



Nordic-Arab PhD course

Comparative studies of women in public life – theoretical and methodological challenges

PhD participants

Research Abstracts

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Présentation

Depuis sa création, le centre de la femme Arabe pour la formation et la recherche (CAWTAR) mise sur le renforcement des capacités des jeunes chercheurs dans le but de soutenir et d'assurer le renouvellement de la recherche en général et celle portant sur les questions relatives aux droits des femmes en particulier. Le présent ouvrage est une initiative du CAWTAR, en partenariat avec l'université de Stockholm et avec le soutien financier du Swedish Research council, qui s'inscrit dans l'esprit de l'échange des connaissances et de l'enrichissement mutuel entre jeunes chercheurs. Il s'agit des résumés des projets de recherches de jeunes doctorant-es des pays arabes et nordiques ayant participé à un atelier doctoral intitulé « Comparative studies of women in public life – theoretical and methodological challenges » organisé par le CAWTAR et l'université de Stockholm à Tunis les 26 et 27 novembre 2014.

Les deux institutions partenaires ont offert à ces jeunes chercheurs l'opportunité de bénéficier du feed-back constructif des autres participants et d'être orientés par des enseignants universitaires arabes et nordiques : Anika Rabo de l'université de Stockholm, Anette Borchorst de l'université de Aalborg, Nawar Goley de l'université de Sharja, Salsabil Klibi de la faculté des sciences juridiques, politiques et sociales de Tunis et Salwa Hamrouni de la faculté des sciences juridiques, politiques et sociales de Tunis. Ces conférenciers d'honneur ont soumis à l'intention des participants des références bibliographiques, présenté des articles thématiques et commenté les travaux des étudiants aussi bien sur le plan méthodologique que sur le plan théorique en privilégiant la perspective comparative. L'objectif de cet atelier doctoral, coordonné par Maryam Ben Salem, était en outre d'encourager et de renforcer le comparatisme, s'agissant de travaux portant sur les femmes dans la vie publique entre chercheurs du monde arabe et chercheurs nordiques.

Le CAWTAR et l'université de Stockholm cherchent à travers cette brochure à donner une visibilité à ces jeunes chercheur-es et à leur efforts dans la production des connaissances sur les femmes dans la vie publique.

Dr Soukeina Bouraoui
Executive Director of CAWTAR

It is with great pleasure that we present this booklet, which displays the various projects of the young Ph.D. students, who participated in the Ph.D. course “Comparative studies of women in public life – theoretical and methodological challenges”, held in Tunis 26-27 November 2014. The course was organized by CAWTAR and Stockholm University, as part of the larger international research collaboration project, “New Avenues for Influence for Women in Public Life in the Arab Region”, financed by the Swedish Research Council.

During the course, the Ph.D. students presented their projects, and received comments on their theoretical and methodological approaches. Each project was first commented on by one junior and one senior scholar, after which the floor was opened for comments from among all participants. The discussions were lively and there were a rich exchange of ideas.

We want to thank the professors, Anette Borchorst, Aalborg University, Denmark, Nawar Goley, Sharja University, United Arab Emirates, Anika Rabo, Stockholm University, Sweden, Salsabil Klibi and Salwa Hamrouni, both from Tunis University, Tunisia, for their lectures and their commenting on the individual Ph.D. projects. I also want to express my gratitude to CAWTAR, and especially to director, Dr. Soukeina Bouraqui, Dr. Maryem Ben Salem and finance officer Hekmet Zouari for the organization of the conference in Tunis. It has been a pleasure working with you on this project.

With the rapid changes in women’s position in recent years in the Arab countries, it is extremely important to further research on women in public life – as politicians, activists in the women’s movements, journalists, homemakers, workers and entrepreneurs, and participants in the public discourse in traditional media as well as in the new social media. It is the experience from Women’s Studies/ Gender Studies in Sweden and the other Nordic countries since the 1960s, that a profound scholarly knowledge about the structural barriers and discrimination, which women meet, and a better understanding of how promote gender equality, has been very important for political decision-makers as well as for women rights activists, when promoting change. We need much more research on women in public life.

With this booklet, CAWTAR and Stockholm University's Women in Politics Network, WIP want to render increased visibility to the young scholars, who are doing research on women/gender in public life. It is our hope that the international exchange between researchers from the Arab and Nordic regions will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Drude Dahlerup, professor
Dept. of Political Science, Stockholm University
March 2015



Raoudha El Guédri
Faculty of human and social sciences of Tunis
Specialty: Sociology
Level of progress: Second year

Biography :

Raoudha El Guédri is Doctoral student in sociology; she is currently working as a contractual research assistant at the Center for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF). Her previous work has focused on issues like individual's relations to social standards, celibacy, virginity and individualism.

