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RC32 NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a fabulous beginning to the new year! As 2019 comes to a close, there is much to consider. As feminists, we are very fortunate to participate in an international group like RC32: Women, Gender, and Society that allows us to unite in the continued fight for social justice for women, men, and non-binary persons of all ages, abilities, races, religions, creeds, cultural backgrounds, and sexualities across the globe. It is distressing to look back on the past decade's rise in dictatorships and autocracies.

Analyses point to a global recession of democracy that is especially troubling for women and marginalized populations. Yet, there is also reason for hope. We mark the end of 2019 with mass movements of people rising together to resist this new authoritarianism, and women are generally at the helm to fight economic inequality, corruption, environmental crises, and inept government. In addition, the past year has witnessed an amplification of alliances between feminist and LGBTQ+ communities, such as campaigns to push for gender-neutral and inclusive language in Germany and Argentina.

Here are some more highlights. On January 1, 2019, women joined hands in Kerala, India, to form a symbolic wall that stretched over 480 kilometers to protest the prohibitions on women of menstruating age from entering the Sabarimala temple, a destination site of millions of devotees each year. Two days later, two women were finally able to push their way into the temple, sparking clashes between protesters and the police. This event points to the growing importance of the fight in favor of women's rights and religious freedoms in India. This year also witnessed the emergence of #MeToo-style movements in Nigeria and other parts of West Africa. Women spoke out against the sexual abuse, harassment and rape they have long suffered in silence. In northern Nigeria, a young woman tweeted that her boyfriend had almost killed her. Soon #ArewaMeToo – Arewa meaning 'north' in the local Hausa language – entered the Twittersphere. Yet elsewhere on the same continent, Kenya considered whether it would join South Africa to become the second African country to legalize same-sex marriage. Instead, unfortunately, the Supreme Court upheld a British colonial-era law outlawing sodomy and same-sex relations. However, powerful feminists

like filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu have helped to lead the fight against these restrictive laws. Kahiu is suing the government after it banned her 2018 film “Rafiki,” the first Kenyan movie to be selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Earlier this year, 16-year old Greta Thunberg galvanized the youth to strike all across the globe to protest against the current inaction to stop climate change. As the 2019 closes, I wish to focus on these important exemplars as hope for the new year and inspiration for our upcoming ISA Forum in 2020.

The theme for the ISA Forum – Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality – provides an opportunity for us to consider sociological analyses of these anti-democratic trends and the social movements that challenge this move to global authoritarianism. RC32’s sub-theme on “Global Inequalities in the 21st Century: Gender, Sexualities, Intimacies, and Intersectionality” will focus on the important role that gender and sexualities play in these dynamics. RC32 will host a Common thematic session – Gender, Democracy, and Inequality in Latin America – in partnership with RC-10: Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self- Management, GT CLACSO (Consejo Latinoamericano Ciencias Sociales), and GT Argentinian Sociological Association (AAS)’s Gender & Society section. This common session will examine gender inequalities and their intersections with other relevant categories to analyze the social consequences of rightwing setbacks, as well as movements for social justice, in Latin America.

RC32 has organized a dynamic program for the 2020 Forum. We received 334 proposals for 24 sessions. This was a huge success and provides evidence of the importance of our RC and its thematic. We received the largest number of proposals and the second highest rate of proposals by session. Thank you to all of you who sent in proposals and for your work to continue the growth and strength of our RC. Finally, do remember that all presenters must register by March 19, 2020 to be included in the program.

