



FEMINISM IN SPAIN: CHALLENGES AND DEBATES TODAY

(Feminismo en España: Retos y debates actuales)

25 OCTOBER 2021

9am-1:30pm (BST)

A half-day Zoom event exploring key challenges for and debates within feminism in contemporary Spain.

9:00 London/10:00 Madrid

Session 1: THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SPAIN

Chair: Laura Favaro (City, University of London)

Talk followed by Q&A and discussion

Ana de Miguel

Reflections on feminism in Spain and its political agenda: What has become of the success of the feminist strike of 8 March 2018?

Talk in Spanish with interpreter available

The objective of this talk is to contribute some key insights for understanding the presence and influence of the feminist movement in contemporary Spain. Spanish feminism is influenced considerably by the English-speaking academic world, incorporating many of its debates, but has its own tradition and forms of thought and action. The talk addresses the causes that may explain the "success" of feminism in our country, specifically the 8 March 2018 mass strike mobilisations throughout the entire Spanish geography: from large cities to the smallest rural areas. Also reflected upon is whether this continuous presence of the movement in the streets is having an effective consequence in the elaboration of feminist public policies, such as in the elaboration of legislation or budgets that are related to the just and legitimate revindications of women.

Ana de Miguel is Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid, Spain), where she directs the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. Ana is also director of the now classic History of Feminist Theory course, which has been taught at the Institute for Feminist Research, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, since 1991. Among her publications are studies on authors such as John Stuart Mill, Alejandra Kolontai, Flora Tristan and Quasim Amin, and she co-edited with Celia Amorós the three-volume work *Teoría Feminista: De la Ilustración a la Globalización*. Her current line of research seeks to understand how inequality among young people is reproduced in formally egalitarian societies, having recently published the article "Sobre la pornografía y la educación sexual: Puede el "sexo" legitimar la humillación y la violencia?" (*Gaceta Sanitaria*). Her most recent books are *Neoliberalismo Sexual: El Mito de la Libre Elección* (2015), *Elementos para una Teoría Crítica del Sistema Prostitucional* (co-ed) (2017), and *Ética para Celia: Contra la Doble Verdad* (2021).

- Short break -

10:30 London/11:30 Madrid

Session 2: YOUTH AND GENDER

Chair: Rosalind Gill (City, University of London)

Talks followed by Q&A and discussion

Emma Gómez Nicolau

Feminism at the crossroads: Understanding youth discourses on gender and diversity in Spain

Talk in English

After the big success of #FeministStrike on 8 March 2018, the legitimacy of feminist claims in Spain seemed to be renewed, mainly among younger generations. Taking this into account, the fieldwork developed to-date includes 9 focus groups with people aged 18 to 30, which aimed to assess how feminism, gender issues and diversity were approached by different groups of young people. A structural sample was established attending two main axes: the global volume of capital (educational and economic) and the degree of resistance/integration according to their political activism and life conditions (social position). Within the 9 focus groups we find a wide range of discursive positions regarding feminism, along with the very conception of femininities and masculinities. In addition, we find different ideological positions and strategies to adapt or resist gender in their daily life. Young people's position regarding feminist and queer activism are diverse and somewhat contradictory, and shaped by their own life experiences and expectancies. The map of discursive positions is discussed in relation to the postfeminist sensibility (Gill, 2017, 2007), the popularization of feminism and popular misogyny (Banet-Weiser, 2018), paying attention to the specific configuration of Spanish feminism and the political and socioeconomic context.

Emma Gomez Nicolau is lecturer in Sociology at University Jaume I (Castelló, Spain). Her research interests are feminisms, menstrual and health activism, and youth studies. Currently she leads a research project on youth resistances to the gender order in Spain. Her latest publications are *Mujeres y resistencias en tiempos de manadas* (UJI, 2021), *Re-writing women as victims. From theory to practice* (Routledge, 2020) and 'Defying the curse: political articulations of menstrual activism' (*RES*, 2020).

Beatriz Ranea Triviño

Feminist young researchers studying masculinity: The case study of young men who demand prostitution

Talk in English

In recent years, masculinity has come to be a central issue within Spanish academia and feminist activism. Currently, in the context of the massive rise of feminism, increasing numbers of young men join demonstrations and protest against patriarchal systems, but, meanwhile, others show resistance to change. This paper analyses one of the scenarios where such resistance is shown clearly: the case of young men who pay for sex. It is argued that prostitution can be understood as a scenario of reconstruction of the gender order, because through the consumption of prostitution patterns of hegemonic masculinity are restored in patriarchal terms. Also considered are the experiences of studying and analysing critically in contemporary Spain articulations of masculinity generally, and the phenomenon of young men's demand of prostitution in particular, as a feminist young woman.