Penser le corps et les enjeux sociopolitiques en Tunisie postrévolutionnaire : pour une lecture des changements actuels

Abstract

Suite au soulèvement populaire de 2011 en Tunisie, provoquant la chute du régime dictatorial de Ben Ali, des changements sociopolitiques considérables se déploient et s'affichent continuellement, en partie au niveau du corps individuel des hommes et des femmes. Le corps semble devenir un lieu où s'inscrivent et s'affichent les conflits présents : des conflits d'ordre spécifique, ce que nous nous permettons de qualifier par conflits de légitimité ou conflits pour la légitimité politique, axiologique et morale en Tunisie transitionnelle. Une légitimité aux frontières fluides, floues, insaisissables et surtout en conflit de reconstruction.

L'objet de cette thèse en sociologie est la compréhension des rapports entre les nouvelles revendications identitaires lisibles sur le corps dans sa parure et ses différentes expressivités et les enjeux sociopolitiques en Tunisie post révolution. Il est péremptoire de noter en amont que l'analyse des enjeux du pouvoir dans son acception purement politique ne fait pas partie de notre objectif de recherche dans le cadre de cette thèse qui s'inscrit dans la sociologie compréhensive des identités. Nous nous concentrons plutôt sur ce que les acteurs sociaux perçoivent comme « enjeux et politiques agissant sur la libre maîtrise de leurs corps », sur la genèse des représentations et des images sociales du soi et de l'altérité sous les effets de nombreux vecteurs actuels tels que les médias et Tic(s), ainsi que des recompositions des liens et des interactions sociaux dans ce contexte d'effervescence sociétale. Ceci dit, les acteurs sociaux ne sont pas dénués de pouvoir sur leurs corps, via diverses réponses aux contrôles imposés.

Le corps ne représente pas un simple support de l'identité individuelle, dans son sens étroit, mais aussi un emblème d'appartenance communautaire, un rapport spécifique à la société, entaché de résistance, d'assujettissement et de conflits. La perspective du lien entre le corps et les enjeux sociopolitiques actuels peut être incluse dans une problématique globale de la construction et d'affirmation de soi qui trouve ses expressions à travers et par le corps, ou ce qu'on peut appeler « individuation corporelle », dans un dialogue avec les enjeux d'une société en transition.



Mohammed Belbacha
PhD Candidate
Mohammed I University, Oujda, Morocco

MOROCCAN WOMEN FULBRIGHTERS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Abstract

This paper sets out to investigate the relationship between Moroccan women's educational travel and social change. Obviously, over the past few decades, many Moroccan women from different walks of academic and professional life were selected as Fulbright grantees within the well-known Fulbright program with a view to improving their professional profiles and broadening their research horizons in America. Back to Morocco, after completing the period assigned to them, many women Fulbrighters, impacted by the cross-cultural education and training they were exposed to, have launched and participated in a plethora of projects and initiatives in the attempt to effect change in their society in light of what they learnt in America. In the course of my paper, the focus will be put on some of these projects and initiatives and the ways they have gone through to induce a feasible social change in the Moroccan society. Equally important, the paper will simultaneously examine the impact of Fulbright program on Moroccan women grantees themselves.

Key Words : Cross-Cultural Education, Moroccan Women Fulbrighters, Social Change.



Hannah Helseth
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Specialty: sociology

MUSLIMS IN THEIR OWN WORDS – AN ANALYSIS OF HOW NORWEGIAN MUSLIMS ARGUE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHT IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE FROM 2000 TO 2013

Abstract

The notion of “The Muslim Women” has played a significant role in the public Norwegian discourse about gender equality, multiculturalism and integration politics. In the period from 2000 to 2013 Women’s Rights and Islam have been presented as an examples of clashes of civilization, to use Samuel Huntingtons contested term. The clash is supposed to be between the liberal value of gender equality and the patriarchal traditions of the migrant community in general and among Muslims in particular. The aim of my research project is to give normative and descriptive account on how self-claimed Muslims, both male and female, argue for Women’s Rights in the Norwegian public between 2000 and 2013. What are the limitations and possibilities for Norwegian Muslims to formulate an agenda for Women’s Rights in the public sphere? By using a bottom-up approach I have analysed 254 newspaper articles written by Muslims and coded them inspired by a Grounded Theory methodology. This empirical driven approach makes it possible to show the heterogeneity of positions among Norwegian Muslims participating in the public debate and to shed new lights on the writings of well-known participants, since what is written is more important than the writer. In the paper I will first give a backdrop to the public discussions about Islam and Women’s rights in the period from 2000-2013 and a brief introduction to the Norwegian media landscape. Secondly, I am going to present the methodological choices and dilemmas in the study. And finally I will present how the actors position themselves as Muslims in the public sphere and how they describe their own role in the debate.