Our winter newsletter highlights an article written by Bandana Purkayastha, long-time RC32 member and former Secretary/Treasurer, on her 2019 book co-authored with Farhan Navid Yousaf on human trafficking (Human Trafficking: Trade for Sex, Labor, and Organs, Polity Press). Bandana is winner of the 2019 Jessie Bernard award of the American Sociological Association, and this book is an excellent example of her innovative research that exemplifies the values and goals of RC32 to shine light on social justice issues relating to global and international politics.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members for their support and work this year – Alicia Itati Palermo (Secretary), Manashi Ray (Treasurer), Shweta Majumdar Adur (Newsletter Editor), Marlise Matos and Solange Simoes (Co-Presidents Elect), Akosua Adomako Ampofo and Josephine Beoku-Betts (Past Co-Presidents), and our Regional Representatives Agatha N.T. Eguavoen (Nigeria), Tayo Ola George (Kenya), Bula Bhadra (India),

Ignazia Bartholini (Italy), Francesca Alice Vianello (Italy), Jan Marie Fritz (USA), and Peruvemba Jaya (Canada). I am offering a warm welcome to our new Regional Representatives: Kumiko Nemoto (Japan), Rima Majed (Lebanon), Azam Khatam (Iran), Nana Oishi (Australia), Sofia Stri (Sweden), Capitolina Diaz (Spain), Ochy Curiel (Dominican Republic), Sue-Anne Barratt (Trinidad and Tobago), Rosalie Aduayi Diop (Senegal), Roseanne Njiru (Kenya), Myrna Dawson (Canada), Hara Bastas (USA). You will find their biographies in this newsletter. I look forward to working with our Board and Regional Representatives in the coming years.

Warm wishes for the new year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Melanie', followed by a large, stylized oval flourish.

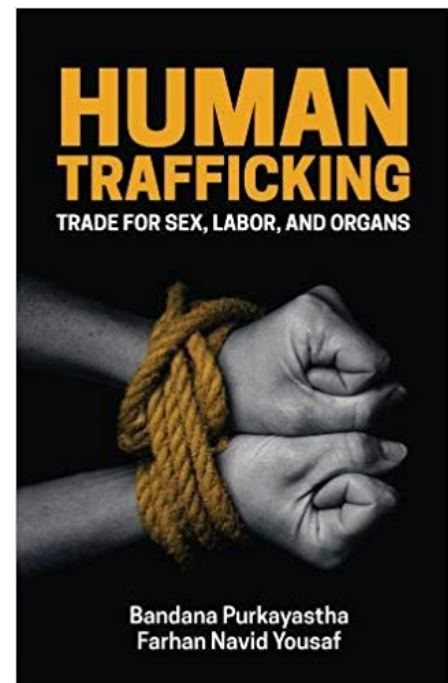
Melanie Heath

A Reflection on Trafficking

By. Professor Bandana Purkayastha
University of Connecticut, USA.

Over the 21st century, the lines between trafficking, different forms of forced migration, and international migration have increasingly become blurred. More and more countries have begun to develop and enforce laws that encourage short term migration for labor without providing any political rights to these migrants. In effect, migrant workers are being placed within systems of modern indenture where their lives are shaped subject to the employers who do not have to worry about the political rights of workers to resist their exploitation. These conditions affect highly skilled workers from the Global South and workers who provide “low skilled” critical labor such as care work. During the same time trafficking has rapidly grown into a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry, as traffickers profit from recruiting, moving, and placing people in situations where they are exploited for sex, labor or organs, or two or three of these at different points of their lives.

Feminist scholars and activists have worked for decades to build awareness of trafficking of women and have engaged in vigorous debates about the conceptualization of trafficking, as well as the methodologies used to assess it. However, the work is mostly, though not exclusively, focused on trafficking for sexual exploitation. Farhan Yousaf and I (Bandana Purkayastha) recently published a book on Human Trafficking: Trade for Sex, Labor and Organs. (Polity Press, 2019) where we have argued that trafficking, like migration in general, exists on a continuum, where one form merges with another. An individual might experience more than one form of exploitation within the course of their lives, as others--who use force, coercion, fraud, deception, and/or abduction--recruit, transport, harbor, receive and exploit them for sex, labor or their organs. While the multi-billion dollar efforts to combat trafficking for sex exist in multiple countries, exploitation for labor and organs often traverse legal and illegal arenas. We examine these three forms of trafficking, the methodologies for studying trafficking and analyze some of the policies and country reports on trafficking. We demonstrate that trafficking has many precursors. On the demand side, the current globalized economy continues to look for cheap, contingent labor. There is a continuing (and, perhaps, expanding) demand for sex directly or through a rapidly growing pornography industry. With improvements



