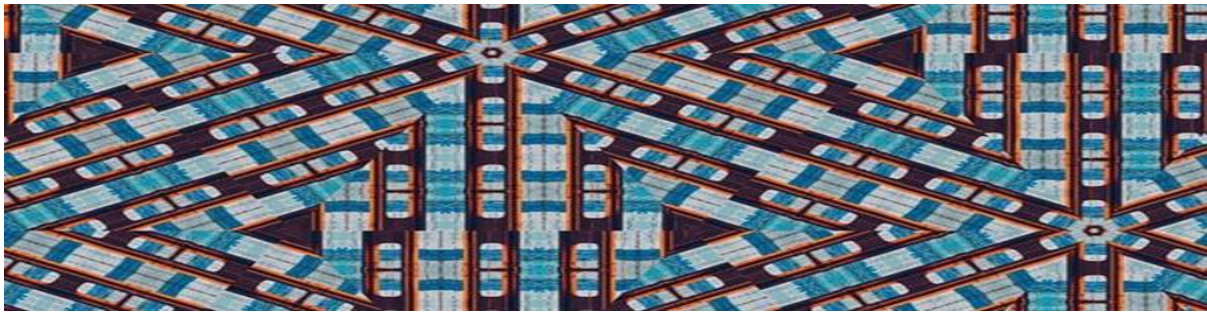


Crossroads:

Intersectionality in Critical Feminist Research, Practice and Policy



The serious limitations of one-dimensional accounts of discrimination, inequality and disadvantage have long been marked with the concept of intersectionality. In a series of conversations with a remarkable set of interlocutors, the Gender Institute explores an urgent set of questions: *How is intersectionality best recognised in research, practice and policy, and how does it translate into movement-building?*

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM

October 8 (5.30pm): Opening PUBLIC FORUM - Facilitator: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

As feminist movements take on new energies in 2021, this forum examines how well the concept of intersectionality serves us in building more self-critical and inclusive approaches.

Speakers: Senator Mehreen Faruqi; Professor Emerita Raewyn Connell; Celeste Liddle; Srilatha Batliwala

October 14 (4pm): Power and policy: what needs to change to create a truly equal and intersectional governance? - Facilitator: Sally Moyle

This webinar will examine whether governments have the will, incentive and capacity to address deeply embedded systemic inequalities and advance intersectional equalities and what intersectional approaches have to offer in terms of achieving a more equal future.

Speakers: Sheena Graham; Melanie Poole; Dr Siobhan McDonnell; Dr Anu Mundkur

October 21 (4pm): Experiencing intersectionality in Australia and beyond - Facilitator: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

This webinar asks: Who is intersectional and how are intersectional inequalities experienced in different locations and contexts? How do subaltern, decolonised or postcolonial perspectives converse with intersectionality? Does intersectionality change our understandings of everyday politics of gender and power, and address different ways of approaching feminism? Finally, it asks, how does an understanding of intersectionality allow us to imagine feminist solidarities in a globalised world?

Speakers: Dr Reshmi Lahiri-Roy; Dr Maree Martinussen; Dr Nilmini Fernando; Dr Romy Listo; Ms Imogen Carr

October 28 (5.00pm): The Travels of Intersectionality - Facilitator: Margaret Jolly

This session will focus on how the notion of 'intersectionality' emerged in feminist theory and practice within social movements, where and when it was named, and how it has travelled not just geographically but through the diverse sites of feminist thinking and action. It will ponder the consequences of Kimberlé Crenshaw addressing the specific situation of black women in the United States of America through a legal lens. Critical analyses of intersectionality by Patricia Hill Collins, Sirma Bilge, Jennifer Nash and Jasbir Puar in North America and Nira Yuval-Davis in Britain will be highlighted.

Speakers: Professor Sirma Bilge; Professor Kate Henne; Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence; Professor Emeritus Nira Yuval-Davis

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October 8: Opening PUBLIC FORUM - Crossroads Facilitator: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

5.30pm - Venue: remote | [Register here](#) | [View recording](#)

As feminist movements take on new energies in 2021, this forum examines how well the concept of intersectionality serves us in building more self-critical and inclusive approaches.

