyptian society affect women negatively in several ways. I will explain this through highlighting the situation for women in marriage in Cairo, starting from attitudes toward women in marriage proposals and in the context of arranged marriages, then the situation for women after marriage, what is expected from wives and mothers and how this reflects discriminatory societal attitudes toward women.

New masculinity and family law in Morocco
Miladinovic-Ramhoj, Mira (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

The family law of 2004 changed in some areas the men's privileges and changed some of the legal differences and responsibilities between the sexes. Gender equality has been ensured by the Constitution of 2011. This paper will examine how changed societal norms and changes in marriage patterns to some extend have changed the role between the sexes. How are masculinities changing and how do these changes further affect marriage and family patterns.

Moroccan Women in the Socio-Cultural Life: Meta stereotypes, and policy-making influences
Moubtassime, Mohamed (University of Fez, Morocco)

The paper addresses the status of women in the Moroccan Socio-cultural context. It focuses on the major influences that affect the efficacy of the participation of Moroccan women in socio-cultural life. Various are these influencing factors; however, the paper will tackle the extent to which both meta stereotypes and the effects of policy makers in the involvement of Moroccan women in socio-political affairs and the proliferation of numerous female-led associations.

Female Voices in Sufism
Ouguir, Aziza (University of Fez, Morocco)

Despite the fact that women saints marked Moroccan history with their legacy, little is known about them. Their lives, practices, and participation in their religious communities and society are rarely studied by social scientists. I draw an alternative discourse that presents women, whether in the past or in the present, as religious agents, who are actively engaged in creating, re-defining, re-interpreting and transforming their religious roles both in the private and the public sphere.

Patterns of masculinities
Petersen, Hanne (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Masculinity studies – and studies of men - offer important insights on issues of globalization, sustainability, contemporary commercialization of sex and mental changes perhaps holding a potential for alliances on transformations of gendered global orders. In this contribution I will try to link some of these studies with aspects of my own work.

Islamist Women's Activism in the Aftermath of Arab Spring
Rhomari, Driss (Centre Régional des Métiers d'Education et de Formation – CRMEF, Tangiers, Morocco)

The Islamist PJD won the 2011 post-Arab Spring elections. Part of this success, to my mind, has considerably been attributed to the existence of an influential alliance with female Islamist activism both at the top and ground levels. This presentation attempts to discuss the contribution of Islamist women's activism in the construction of political breakthroughs that have profited their political camp and made it a ruling power for the first time in Morocco.

Berber Discourse and Feminism in Morocco
Sadiqi, Fatima (University of Fez, Morocco)

Both the secular and Islamic feminist discourses in Morocco lack a central element: the Berber dimension, a hitherto 'taboo' issue at the level of feminist discourse. However, the recent uprisings in the region, the February 20 Movement, the new status of Berber, and the ensuing youth culture are forcing a clear positioning of Moroccan feminisms vis-à-vis the Berber discourse given the millennial and women-related aspect of the language and the culture it carries.

Internet Multilingualism's Impact on Language and Gender Contribution
Tandjaoui, M'hamed (University of Mostaganem, Algeria)

This paper is an attempt to highlight the contribution of Internet multilingualism to language change and its gender manifestations. Internet has significantly contributed to the emergence of 'Internet Language'. Moreover, the multilingualization of Internet made of it a space for more linguistic freedom in all sorts of Computer-Mediated-Communication. The freedom of mixing and switching between languages on Internet might contribute to a certain extent in language change.

Violence Against Women in Egypt Post Arab Spring
Wahba, Dina (Ikhtiyar for Gender Studies and Research)

The Economic Situation of Moroccan Women After the Arab Spring
Yachoulti, Mohamed (University of Meknés, Morocco)

Despites the state's ongoing reforms targeting economic equality between women and men in Morocco, the economic integration of women has actually declined in the recent years, and therefore their ability to become financially independent is being diminished. In other words, Moroccan women namely after the Arab spring have accumulated a progressive and supportive legal arsenal but their economic status has remained surprisingly low compared to those of their male counterparts.

The Impact of Video Games on the Construction of Violent Masculinity
Ziani, Amina (University of Mostaganem, Algeria)

Although, the main function of video games is entertainment, they have a big impact on the players, giving birth to a new phenomenon among young generation, violence. The present paper aims at investigating the impact of violent video games on secondary school pupils who experience playing video games. The findings show that 80% of video game players are addicted to daily playing and 70% of them imitate the violent behavior in the games.