in medical technology and a culture of expectation for long and healthy lives in different parts of the world, there is also an ever-growing demand (often legal) for organs for transplantation. At the same time many people are eager, even desperate for new and/or better opportunities as armed conflicts, natural disasters, and continuing (as well as deepening) inequalities locally, regionally, and internationally, lead to disruptions of ways of life and displacements. Improvements in transportation and communication make distant places appear more reachable to people who are looking for better opportunities. Yet, at the same time, we are witnessing rapidly growing restrictions on legal migration. This disjuncture, between a potentially mobile population, including populations that are displaced, and a world of political restrictions on migrants' mobility, as well as the growth of legal and illegal industries and networks that trade in human beings for exploitation, undergird the worlds of trafficking.

About the Author:



*Bandana Purkayastha, a long-time member and former Secretary Treasurer of RC-32, is a Professor of Sociology and Asian & Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut. She is the recipient of several noteworthy awards. She was awarded American Sociological Association/Asian American section's **Contributions to the Field (career) award in 2016**, and UCONN College of Liberal Arts and Sciences **Research Excellence award in 2019**. Recently, she was awarded the **2019 Jessie Bernard award**, by the American Sociological Association (ASA). This award, considered the highest award for gender scholarship by the discipline, is awarded each year to a*

foundational scholar in Sociology. Bandana Purkayastha received this award for her significant contributions to "national and global scholarship on gender theory" and that she "vigorously steer[ed] feminist organizations through difficult times towards stability and growth." ASA's award announcement also mentioned "The scholars who nominated Dr. Bandana Purkayastha were exceptionally enthusiastic about her impact on gender studies across multiple domains and her innovative scholarship, institutional leadership, and mentorship. Purkayastha, Professor of Sociology and Asian & Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut, has an enviable publication record of 14 books, and over 50 peer-reviewed articles and chapters. She is a nationally and internationally respected sociologist conducting path-breaking research on gender theory, migration, Asian studies and human rights." She has served as the National Representative of the United States to International Sociological Association (ISA) during 2014-2018 and currently serves on ISA's executive committee (2018-2022).

OUR NEW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

AFRICA

i) **Dr. Rosalie Aduayi Diop** – Bio not available

ii) **Dr. Roseanne Njiru** from Kenya. teaches Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Connecticut, USA, and a Masters in Sociology from the University of Nairobi. Her research and teaching interests span the areas of gender, feminism, health, modernity, development, colonialism, political economies, election conflicts and internal displacement, human security, and peacebuilding.

As world economies continue to globalize, governments lose influence, private enterprises (the market) gain power, the effects of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's structural adjustment policies continue to bite, etc. People imagine the continent of Africa in terms of the often-problematic tropes of 'Africa in Crisis' or 'Africa Rising.' Our agenda – as people concerned with women and gender in Africa – is to consciously examine how these intersecting dimensions affect women, men, gender, and gender relations in all social institutions considering the varying contexts in the continent to avoid homogenizing experiences. While these changes create more challenges and burdens on majority of people, they, at the same time, offer opportunities for women (and men) to question, lobby, and create transnational networks to demand for justice, gender equality and equitable and sustainable 'development.'

Thus, as a regional representative for Africa, she hopes to, as much as she can, highlight research and activism on women and gender from around the continent as well as explore new areas for research. At the same time, she recognizes the extremely low representation and participation of scholars and practitioners residing in Africa in the ISA, generally, and in the RC32. She will proactively seek to enlist new members into RC32. As a person who studied in America and came back 'home' after completing studies, she can attest to the fact that most people are not aware of the existence of the ISA and the research committees. She shall disseminate information on ISA and RC32 to networks and listserves of academics, researchers, and practitioners involved in women and gender issues. Making RC32 visible and increasing participation and representation from Africa are two very important steps towards successfully fulfilling most of the responsibilities set out for the regional representative. These will be her two major goals in her time as the regional representative for Africa.