Najia Hichmine
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GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON THE REPRESENTATION OF MOROCCAN WOMEN AND MEN IN THE MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES AND OTHER SECURITY SYSTEMS

Abstract

My interest on gender issues and women's issues more specifically goes back to my study on "Women's and Gender Studies" Master Program, coordinated by Pr. Fatima Amrani. By studying in this master program, I had the opportunity to learn and to discover, at the same time, hidden issues and things that I used to take for granted in the Moroccan society. This learning process thought me to question and analyse every social phenomenon from a gender angle. For these reasons, I have opted for a topic that treats social institutions from a gender perspective, which is "Gender Perspectives on the Representation of Women and Men in the Moroccan Armed Forces and other security Systems". What attracted my attention to such a topic was a personal observation on people's perceptions about women working in the armed forces, policewomen...etc. the challenge of continuing and working on this project, was well inculcated while delivering a presentation entitled "Moroccan Women and Leadership in the Military" during a study day which is organized by the master program. While discussing the issue with the audience, one student interrupted the discussion and shouted 'don't we have enough men to let women serve in and occupy military and security tasks?'

Among the main questions, this study seeks to answer, first and most obviously, it is necessary to focus on what roles women now play in social control and especially in certain key agencies. How far these roles are new and distinctive, how long have women been involved in them? What influences determined in the past, now determine, and may alter in the future, the level of women's participation, its range and significance? Are women effective factors in such institutions as their male counterparts (Are men?) What is the impact of integrating women in police forces and military departments? Does gender make a difference in methods and policies of security systems?

To reach the aim of this topic, I will focus on participation observation, which is appropriate for collecting data on naturally occurring behaviors in their usual contexts. In addition to this, I will use the questionnaire research method; this method enables the researcher to ask all participants identical questions in the same order. The response categories from which participants may choose are "closed-ended" or fixed.



Anna Ryan Bengtsson
PhD candidate
Dept. of Social Work, Gothenburg University, Sweden.

COLLECTIVE POLITICAL ACTION AMONG CARE GIVING OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS IN THE SWEDISH WELFARE STATE FROM AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

My dissertation is about collective and public political action among care giving occupational groups in the Swedish welfare state. Worker's initiatives aiming at highlighting problems within the welfare institutions have lately become a common feature in the Swedish public sector. Personnel, both inside and outside the unions, are publishing open letters, starting networks, blogs and even collectively handing in letters of resignation. They express a situation with deteriorated working conditions, e.g. being controlled with GPS, lowered salaries and an increased workload. Furthermore the workers often state the inability to carry out a professional work and not being able to guarantee the patient's/client's security as reasons for speaking out.

The Swedish welfare state, historically known for its ambitions of equity and equality, has over the last 30 years gone through major political changes in line with the neoliberal paradigm. New public management (NPM) has been heavily implemented and one of my starting-points is how women dominated occupational groups meet these political changes.

I have an intersectional power perspective, which among other things plays out in my interest in how the gain or lack of professional status effects these collective political actions.

My research design is comparative and qualitative, and a few cases (3-4) of “collective actions” will be studied through an ethnographic inspired approach. In this course I would like to bring a global and non-Eurocentric perspective into my understanding and analysis of women in public life. I also believe my empirical case holds an opportunity to deepen the understanding of how intersections of power play out in societies undergoing political change. Especially by revealing rooms for actions that are opened and needed when the political change is dismantling the welfare institutions.



Karl Karim Zakhour
Stockholm University
Speciality: Democratization and Public Space in Tunisia
Progress: 1st year Ph.d

TUNISIA IN TRANSITION. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN INTERIOR TUNISIA

Abstract

The purpose of this research will be to contribute to the understanding of social movements, both in the context of transitional, formerly authoritarian societies, and resource poor areas. By conducting an in-depth case study of social movements and political activism in the interior of Tunisia, I wish to test the applicability of standard social movement models in a South context. I also wish to place my study in the context of the ongoing debates over the role that religion plays in contemporary Tunisian political and social mobilization.