Beatriz Ranea Triviño holds a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology, and is currently Associate Lecturer at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). She has edited the works *Feminismos. Antología de textos feministas para uso de las generaciones más jóvenes, y las que no lo son tanto* (2019), and, with Rosa Cobo, *Breve diccionario de feminismo* (2020). She is the author of the book *Desarmar la masculinidad: Los hombres ante la era del feminismo* (2021).

- Short break -

12:00 London/13:00 Madrid

Session 3: MEDIA AND VIOLENCE

Chair: Ruth Sanz Sabido (Canterbury Christ Church University)

Talks followed by Q&A and discussion

María José Gámez Fuentes

Questioning victimhood, agency and resistance in Latin American and Iberian narratives of gender violence

Talk in English

The purpose of this intervention is to present a very succinct overview of the main areas of debate that Latin American and Iberian film productions open concerning the international discussion on the representation of violence sustained on the gender regime. It stems from the research developed under the umbrella of the volume *Gender-based Violence in Latin American and Iberian Cinemas* (Routledge, 2020), edited along with Rebeca Maseda and Barbara Zecchi, and carried out, in turn, under R+D project 'The re-signification of women as victims in popular culture'.

Our examination will take us to consider the need to expand the debate beyond heteropatriarchal binarisms that equate femininity with victimhood, the neoliberal translations of agency merely in terms of individual empowerment, the privatization/individualization of violence and the erasure of the geopolitical and/or historical inequalities that inform the representation of gendered violence. In order to do that, we deal with film narratives that articulate "unofficial versions" of the violent experience. These film practices juxtapose the stereotype of the powerless, gendered victim with an active female subject, endowed with agency in a variety of forms and in contexts where violence is exercised in the Hispanic world. By doing so, invisibilized memories of resistance brought to light uncover the complexities of giving account. Thus, we see how the films subvert the official discourses, by portraying, for instance, women's active role in the Spanish Civil War, the Franco regime, and Brazil's dictatorial past; women's resistance to Portugal's postcolonial trauma; the gendered nature of the torture narrative in Chile whereby women are cast as victims and men as perpetrators; the racialized nature of torture in Peru; the binary patterns of representation surrounding terrorist violence in the Basque country; the representation of gendered abuse in post-revolutionary Cuban cinema; the framework of structural and historic violence that leads to the pathologization and abstraction of the perpetrators of Mexican feminicidio; the (re)inscription of female agency, female violence and female empowerment in Spanish slash films; and the rejection of heteronormative models and the glamorization of violence in Argentinian horror cinema, among others.

María José Gámez Fuentes is Full Professor in Gender and Media Studies at Universitat Jaume I (Castelló, Spain). Her work appears in journals such as *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Science Fiction Studies*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *International Journal of Iberian Studies* etc. She has been a Visiting Scholar at London School of Economics, Goldsmiths-University of London, and Columbia University, among others. She recently published in Routledge the compilations *Gender-Based Violence in Latin American and Iberian Cinemas* (2020, with R. Maseda and B. Zecchi) and *Re-Writing Women as Victims* (2019, with S. Núñez and E. Gómez).

Sonia Núñez Puente

Diana Fernández Romero

The Ethical Dimension of Testimonies on Sexist Violence in the Digital Environment as a Space for Discursive Dispute

Talk in Spanish with interpreter available

The digital space is configured, in Spain, as a place of dispute of discourses around sexist violence. In this environment, the first-person testimonies of women suffering violence collide with those articulating online misogyny. We are interested in exploring how feminist proposals in the fight against violence are articulating innovative ways to communicate and explore the ethical dimension of these transformative ways of narrating.

Sonia Núñez Puente is Professor of Gender and Media at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid, Spain). Her research focuses on the analysis of social media and the transformation of cultural violence. She has led national and international research and development projects on feminist digital activism and gender-based violence. She has been a Leverhulme Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) and a lecturer at Vanderbilt University (USA). She has been a Visiting Scholar at The University of Cambridge (United Kingdom), The University of Coimbra (Portugal), The University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), among others.

Diana Fernández Romero holds a PhD in Communications. She is a senior lecturer in Communications and Media at Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid, Spain). Her research interests include Discourse Analysis, Communication and Gender, Gender-based Violence and Digital Feminist Activism. She has been Visiting Researcher at Birkbeck, University of London, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin or Università di Bologna. Her recent research has been published in journals like *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Feminist Theory* and *European Journal of Women's Studies*.

Organised by the **Gender & Sexualities Research Centre**, City, University of London

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This event is free to attend, but registration is required here: <https://www.city.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/2021/10/feminism-spain-challenges-debates-today/> nocache