ASIA

i) **Dr. Kumiko Nemoto** is Professor of Sociology and Research Director in the Department of Global Studies at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. Her research focuses on gender, work, organizations, and institutional conditions. Prior to her appointment in Kyoto, she taught as a tenured associate professor of sociology at Western Kentucky University, from 2005 to 2014. She completed her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of *Too Few Women at the Top: The Persistence of Inequality in Japan* (Cornell University Press, 2016) and *Racing Romance: Love, Power, and Desire among Asian American/White Couples* (Rutgers University Press, 2009). Nemoto has also published in a number of journals, including *Gender and Society*, *Work, Employment & Society*, *Gender, Work & Organization*, *Journal of Family Issues*, and *Research in the Sociology of Work*. Recent publications include “Global Production, Local Racialized Masculinities: Profit Pressure and Risk-Taking Acts in a Japanese Auto-Parts Company in the United States,” in *Men and Masculinities* (2018), and “Co-constituting Migrant Strangers and Foreigners: The Case of Japan” in *Current Sociology* (with Miho Iwata; 2017). Nemoto was named the Sociologist of the Month in December 2018 (with Miho Iwata), *Current Sociology*. She also served as an editorial board member for the journal *Gender & Society*. Nemoto is currently working on research regarding gender differences in career mobility and pathways in Japan, Norway, and the United States. It is her honor to be involved in building coalitions with gender scholars and specialists and to utilize her expertise and experiences to support the functions of the RC32. Serving on RC32 as a regional representative would allow her to work for the further expansion of regional services to build members’ research, enhance their careers, and practice collaborative work with various leaders and stakeholders of ISA. She is committed to increasing support for research on women and gender and to promoting the public recognition of members’ contributions within and outside of Asia. She has learned the value of fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity among members in the region through communication. She would like to contribute to advancing diversity and inclusivity by incorporating a wider range of voices into RC32.

AUSTRALIA

i) **Dr. Nana Oishi** is an Associate Professor in Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne. Prior to her current position, she was a Professor of Sociology at Sophia University in Tokyo, and Policy Analyst at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. She completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Oishi’s research expertise lies in gender, migration, and social inclusion. She is the co-author of the ILO’s first report on female migration in Asia (Lim & Oishi 1996) and the author of the book titled *Women in Motion: Globalization, State Policies and Labor Migration in Asia* (Stanford University Press), which addressed the impacts of gender-differentiated emigration policies on women. In recent years, she has focused more on the plight of young women from the Global North, particularly the situations of au pairs from Europe, North America and Asia. The second pillar of her research

centers around skilled migration and inclusion. She published Australia's first study on minority representation in academia, *Workforce Diversity in Higher Education*, addressing the severe under-representation of Asians, particularly Asian women in Australian universities. Dr. Oishi has served various government committees on immigration policies in Japan. After she moved to Australia, she served the United Nations Expert Meeting on Migration, Development and Social Protection. She held various positions of responsibility, including the Deputy Director and Research Chair at the Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne, the Board Member of the Japan Association of Migration Policy Studies, the editorial board of Routledge book Series on Asian Migration, *Asian and the Pacific Migration Journal*, and *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration*, and International Steering Committee of the International Metropolis. She is a recipient of various awards, mostly recently the ISS-OUP Award from the Oxford University Press and the Institute of Social Science at the University of Tokyo in 2019.

Dr. Nana Oishi is willing to contribute to RC32 by promoting further research on the issues of gender and intersectionality in diversity, mobility and care work in Australia. She is particularly interested in addressing (1) the inclusion of minority women in academia; and (2) emerging neoliberal forces that increasingly push young women from the Global North to work overseas under precarious and exploitative conditions in care sectors. As a Japanese woman who has work experiences in Asia, North America, and Europe, she hopes to support and foster further research collaboration between scholars in Australia and those in various parts of the world, particularly in the fields of gender, migration, and inclusion.