Saja Al Aqrabawi
Jordan University
Master's Degree (Woman's Studies)

THE IMPACT OF GENDER WAGE GAP ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF JORDAN: APPLIED STUDY FOR THE PERIOD (1983-2011)

Abstract

This study aimed to measure the impact of gender wage gap on the economic growth of Jordan during the period (1983-2011), in addition to estimate the gender wage gap in the Jordanian labor market. To attain the objectives of this study, an econometric model was developed to measure the impact of gender wage gap on the economic growth, which was estimated using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) method.

The results of the study showed that there is a clear gender wage gap in favor of men ranged between (9.2%-23.9%) during the period (1983-2011). When broken down by professions, we found women are the most category affected by variations in the wages in most professions, as well as in most economic activities, even in female-dominated activities, as in education, health and social work. In addition there exists a gender wage gap in favor of men at the same educational attainment.

According to the econometric analysis, the gender wage gap has a negative effect on the economic performance of Jordan, measured in terms of GDP per capita; where a (1%) increase in gender wage gap will decrease GDP per capita by (1.72%).



Mais, Osama Alsalah
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Specialty: Women's Studies
Progress: Master's Degree

SAFE FAMILY UNIT'S ROLE IN JORDAN RIVER FOUNDATION IN BATTERED WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT : EVALUATION STUDY

Abstract

This study aimed to identify the role of legal and psychological services as well as the economic and social empowerment services offered by the "Safe Family Unit" in the Queen Rania Center for Women and Children – Part of the Jordan River Foundation- in empowering woman in different aspects, and to identify how beneficial those services was to the women benefited by this service, as well as identifying the strenghts and weaknesses in the nature of the services offered by the "Safe Family Unit", and identifying the social, economic and demographic caractaresitcs of the abused women.

To achieve the goals of this study, the benefited women who frequented the "Safe Family Unit" between December 15th, 2012 and February 15th 2013 were chosen. The study sample included 34 women benefited by the service in addition to 10 women that were intreviewed as part of a focused group.

The study adopted the decriptive approach both in quality and in quantity, using the questionnaire as a method of collecting quantitative data followed by the private personal interview questionnaire with the focus group as a tool of collecting qualitative data and information.

The results of the study showed that of legal and psychological services as well as the economic and social empowerment services offered by the “Safe Family Unit” had a role in empowering women in different aspects as the sessions had helped them make the right decisions in their lives and in dealing with their children and their families in general. Their lives have become more independent than before, also it showed how the women benefitted from the psychological services offered to them in the first place, as they could feel the difference through the sessions that were given to them by the social expert which reflected positively on their psychological well-being and their life in general, moreover, the study showed how the women benefitted from the legal services offered to them in the second place as they pointed out the great impact the service had on solving their problems, and how important that was in solving the problems of many women, and this study further showed that the economic empowerment service was less influential than the other two services due to a shortcoming in the service itself.

Recommendations were given to improve this service in the near future. The study highlighted the strengths in the nature of the services offered by the “Safe Family Unit”, such as the availability and Professionalism of the working staff, offering the services for free and having all the services in one place. It also highlighted the weaknesses which were represented by a slow procedure followed in both the legal service and the economic empowerment service, the lack of follow-up in those two services, the occasional absence of the lawyer and the unavailability of the services around the clock. As for the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the abused women, that issue was tackled and it was noted that the majority of these women were married women of elementary and secondary education. It was also noted that most of them were housewives with low income. In light of these results, the researcher offered a number of recommendations in the field of scientific studies and institutional work.



Dina Tahat
MA, In Women and Gender Studies
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THE PERCEPTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

This study aimed to identify differences in the perception of both men and women over the silent violence which committed against women by family, community, and work place. Also, the study tended to examine the degree to which the existence of differences in the perception of both sexes to this violence based on different demographic factors, including: (age, education level, marital status, years of experience, and monthly income). In addition, the study aimed to identify the most parties that exercise the silent violence against women (e.g., community, family, or work). Finally, to know the perspectives of both men and women regarding the implications of women's vulnerability to violence on their decisions life (e.g., attempt to reach an understanding between the couple and stay in her work, or continue to stay silent and stay in her work at the same time, quit her work and stay home to serve her husband and her child because it's the "normal and natural" role of women as tradition say, or leave both the house and the children and seeking to complete the divorce procedures and stay in her work, or, finally, leave the house, the husband, and work and live in isolation situation in elsewhere). The population of the study consists of both males and females who work in the national, regional, and foreign banks in Jordan. About (312) participants make up the sample of the study, and they were selected by using