Speakers:

- **Senator Mehreen Faruqi** – *The Moment of Reckoning*
- **Professor Emerita Raewyn Connell** – *Singing in Different Choirs? Intersectionality, Solidarity, Transformation*
- **Celeste Liddle** – *Intersectionality and the left – A look at the shortcomings*
- **Srilatha Batliwala** – *So it's called intersectionality? How else are movements built?*



Senator Mehreen Faruqi

Senator Mehreen Faruqi is the Greens' senator for New South Wales. She is a civil and environmental engineer and life-long activist for social and environmental justice. In 2013, she joined NSW State Parliament, becoming the first Muslim woman to sit in an Australian parliament. In 2018, Mehreen became Australia's first Muslim senator. She has been a passionate advocate against racism and misogyny. Mehreen has been involved in feminist and anti-racist activism throughout her life. She introduced the first ever bill to decriminalise abortion in New South Wales and won the closure of pregnancy discrimination loopholes. Her ["Love Letters to Mehreen" series](#) has highlighted the online harassment, bullying and toxicity experienced by women of colour in public life.



Raewyn Connell

Raewyn Connell retired from a University Chair in the University of Sydney in 2014, and was appointed Professor Emerita. Raewyn is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a recipient of the American Sociological Association's award for distinguished contribution to the study of sex and gender, and of the Australian Sociological Association's award for distinguished service to sociology in Australia. Raewyn's teaching fields have included general sociology, social theory, sociology of education, gender relations, sexuality, and research methods.

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Celeste Liddle

Celeste Liddle is an Arrernte woman, an opinion writer, a trade unionist and public speaker. Celeste started her blog *Rantings of an Aboriginal Feminist* in June 2012. She is currently a columnist for *Eureka Street*. Celeste Liddle is also an accomplished panellist and public speaker. She has appeared at the *Bendigo Writers' Festival*, *All About Women*, *Antidote Festival*, *Women of the World*, and a number of others. She has been a regular voice on radio as well, in particular giving comment to the National Indigenous Radio Service, CAAMA and ABC Radio National. Celeste

Liddle has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in theatre and drama from La Trobe University, a Graduate Diploma in Arts (political sciences mainly) from the University of Melbourne and a Masters in Communications and Media Studies from Monash University. In May 2021, Celeste was announced as the Greens candidate for the inner northern Melbourne seat of Cooper for the next Federal election.



Srilatha Batliwala

Srilatha Batliwala is a feminist activist, researcher, scholar and trainer whose four and a half decades of work has spanned grassroots movement building with marginalized urban and rural women, research and scholarly work, policy advocacy, grant-making, and capacity building of young women activists around the world. Above all, she is well known for building theory from practice, including on women's empowerment, women's movements, and feminist approaches to movement building, monitoring and evaluation, and feminist leadership. She is currently Senior Advisor, Knowledge Building, CREA, an

international organization that works at the intersection of gender, sexuality and human rights, Senior Associate, Gender at Work, a global network of gender experts supporting organizations to build cultures of equality and inclusion, and Honorary Professor of Practice at SOAS, University of London.

October 14: Power and policy: what needs to change to create a truly equal and intersectional governance? Facilitator: Sally Moyle

4pm - Venue: remote | [Register here](#) | [View recording](#)

The relationship between government and citizens is a relationship of power, like any other. In some cases, it is explicit power, but often the power is implicit and informal, shaping the agenda out of plain sight. The vast resources of government amplify the power differentials within society in the relationship between government and citizens.

Democracies ostensibly position government as subordinate to its people and the Australian government has a well-established rhetoric of equality and social justice. In practice, however, power discrepancies and oppressions based on any one or any combination of race, sex, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and other characteristics are replicated and magnified

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by processes of government and law. In Australia, the recent Robodebt disaster demonstrates the power of government to criminalise, alienate and marginalise its most vulnerable citizens.

There are examples, over recent decades, of government providing leadership and incentives to create more equal societies. For example, the Australian government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has recently announced its Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda. The question is whether governments have the will, incentive and capacity seriously to address deeply embedded systemic inequalities and advance intersectional equalities.

Is it possible for government to contribute to an equal future, or will we achieve it despite government and how do these challenges play out in the context of climate change, COVID and the calls for more socially just futures prompted by movements like #BlackLivesMatter and the protests that have taken place in the wake of Brittany Higgins and other #me too movements. What do intersectional approaches have to offer in these spaces in terms of achieving a more equal future?

Speakers:

- **Sheena Graham**
- **Melanie Poole**
- **Dr Siobhan McDonnell**
- **Dr Anu Mundkur**



Sheena Graham

Sheena Graham is a Ngadju woman from Western Australia and is a career officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She is the author of DFAT's Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda which cuts across Australia's foreign policy, trade and economic policy and overseas aid program. Sheena has deep experience in development policy, multilateral negotiations and economic diplomacy.