EUROPE

i) **Dr. Capitolina Díaz**, Professor of Sociology (University of Valencia), teaches mainly Sociology of Gender and Gender Perspective in Research and Innovation. She has long standing experience in academic associations: She has been the President of the Spanish Association of Women Scientists and Technologists (AMIT), President of the Asturian Sociological Association, Member of the executive committee of the European Sociological Association and of the Spanish Federation of Sociology. At the University of Valencia, she founded the Women in Science Research Group (Grupo de Género y Ciencia). She has been General Director for Women and Employment (Ministry of Equality (2008-2010); Counsellor of Science in the Spanish Representation in front of the EU (2008) and Director of the Women and Science Unit 2006-2008. Her main fields of research are Sociology of Gender, Gender Analysis Methodology, Sociology of Education and Public Policies with a Gender Perspective. On these fields she has authored and co-authored more than 100 papers, books and book chapters. The most recent are: "Menores en disputa. Custodia, visitas y patria potestad en la Comunidad Valenciana" 2019; "Transformaciones y definiciones en la práctica social de las mujeres" 2018; "Mujeres de ciencias, mujeres en las ciencias, ciencias con mujeres" (2018); "The ownership and distribution of money

in Spanish dual-income couples Gender differences and the effects of some public policies" (2017); "An open path for gender equality in research: When women scientists question the state of science and the institutions embrace the criticism" (2017). Among her latest research projects are: "Gender Salary Gap and Gender Care Gap"; "Gender salary gap at universities"; "Gender hidden bias in big data" and "Inclusion of Gender Analysis in Scientific Research". She has been visiting fellow and lecturer in several universities such as Stanford and Harvard in the USA; UNAM, UAM and Ibero in Mexico; Buenos Aires and Comahue in Argentina; Moa in Cuba, etc.

One of her main goals for the coming period is to promote a larger participation of European feminists -mainly from Southern Europe- in ISA RC32 and to disseminate ISA RC32 activities among them. To do so, she'll use the channels that she has as a result of her membership in other scientific associations. She would like to pick up new trends and new issues, both from theoretical debates and from grassroots feminist movements, to include them in new RC32 meetings and other ISA events such as PhD schools and ISA publications. She'll try to create synergies between RC32 and other associations that she is connected with (European sociological associations and European gender equality in science associations). Members are welcome to contact her for any of the mentioned activities or any other proposal that you would like to take ahead.

*ii) **Dr. Sofia Strid** is a Senior Lecturer and Docent in Gender Studies, School of Humanities, Education and Social Science at Örebro University, Sweden, and Co-Director of GEXcel International Collegium for Advanced Transdisciplinary Gender Studies. Her background is in social science (BA in Political Science, BA in Philosophy and Social Theory, and a PhD in Gender Studies), and with previous positions in Political Science at Linköping and Örebro Universities, Sweden, and in Sociology at Lancaster University. She lectures and supervises in Gender Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Social Work, Law, and Health. She is a member of the boards of the Nordic Association for Women's and Gender Research (NORA) and the Swedish Association for Gender Researchers, and the former editor of the Nordic Journal for Gender Studies.*

Dr. Strid's research interests include feminist and social theory, with a particular focus on the politics and production of violence. One of her current research projects, the Swedish Research Council-funded Regimes of Violence: Theorising and Explaining Variations in the Production of Violence in Welfare State Regimes (together with Senior Professor Jeff Hearn and Dr Dag Balkmar, Örebro University, and Dr Anne Laure Humbert, Oxford Brookes University) examines the extent to which there are different violence regimes, comparable to welfare regimes and gender welfare regimes, and generates a complex post-disciplinary theory of violence.

As a regional representative for Europe, Dr. Strid is motivated by the excitement to actively contribute to the further development of RC-32 through increasing participation and membership from across all of Europe – in particular its semi-periphery and from junior and early career scholars.