convenience sampling from different main headquarters of different banks and their branches spread in Amman. A descriptive approach was used in this study, and questionnaire was developed to measure the differences in the perception of both males and females regarding the silent violence against women. SPSS was used to analyze the data descriptively and statistically. Descriptive data were included in this study such as means, frequencies, and percentages. Also, the study used parametric tests, in particular, ANOVA and T-test statistics to examine the differences between the different groups. The study found that there is gender differences in the perception of silent violence against women and those differences were in favor of females. The fact that females were found to be highly aware of both silent violence and the forms of violence (physical, psychological, social, economic, and gender-based discrimination) committed against them. However, males of this study were found to be less perceived of silent violence, they also were completely found to be not perceived of many of the silent violence stances, so they considered these stances as not violence cases, but these cases were perceived as normal and natural situations. From males' perspective, society, then family, and then workplace were the most parties who are exercising silent violence against women. While from females' perspective, family, then society, and then workplace were the most parties are exercising the silent violence against women. As for the impact of women's vulnerability to silent violence on their life decisions, it was found that , participants (both males and females) agreed on the importance of achieving understanding between couples to get a satisfied solution for both parties and the woman has to stay in her work. The second impact was that women continue keeping silent and doing their work as well. Thirdly, women ask to get their divorce and then keep working at the same time. Fourth, women were advised to leave their work in devout their time to serve their homes and husbands, which this match with the women nature. Finally, women isolated themselves as a response to silent violence against them. The study has a number of recommendations that urge to find the possible ways to reshape the awareness and understanding of societal violence against women. Also other recommendations were included to reforming positive social culture to face these kinds of violence committed against women.



Razan Al Zu'bi
Master Degree in Women's Studies
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YOUTH ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN'S WORK IN TOURISM SECTOR: CASE STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

Abstract

The study aimed to identifying the trends of the youth attitudes towards women's work in tourism sector in Jordan, through the identification of the relationship between the variables of social, demographic and economic variables of the women's work in tourism sector from youth perspective. This study also detects the challenges that prevent the women from working in the tourism sector and its relation with the social, demographic, and economic elements. In addition, it highlights the expectations and solutions that may contribute in increasing the involvement of women in the tourism sector from the youth's perception.

The study population consisted of students of the University of Jordan (both male & female) from the colleges of Business Administration, Languages, History, Tourism and Archaeology, and Information Technology. The number of students that surveyed represents 20% of the total number of students. The descriptive analytical method was applied to the study, whereby a questionnaire tool was developed, further, the program Statistical Package For Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyze data.

The study concluded that there is a positive trend among male and female students towards the women's access to the labor market, despite the existence of positive trend among male and female students towards the women's access to the tourism sector with a medium degree.

There are also statistically significant differences in the trends of the male and female students due to the age and in favor of the ages between (22-24 years). Moreover, there are statistically significant difference due to the college in favor of Tourism and Archaeology College. In addition, there are statistically significant differences due to the number of the family members and in favor of 6 members. Lastly, there are statistically significant differences among male and female students towards the women's work in tourism sector due to place of residence in favor of Badia residents, and in connection with female students in favor of the residents of villages. The results have shown clear awareness by the male and female students in connection with the challenges that prevent women from working in the tourism sector. And there is an agreement between females and males on these challenges. The results have shown that the fourth education term; the age between 22-24 years old; the male and female students of the history and languages colleges; the family income exceeding JD 500; and small-size family as well as the parents' high education level have a positive impact on the awareness of the male and female students to these challenges. As for the place of residency, the female students residing in villages and male students residing in Badia enjoy more awareness of those challenges. The results have shown a clear awareness by all male and female students in connection with the incentives that encourage the women to work in tourism sector.



Aziza Brigui
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FEMINISM AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN POST-ARAB SPRING: LESSONS FROM THE MOROCCAN EXPERIENCE

Abstract

My paper wants to participate in the debate on the role of feminism in transitional justice in the Post-Arab spring era as there is a need to bring women's testimonies as agents of change in transitional processes. Building on the Moroccan experience in dealing with the past, my paper attempts at questioning the gendering of transitional justice and how feminists should invest this paradigm to bring back "the gendered subject" as an object and an actor of gender justice in post Arab-Spring. My paper tries to debate how transitional justice provides a space of staging for women to transform themselves and others; and how it is an empowering tool to achieve cultural reconciliation. In the post-memory era, feminism can empower women to have confidence in their capabilities because of this positive link with their past. Feminism's engagement with transitional justice will not provide only individual reparations but societal reconciliation which and an empowering aspect of women agency.

