

Report on the research workshop
Women of Diaspora: Roles and (self) representations
24 June 2016
Gender Institute and Centre for European Studies, ANU

Organisers

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Overview

The one-day research workshop “Women of Diaspora: Roles and (self)representations” was jointly organized by the ANU Gender Institute and the ANU Centre for European Studies. The aim of the workshop was to gather researchers, policy makers and community members to explore the gendered dimension to migration across different ethnic groups. In particular, it was to provide a forum for discussion on the diversity of gender roles, behaviours and attitudes that emerge from migrant women’s self-representations and challenge the understanding of their experience as collective and unifying.

The workshop attracted researchers working in different academic disciplines, including literature, performance, music, photography, film, history, sociology and law, and approaching the issue of gender and diaspora from different perspectives and using different methodologies. The workshop was also attended by policy makers and practitioners working in the field of multiculturalism, ethnicity and gender (incl. ACT Government Office for Women, Department of Social Services and the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia). There were over twenty five participants attending the event. Those who did not intend to deliver a presentation, yet expressed their interest and desire to participate, were welcome to join any of the discussions. The participants created a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment which facilitated exchange of ideas, evidence and expertise.

The workshop consisted of four sessions of three or four speakers, discussions closing each session and concluding reflections. The workshop was opened by Professor Jacqueline Lo, the Director of the ANU Centre for European Studies, who welcomed participants and stressed the value of interdisciplinary discussions, and by Professor Hyaeweol Choi, a member of the management group of the ANU Gender Institute and the Director of ANU Korea Institute, who presented the aims and perspectives of the Gender Institute and commented on a strong research community at the ANU. The convenor introduced the general concepts behind the workshop, their origin and expected outcomes, and presented the plan of the day. Throughout the whole workshop fourteen presentations were delivered, each was followed by a lively discussion involving majority of the participants. At the end, the workshop outcomes and publication plans were discussed and the convenor provided concluding reflections.

The convenor would like to thank the Gender Institute and the Centre for European Studies for their generous support.

Participants

Nineteen researchers, public servants and policy makers participated either presenting their own work or chairing a session and convening a focused discussion that followed each session. There were participants without presentations, who actively joined discussions.

The speakers included: Prof Professor Jacqueline Lo (ANU Centre for European Studies), Dr Ariane Utomo (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy), Dr Nelia Hyndman-Rizk (UNSW Canberra), Dr Jyoti Nandan (ANU School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics), Dr Mary Besemeres (ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics), Dr Sonia Mycak (ANU Centre for European Studies), Dr Monika Winarnita (La Trobe University), Dr Bonnie McConnell (ANU School of Music), Dr Laurence Brown (Australian National Internship Program at ANU), Dr Rosa Holman (Alfred Deakin Institute of Citizenship and Globalisation), Ms Maryam Khazaeli (ACT Government Office for Women), Dr Hyaeweol Choi (ANU-Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies), Dr Margaret Clark (Department of Social Services), Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy), Ms Joyce Das (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy), Ms Ingrid Mboya-Bish (Canberra University), Dini Liyanarachchi (Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia), Dr Madhumita Iyengar (Initiatives For Women In Need), Teena Saulo (ANU Researcher), Dr Kasia Kwapisz Williams (ANU Centre for European Studies).

Evaluation of the workshop

The workshop was very well-received and the convenor was commended on the selection of themes and presentations, and fostering interdisciplinary approach to gender and ethnicity. The participants appreciated the quality of the presentations, diversity of perspectives and research fields, and vibrancy of discussions that followed. They expressed their gratitude to the ANU Gender Institute and the ANU Centre for European Studies for supporting the event.

Stimulation of further research and development of scholarly and community networks

The lively and engaging discussions contributed to developing collaborative networks across ANU and beyond, and, most importantly, to knowledge exchanges between academics and practitioners. Participants commented on the importance of such collaborative projects and concluded that they are motivated and encouraged to pursue further collaboration possibilities. A follow-up event was planned and several small collaborative groups formed. Participants from outside the ANU indicated their interest in subscribing to the Gender Institute.

The convenor has been working on a publication proposal (publication of the research papers in a collected edition or special issue of a scholarly journal), and initiated a collaborative project between the ANU Centre for European Studies and the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, which is to result in publication of policy working papers. Post-workshop collaboration also included developing another event focused on gender equality and organised by the Initiatives for Women in Need, ANU Gender Institute and ACT Government Community Services on 27 August 2016, ANU.

Images

A selection of images taken throughout the event.





Visibility

The workshop was advertised and promoted through a variety of media including the Newsletter of the ANU Gender Institute and extensive mailing list and networks of the ANU Centre for European Studies as well as the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/anuces/>

<http://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/anu-centre-for-european-studies>

http://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/politicsir.anu.edu.au/files/documents/CES_July2016_Newsletter.pdf

Flyer

<http://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/events/women-diaspora-roles-and-self-representations>