LATIN AMERICA/CARRIBEAN

i) **Dr. Sue-Ann Barratt** is a Lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, holding a BA in Media and Communication Studies with Political Science, MA Communication Studies, and PhD Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. Her research areas are interpersonal interaction, human communication conflict, social media use and its implications, gender and ethnic identities, mental health and gender based violence, and Carnival and cultural studies. She is dedicated to gender awareness and sensitivity training through face-to-face sessions and mass media outreach. Her goal is to mainstream gender responsiveness through a number of key areas, including climate justice, gender based violence, mental health and cultural norms. The aim is to develop responsiveness as part of a social consciousness achieved through research based advocacy, activism and knowledge production.

ii) **Dr. Ochy Curiel** was born in the Dominican Republic, and resides in Colombia. She has a PhD and Masters in Social Anthropology from the National University of Colombia. She is also a specialist in Higher Education, Mention in Social Sciences of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Bachelor of Social Work from the Pontifical Catholic University Mother and Teacher, Dominican Republic. She is a professor-researcher at the National University and the Javeriana University in Bogotá, Colombia. She is also an activist associated with the lesbian-feminist movement, anti-racist, autonomous feminism and decolonial feminism. She is a member of the Latin American Group of Feminist Studies, Training and Action (GLEFAS) and Tremenda Revoltosa, feminist batucada

(Dr. Curiel's notes on the region): This year 2019 has been very moved throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region. Haiti was the country where massive mobilizations began from September until today against the policies that increasingly impoverish the Haitian people, so thousands of protesters press to depose President Jovenel Moïse, who has sustained a government based on corruption.

Ecuador followed. 15 days of the month of October, workers and workers, indigenous movement, neighborhood population, teachers and teachers rejected the economic measures and reform proposals of President Lenin Moreno that affected the most impoverished sectors.

Today, Chile has been mobilizing against economic and social policies for 57 days and a general rejection of the entire political class and the institutional discredit accumulated in recent years.

In Bolivia thousands of protesters, mainly indigenous, took to the streets against the coup d'etat given to Evo Morales and the process of change that has allowed the participation of Indigenous peoples in institutional spheres, and that placed the country as the one that best managed to

improve the economy of the entire continent and remove thousands of Bolivians and Bolivians from poverty.

It was followed by Colombia with the so-called national strike, a series of mobilizations throughout the country against the "paging" of the government of Iván Duque that includes predatory environmental policies, a tax reform that allows to enrich the big businessmen, corruption and attacks on peace process by the government, among others.

In all these mobilizations different actors and actors are present: trade unionists, master teachers, women's and feminist movements, LGTBI population, Afro and indigenous population, and many and many young people, despite the excessive repression by governments, despite the violations of women by the military, of ruthless racism towards indigenous and black peoples. All this puts us in a great challenge: to avoid the sectorization of the struggles and try to make a systemic analysis of racism, (heterosexism) classism and also geopolitics. As we have learned from black and decolonial feminists.

MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

*i) **Dr. Azam Khatam** is a senior researcher at the Center for Social Research in Tehran and visiting scholar at the City Institute at York University in Toronto. She represents the Middle East region at RC 32 and wishes to expand the academic networks in and out of the region working on women's issues raised by recent developments in the region, including the impacts of war, political upheavals, and new military alignments in the region, as well as issues framed by environmental crisis, economic shifts, housing, and urban cities, and cultural transformations in the region.*

(Dr. Khatam's notes on the region): 2019 in the Middle East and North Africa was a year of key political shifts with important developments for women. In this year, MENA saw five uprisings with different trajectories, the civil war continued in four countries and elections led to key changes in others.

Women played major roles in all the uprisings, including Algeria, where people have been in the streets for almost a year demanding the removal of the governing system. Now they are witnessing an attempted counterrevolution through a presidential election. In Sudan, where the clips of Alaa Salah a young woman leading powerful protest chants against President Omar al-Bashir went viral, the uprising led to a positive transition. The Iraqi government is facing a major challenge by protests demanding a radical change of the ethno-sectarian power-sharing system put in place after the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. For the first time in Iraq's recent history, massive groups of women joined the street protests against the government.