The rethinking of transitional justice in Morocco through the lens of gender has reshaped the way reconciliation with the past has been gendered/masculinized; feminists now claim the right to rethink the categories used by transitional justice specialists to deal with the truth of the past and to heal the wounds of individuals who participated in the reformulation of nationhood and citizenship; gendering transitional justice is a reformulation and a challenge to the whole truth/reconciliation paradigm into a model that fits women's needs in transitional perspectives (Nancy Frazer, 1989,1996, 2009).

We will build on this approach in a comparative perspective as the Moroccan experience in truth-seeking has been framed within “gradualism and continuity within change regime”; how can we use the same mechanisms of transitional justice in regimes that have known “revolutions”?; can the “justice” and “truth seeking” mechanisms be an angle of vision from which to approach transitional justice from a gender perspective? Gender here can be incorporated as a powerful critical tool in the sense that it can help develop a distinctive methodology which can challenge the unseen masculine biases in the process of transitional justice. The gendering of transitional justice in this sense entails how justice should be mediated by the notion of gender and how transitional justice challenge the prevailing images and stereotypes of gender roles in our society.

These theoretical perspectives, we believe, push the logic towards questioning the practical sides of transitional justice in opting and practicing justice and the best practices of reaching systemic social practices that are historically the best practices to reconcile victims with justice. Redistribution and recognition approaches have been very critical about the dominant discourses in transitional justice; what if these victims refused to take part in public hearings or just opted for silence; the critical perspectives question the hegemonic discourses of mainstream approaches in transitional justice.

The argument goes that there should be a rethinking of the role of the victim, the violent past and the reconciliation with society; the three elements make the argument of this project, meaning that the theoretical perspectives tackle how testimonial narratives engage critically in redefining spaces between the aforementioned elements in order to deconstruct the power dimensions of gender in transitional justice and how empowerment occurs in reconstructing and reconciling reality from the victim’s oral and written narration.



Souad Belhorma
Sidi Mohamed ben Abdellah University- Dhar Mehraz, Fez.
Moroccan Cultural Studies Centre
Gender Studies
Level of progress: Last year

Biography :

Souad Belhorma holds a Bachelor degree in English Studies in addition to a Master degree in women's and gender studies from the University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah. She is a PhD candidate at the same university. Her thesis on women and development focuses on women's work in the informal economy and poverty reduction. She was awarded a research scholarship by the National Centre of Scientific and Technical Research (2011-2014). She worked as a visiting scholar for four months at the political science department at the Aalborg University in Denmark (2011). She worked as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Dhar Mehraz-Fez (2011-2013). She participated in the Nordic-Arab Network- Seminar "WEP Gender Course" at the University of Jordan (2013). She is the author of the book *The Participation of Women in the Labor Force: Women Workers in Primary Schools as a Case Study*. She also authored articles on issues like women's informal work, poverty reduction, Arab Spring and constitutional reform.

INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT IN MOROCCO: LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF WOMEN IN SELF-EMPLOYED ACTIVITIES

Abstract

Women in Morocco make a crucial contribution to the household survival as well as to the national economy, yet this is not recognized as many of them who are employed in the informal sector are invisible. This sector is used to designate that part of the economy that focuses on very small production units. They share in common the use of low capital, low workers' skills, limited access to technology, low and irregular incomes to name but a few. The dissertation aims to study the participation of women in the informal sector and the extent of their contribution through self-employment to the household poverty reduction in the city of Fez. This is done through an analysis of their socio-demographic characteristics and economic situation in this sector. It also discusses their reasons and motives to end up working informally. Moreover, it highlights the potential contribution of women's incomes to the household expenditure and poverty reduction. This is followed by an analysis of the relationship between work and their emancipation, through their participation in political and social life as well as domestic work, and the extent of the interconnections between them. The study also tends to discuss the most important difficulties faced by women working in the informal work activities, and their impact on the development of their capabilities as well as future aspirations.

The study is based on a mixed-methods approach, whereby data were collected using both methods of quantitative and qualitative research. The purpose is to collect information about the respondents and to generate scientific and acceptable results. Simple non-random techniques are employed as criteria for the sample selection. We also worked on the use of descriptive statistical and ethnographic analysis of the data obtained from questionnaires and interviews, which are convergent in nature in order to reach logical conclusions.