Dr Siobhan McDonnell

Dr Siobhan McDonnell is a Senior Lecturer at ANU and a Legal Anthropologist who engages in applied work in Indigenous Australia and Oceania around the politics of climate change and disaster, land rights and gender. Her commitment to the practice of applied research means that she produces research that contributes to high-impact policy and legal outcomes.

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Dr Anu Mundkur

Dr Anu Mundkur has extensive practical experience in the fields of international relations (particular focus on human security), gender and international development. She has over fifteen years of professional experience, including nearly ten years working, in different roles, on gender projects funded by the Commonwealth of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia Aid). Currently, Anu is Senior Practice Advisor at Our Watch, a national organisation working on primary prevention of violence against women.



Melanie Poole

Melanie Poole is a public policy and strategy expert, with over a decade of senior leadership experience. Through See Your Change consulting, she helps organisations to maximise their effectiveness and impact, particularly across community engagement, advocacy, government relations and strategic litigation work. She specialises in helping organisations to meaningfully measure work in areas that may initially seem hard to measure, such as advocacy and engagement.

October 21: Experiencing intersectionality in Australia and beyond Facilitator:
Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

4pm - Venue: remote | [Register here](#) | [View recording](#)

Australia's history is written with the blood of Indigenous communities, and racial tensions, white privilege and exclusions have formed part of the story. Before the pain from that history could truly settle, the country turned into 'multicultural Australia', inviting migrants to make it their new home. Does referencing intersectionality to engage the complex identities this history gives rise to change our understandings of race- and gender-based politics or power in positive ways? Or does the growing use of the term risk emptying its specific meanings, and diminishing or instrumentalising feminist politics?

This blended Seminar/Webinar asks: Who is intersectional and how are intersectional inequalities experienced in different locations and contexts? How do subaltern, decolonised or postcolonial perspectives converse with intersectionality? Does intersectionality change our understandings of everyday politics of gender and power, and address different ways of approaching feminism? Finally, it asks, how does an understanding of intersectionality allow us to imagine feminist solidarities in a globalised world?

Speakers:

- **Dr Reshmi Lahiri-Roy** – *"You've got the moon, stop aspiring for the stars": Educational Desire and Transnational Women of Colour in Academia*

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- **Dr Maree Martinussen** – *Carving out your own little stake': Postgraduate female researchers enacting intersectional identities through small celebrations of being the classed 'Other'*
- **Dr Nilmini Fernando** – *What can a 'critical' decolonial Intersectionality praxis look like in the Australian context?*
- **Dr Romy Listo** – *Practicing feminist solidarities across social justice movements*
- **Imogen Carr** – *Encountering Intersectionality: a situated approach to understanding the temporality of lived experiences*



Dr Reshmi Lahiri-Roy

Reshmi Lahiri-Roy (she/her) is with Deakin University's Faculty of Arts and Education. Her research interests include Sociology of Education, Postcolonial Studies, Cultural Studies, Migrant and Gender issues in education along with Bollywood and Diasporic Cinema. Her current research looks at issues of identity and belonging in relation to diasporas with special focus on women migrants within the spaces of education, sociology, and cultural studies.



Dr Maree Martinussen

Maree Martinussen (she/her), is McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow within Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. Maree's approach to studying inequalities spans ethnomethodology, critical discursive psychology, critical education and emotions studies, where the 'little moments' that make up the embodied experience of everyday life take centre stage.



Dr Nilmini Fernando

Nilmini Fernando is Sri Lankan Australian interdisciplinary Postcolonial/Black feminist scholar and writer with research interests in Critical Intersectional and decolonial feminist praxis applied in the fields of migration/asylum, critical race studies, domestic and family violence, and arts- based practice. Currently Research Fellow on a Critical Racial Literacy project and Adjunct Fellow at the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Nilmini is the outgoing Vice President of the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association.

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Dr Romy Listo

Romy Listo (she/they) recently graduated with a PhD from The University of Queensland. Her research explores the role of energy in women's collective organising in urban and peri-urban South Africa, and implications for gendered empowerment. Romy currently works on aged care policy advocacy for migrant and refugee communities at the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA), and was previously Project Coordinator for Equality Rights Alliance, a network of women's and feminist organisations across Australia engaging in policy advocacy

around gender, in both international and domestic forums and settings.