2019 was a tough year for the Iranian women who had to face with U.S. sanctions and "maximum

pressure" campaign against Iran while resisting the suppressive acts of their own government in the deadliest political unrest since the 1979 revolution. In mid-November, when the government announced a shift in its gasoline subsidy policies, protestors took to the streets at the margins of large cities and 150 small and provincial cities across the country. The 10 days protests faced with the worst crackdown since 1979.

The ongoing civil wars in Yemen, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan have escalated the deaths of civilians, especially women and children, turned the cities to ashes and created massive relocations. There is not much research on the situation of women living inside Syria and Libya, but research on Syrian and Libyan refugees living outside the countries (6 and 1 million) has documented the gendered aspects of the refugee crisis. In Afghanistan, where the state remains weak and had to start the negotiation with Taliban fighters, Afghan women's rights activists have tried to be part of the cease-fire negotiations in 2019, making sure the peace talks would not diminish the process of top-down empowerment of women in Afghanistan after 18 years of war.

Elections delivered transformative changes in semi-democratic regimes in the region. The local elections in Turkey were a historic blow for President Erdogan, as the secular and leftist parties won the local election in the large cities. Ten thousand women took to Istanbul's most famous street in International Women's Day. Leaders of separate but increasingly connected secular and Muslim feminist movement among them, chanting: "We aren't silent, we aren't scared, we're not obeying." Tunisia also continued to consolidate its political transition with the election to the presidency of a respected constitutional law professor, supported by women activists.

***ii) Dr. Rima Majed** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon. She is currently the Regional Representative for the Middle East and West Asia region at ISA's RC32. Her research focuses on the fields of social inequality, social movements, gender and intersectionality, identity politics, sectarianism, conflict and violence. She holds a PhD and an MSc in Sociology from the University of Oxford. Dr. Majed was a visiting fellow at the Mamdouha Bobst Center for Peace and Justice at Princeton University in 2018/2019. She is currently on the advisory board of the Women and Gender Studies Initiative at AUB, and she serves as a board member of MARSAS Sexual Health Center in Lebanon. Dr. Majed is also a research fellow at the Center for Lebanese Studies, University of Oxford. Her work has appeared in many academic journals and media platforms including Mobilization, Global Change, Peace & Security, Routledge Handbook on the Politics of the Middle East, Global Dialogue, Idafat: The Arab Journal of Sociology, Al Jumhuriya, Open Democracy and Al Jazeera English.*

As a Middle East and West Asia representative, Dr. Majed wishes to focus her work at ISA's RC32 on bringing in a feminist, decolonial and intersectional approach to studying the second wave of uprisings that has erupted in the region since 2018 in countries such as Algeria, Sudan,

Iraq, Iran and Lebanon. Building on important activist and academic works that have been done in the region since the first wave of uprisings in 2011, Dr. Majed plans to work on developing the body of feminist research on the most recent uprisings. She also hopes to organize talks, workshops and events that will strengthen the networks of feminist scholars in the Middle East and West Asia.

NORTH AMERICA

i) Dr. Hara Bastas - Bio not available

ii) Dr. Myrna Dawson is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence (CSSLRV; www.violenceresearch.ca), University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. She is Director of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability (www.femicideincanada.ca) and Co-Director of the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (www.cdhipi.ca). Dr. Dawson is Past-President of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) (2018-2019) and Founder and Co-Chair of the CSA Violence & Society Research Cluster. Within the ISA, she is a member of Women, Gender, and Society (RC32), Sociology of Law (RC12), and Deviance and Social Control (RC29).