The results showed a high participation rate, statistically significant, of Fassi women who work in the sectors of the informal economy. The unregulated work activities can be considered as an important tool to create job opportunities for many women living in difficult social and economic conditions. For instance, all evidence suggests that, in times of economic instability, widespread unemployment and rising financial needs of families, this sector provides a source of livelihood for women. In this regard, working in the informal sector represents a sort of security and flexibility, which provides women with an income and thus to their families. At a time when a large number of families are facing economic hardships and social vulnerability, these women found the courage to go out and search for job opportunities in the unregulated labor market.

Additionally, results revealed that women's incomes through informal activities in the research area contribute positively to the reduction of household poverty. Because of the pressure of the inadequate living budget, the study revealed that most respondents effectively contribute to the financial expenses of the family, where they struggle to secure a source of livelihood as well as increase the productivity, thus their income. Therefore, they attempt to reduce poverty and to maintain the survival and the unity of the family. However, that does not negate the fact that the burden of domestic work responsibilities is a major obstacle that affects the performance of workers in most of the research area.

The results also demonstrated that the emancipation of women, involved in the unstructured work in Fez, has not achieved the desired level. The study revealed that women's participation in political and civil life is almost non-existent due to many reasons. They include social, cultural obstacles as well as the patriarchal society that prevent the effective participation. It also increases their reluctance from political and social work. It should be noted that the participation of women in the informal labor market did not change their traditional roles within

the family, which contributes to their marginalization and the emphasis of the patriarchal system.

The research also showed that many of the women surveyed in the field research are facing many obstacles and difficulties that negatively affect their performance of economic activities as well as limit the development of their economic and social situation. Despite this, and through women's opinions and ambitions, most of them insisted on challenging these barriers and obstacles with determination and a strong desire to express their aspirations and hope for a better future.

Key Words : Women, Informal Sector, Self-employment, Morocco.



Mahmoud Toubbali
Faculty of Letters, Dhar El Mehrez, Fes.
Moroccan Cultural Studies Center (Doctoral student).
Level of progress: third year.

Biography :

My name is Mahmoud Toubbali, I am 28 years old. I have obtained my master degree in 2011 majoring women's and gender studies. I am currently completing my doctorate in the faculty of letters Dhar El Mehrez, Fes, Morocco. My dissertation is entitled: "The Construction of Gender in Hassani Folklore: Proverbs and Oral Poetry as Case Studies".

The Construction of Gender in Hassani Folklore: Proverbs and Oral Poetry as Case Studies

Abstract

Hassani folklore is full of stereotypes and clichés attributed to women among which they are spoiled, troublemakers, untrustworthy, talkative and lazy...etc. these prejudices have affected women integration in society since They are educated to admit their social roles as wives and mothers who are confined to home so as to be responsible for the housekeeping and upbringing of children. Since then, the girl internalizes the importance of marriage and finding a suitable husband becomes her aim in life. The aim of this dissertation is to eliminate and challenge all these stereotypes and empower women through revisiting and rereading of the Hassani folklore. Therefore, this thesis will place focus on the construction of gender in Hassani proverbs in order to examine the position of women in the society under study and to find out how women are represented, perceived and thought of within this culture.

مختلفة بالضرورة عن الأنا الأخرى. وبرز الأنا «الداخلي- الجواني» ، أو «آخريّة الداخل» كما أسمتها Denise Jodelet ، حيث يكون الآخر الداخلي المختلف والمتميز عنيّ والذي ينتمي إلى نفس المجموعة الاجتماعية والثقافية الكبرى التي انتمى إليها ويمكن أن يشكل عنصر إزعاج أو حرج أو تهديد لذاتي، والذي توجد بيني وبينه فروقات إمّا مادية أو جسدية (كاللون، العرق، الإعاقه، الجنس، الخ...)، أو فروقات «أخلاقية» أو «أدبية» من نوع (كنمط الحياة، أو الميولات الجنسية) أو فروقات على أساس الانتماء لجماعات عضوية ما (قومية أو إثنية أو طائفية أو دينية، الخ).

وبدأ تقسيم المجتمع التونسي إلى مسلمين وكفرة، علمانيين ورجعيين، رجالا ونساء، سود وبيض، شيعة وسنة، شيوعيون ولبراليون واسلاميون، جنوبيون وشماليون... الخ، وأعطيت لكل فئة أو جماعة نعوتاً وصفاتاً سلبية في الغالب تمت قولبتها في صور منمّطة، وتشتدّ هذه النعوت في حال وجود صراعات أو اختلافات، وقد تتجاوز في بعض الحالات مستوى التمثّل لتصبح هذه الصور المنمّطة اختزالاً لكيونة الآخر أو تصبح هي فعلاً حقيقة وواقع ذاك الآخر أو تلك الأنا الأخرى. كما تزداد خطورة وسلبية هذه الصفات والنعوت ضدّ من نعتبه «الأضعف» أو «الأقلي» أو «المختلف».

