Women and the UN: a New History of Women’s International Human Rights

8 March 2022, 12:30 – 13:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

The international legal framework of human rights permeates international diplomacy, gender equality policies and development aid projects. The continuation, however, of colonial patterns of economic injustices and imperialistic tendencies of internationalization and globalization has dominantly cast human rights as a western creation. In the lecture new research on UN history revisits the drafting and conflicts behind key human rights treaties—from the UN Charter in 1945 to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000. In what ways were the universality of human rights and gender equality inscribed in core documents of the UN through contribution thanks to women delegates from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Egypt, Guinea, Togo, Nigeria, the Philippines, Ghana, and Namibia?

Biography of the speaker

Rebecca Adami is Associate Professor at the Department of Education, Stockholm University and Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies). Recipient of the Bertha Lutz Award 2022 for highest quality public writing and research on women in diplomacy. Her fields of research include human rights, history of the UN, and philosophy of education on ethics and social justice. Editor of Women and the UN: a new history of women’s international human rights, author of the book Women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series ‘Know the GAP! Looking for Gender Parity’ organized by Prof. Elisa Fornalé who leads the SNSF-funded research project ‘Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women’s Participation at International Level’ housed at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

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