Imogen Carr

Imogen Carr is undertaking her PhD in human geography at the University of Melbourne. With an architectural and design background, her experience bridges spatial and social research methodologies. Her research focuses on the lived experiences of intersectional identities within the public realm, particularly in relation to the micropolitics of place and the presence of difference. Imogen's work uses narrative to explore difference, encounter, and power within place. Complimenting this work, Imogen has been research assistant on a peer-led narrative research which partnered with local government and service

provision to consider challenges to 'rights to the city' in the dense and diverse neighbourhood of Richmond.

October 28: The Travels of Intersectionality Facilitator: Margaret Jolly

5.30pm - Venue: remote | [Register here](#)

Inspired by Sara Ahmed's provocative reversal of 'travelling theory' in feminism this session will focus on how the notion of 'intersectionality' emerged in feminist theory and practice within social movements, where and when it was named and how it has travelled not just geographically but through the diverse sites of feminist thinking and action. It will explore some precursors to Kimberlé Crenshaw's 'intersectionality' (1989, 1991), such as in earlier black feminist movements (Patricia Hill Collins 1990), Floya Anthias and Nira Yuval-Davis (1983, 1989) and highlight the fact that a feminist collection called *Intersexions* was published in Australia in 1991. It will ponder the consequences of Crenshaw addressing the specific situation of black women in the United States of America through a legal lens.

How important was this in how the concept gained traction, even hegemony, for instance in the UN context? Does the adversarial legal context privilege how intersecting crossroads of power bear down on individuals? Can a tendency to *individualise* intersecting inequalities as identities occlude their systemic, collective character and how many inequalities flow from colonising, capitalist forces? How are such questions addressed and redressed in relation to gender and race in North America, the United Kingdom, Australia and Oceania?

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Critical analyses of intersectionality by Patricia Hill Collins, Sirma Bilge, Jennifer Nash and Jasbir Puar in North America and Nira Yuval-Davis in Britain will be highlighted. And how can intersectional feminisms navigate the global environmental crisis which engulfs us all, if unequally?

Speakers:

- **Professor Sirma Bilge** – *The Politics of Intersectionality as “Travelling Theory”*
- **Professor Kate Henne** – *Re-assembling Intersectionality to Confront Technologies of Social Control*
- **Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence**
- **Professor Emeritus Nira Yuval-Davis**



Professor Sirma Bilge

Sirma Bilge (PhD, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris III) is Professor at the Department of Sociology at Université de Montréal, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on ethnic relations, postcolonial/decolonial theories, gender and sexualities, and intersectionality. She founded and directed the Intersectionality Research Unit at the Centre des études ethniques des universités montréalaises (CEETUM) from 2005 to 2010. Her academic research interests focus on intersectionality, racialization and the neoliberal university. Her current research looks at the neoliberal incorporation of minoritized knowledges and producers

in the western(ised) academy.



Professor Kate Henne

Professor Kathryn (Kate) Henne is the Director of RegNet, the ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance, and leads the ANU Justice and Technoscience Lab. An interdisciplinarily trained scholar, she has a PhD in Criminology, Law and Society with specialisations in Anthropologies of Medicine, Science and Technology and in Feminist Studies from the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests are concerned with how entanglements of technoscience and interlocking inequalities contribute to the governance of persons and populations. Her

publications span issues of biomedicalisation, gender regulation in science and sport, human enhancement, surveillance and technologies of policing.

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Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence

Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence is a transformation strategist and social scientist. She is currently Director of Systemic Change & Partnerships at the International Women's Development Agency. Salmah has worked as a director with Deloitte in London and New York and with then UNIFEM in Afghanistan. She specialises in governance, strategy, and the management of complexity, with a particular focus and interest in decolonising practice and decolonial feminism. She is also a non-executive director of WaterAid Australia and an Adjunct Fellow at Macquarie University. In her scholarly life, she researches decolonial ethics and epistemology

and is particularly interested in the gender norms of matricentric societies. Her PhD thesis examined these norms in the matricentric Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea where her roots are.



Professor Emeritus Nira Yuval-Davis

Nira Yuval-Davis is Professor Emeritus, Honorary Director of the Research Centre on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) at the University of East London. She has been the President of the Research Committee 05 (on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnic Relations) of the International Sociological Association, founder member of Women Against Fundamentalism and the international research network on Women In Militarized Conflict Zones and has acted as a consultant for various UN and human rights organisations. She has written widely on intersected gendered nationalisms, racisms, fundamentalisms, citizenships,

identities, belonging/and everyday bordering as well as on situated intersectionality and dialogical epistemology.