فإلى أي مدى يمكن أن تكون هذه اللحظة التاريخية لحظة بناء لخطاب يؤسس لصورة إيجابية حول الأنا والآخر تستفيد من التنوع والثراء الثقافي والاجتماعي الذي ينتجه الحراك والصراع المجتمعي الحالي لتتجاوز مسألة الأخرية و/أو الغيرية والاختلاف نحو خلق حالة من «النحن» المتعددة والمتعايشة والقابلة لآخرها، والمنفتحة على الآخر الخارج عنها.

وما طبيعة الثقافة التي تنتج الخطاب حول الأخرية اليوم، هل هي ثقافة تفاعل إيجابي قائمة على التسامح ومعرفة الآخر، ومدعّمة للحوار والتبادل والثراء الثنائي؟ أم أنها ثقافة اقضاء وكرهية تساهم عبر آليات اشتغالها ابتداء من التصورات وصولاً إلى اللغة (بما هي حامل رمزي وثقافي) في زيادة كثافة الحواجز النفسية والاجتماعية والتاريخية وتوسيع الهوة ونشر مساحة الكراهية بين الأنا والآخر.

وهل أن الفاعلين السياسيين، بوصفهم القادة المباشرين و/أو غير المباشرين لتونس سواء كانوا في السلطة أو المعارضة، وبوصفهم المساهمين في توجيه الرأي العام والقادرين على الاستثمار في الصراعات الاثنية والجنسية والجهوية والثقافية، لهم ما يكفي من الوعي اليوم لأهمية هذه الفرصة التاريخية لإعادة تشكيل الذات التونسية والتفافها على ذاتها ونشر ثقافة التسامح والقبول بدل ثقافة النبذ والاقصاء وبالتالي الأخرية والغيرية المطلقة.



سليمى مجلدي
كلية الآداب والعلوم الانسانية والاجتماعية
قسم علم الاجتماع

صور وتمثيلات الأنا والآخر لدى الفاعلين السياسيين في تونس بعد جانفي 2011

ملخص

إن البحث في موضوع «الآخريّة» ضروري لفهم العلاقات بين المجتمعات والثقافات وحتى الأفراد، وتزداد أهميّة هذا الموضوع خاصة في لحظات الأزمات والحروب والنزاعات والثورات، حيث تدخل العلاقات البشرية في حالة صراعات أو تفاوض يتم خلالها استرجاع ما تم تخزينه في المخيال الجمعي، وتتولد عنها في الغالب عمليّة تفكيك وإعادة تشكيل لصورة الآخر وبالتالي لصورة الأنا وللهويّة ... وما يلفت الانتباه هو أنه خلال هذه الفترات تقع زيادة التركيز على الصفات السلبية للآخر خاصة تلك التي تشكل خطرا وتهديدا أمام الأنا.

وهناك «لحظات تاريخية فاصلة تشتد فيها الحاجة إلى الاكتشاف المكتنف للآخر» ، ونعتبر أن المرحلة التي يعيشها المجتمع التونسي منذ أحداث جانفي 2011 هي لحظة مفصلية في صيرورة تشكل العلاقة بين الأنا والآخر. ومن الجدير القول أن هذه اللحظة التي نحاول رصدها لا يمكن بأي حال من الأحوال فصلها عن السياق العام الذي يحيط بها، فحالة الحراك الاجتماعي والسياسي والثقافي الذي عاشته المنطقة العربية، والتحوّلات التي بصددها تشكل في علاقة الأنا بالآخر محليا ووطنيا واقليميا ودوليا، لها تأثيرات مباشرة على طرحنا لموضوع الأنا والآخر في تونس.

لقد أعاد هذا الحراك والتغير الثقافي والاجتماعي طرح مسألة «الهويّة» والاختلاف والصراع. وأصبح حديثنا اليوم عن ماهية «النحن» (والمقصود بالنحن هنا هو نحن التوانسه) ضمن «صبغة انشطارية» برزت فيها الأنا الجمعيّة بما هي «أنوات» متداخلة ومتصارعة تبحث في داخلها عن مقومات التوحيد والتوافق أو الصراع لنيل الاعتراف واثبات الوجود بما هي «أنا»



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