For over two decades, her research has focused on trends and patterns in, and social/legal responses to, violence with emphasis on violence against women and girls and femicide. She established the CSSLRV in 2005 with funding from the Canadian Foundation of Innovation. In 2008, taking up the position of Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Criminal Justice, she received funding to expand the CSSLRV to mobilize knowledge about effective violence prevention through rigorous research, to exchange knowledge to inform policy, and to train future researchers. She is a long-term member of Canada's first Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (Ontario). Dr. Dawson has been an International Visiting Scholar at various universities including University of Melbourne (2011), University of Queensland (2012), Griffith University (2016) where she is currently Adjunct Professor, and Queensland University of Technology (2019). She is author/co-author/editor of numerous publications and reports including Woman Killing: Intimate Femicide in Ontario, 1991-1994; Violence Against Women in Canada (2011); and Domestic Homicides and Death Reviews: An International Perspective (2017). She is published in multiple journals across a variety of disciplines, including Current Sociology, Trauma Violence & Abuse, Child Abuse & Neglect, Violence Against Women, and Journal of Interpersonal Violence. She has presented research and delivered keynotes in Australia, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Dawson's past and current research projects can be viewed at <http://www.violenceresearch.ca/creatingknowledge> and publications and reports can be retrieved from <http://www.violenceresearch.ca/mobilizingknowledge>.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two volumes on gender and practice published in the *Advances in Gender Research (AGR)* series by Emerald Publishing: AGR 27, *Gender and Practice: Insights from the Field*, edited by Vasilikie Demos, Marcia Texler Segal and Kristy Kelly and AGR 28: *Gender and Practice: Knowledge, Policy, Practice*, edited by Marcia Texler Segal, Kristy Kelly, and Vasilikie Demos. The volumes examine the part gender has played in forming public policy; identifying obstacles or pushbacks to achieving gender equity; and explaining how gender equality/equity has been achieved in various institutional settings. Emphasis is placed on practical aspects of gender with some attention paid to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5, gender equity. The volumes include contributions from Brazil, Canada, Kazakhstan, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Uganda among other countries. They were prompted in part by a request from the newly formed *Society of Gender Professionals* for scholarly sources members can use in doing their work. To learn more about AGR 27 go to <https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Gender-and-Practice/?K=9781838673840> and for AGR 28 go to <https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Gender-and-Practice/?K=9781838673888>

RECENT ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Bhadra, Bula. 2018. "Contract Pregnancy and Contract Mothers: Partners in Development or Gendered Development?" *Social Science Gazetteer (official Journal of Indian Social Science Association)* 13 (1)21-52.

Hagemann-White, C. 2019. "Redress, rights and responsibilities: Comparing European intervention systems." *Journal of Gender-Based Violence* 3(2)151-165.

Melanie Heath. 2019. "Espousing Patriarchy: Conciliatory Masculinity and Homosocial Femininity in Religiously Conservative Families." *Gender & Society* 33 (6): 888-910.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

CFP : THE CANADIAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Sociological Association is preparing for its Annual Conference scheduled for June 1-4, 2020 at Western University in London, Ontario. The theme is 'Resisting Racism and Colonialism.' RC members may be interested in sessions being organized by various CSA Research Clusters including, but not limited to, Critical Ethnicity and Anti-Racism; Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care; Feminist Sociology; Gender and Sexuality; Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization; as well as Violence and Society. Please check out the list of sessions being organized at <https://www.csa-scs.ca/conference/en/> or the diverse array of CSA Research Clusters at <http://www.csa-scs.ca/research-clusters>

CFP: THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE "DECENT CARE WORK? TRANSNATIONAL HOME ARRANGEMENTS"

Conference Information: The conference will be held at the Goethe University Frankfurt on May 27-29, 2020.

The ageing of industrialized societies in combination with the absence of an adequate (welfare) state response is engendering an alarming deficit in care work. This has paved the way for the commodification of care, formerly a typical case of feminized, reproductive work, carried out informally and unpaid within the family. This conference examines if and how a sea change concerning the commodification and formalization of elderly care work is gradually affecting the public understanding of "decent" work and "decent" care. Thereby, it draws on the findings of a collaborative research project of transnationally operating care agencies, which recruit migrant live-in carers from Central and Eastern Europe for work in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The conference seeks to bring this study into dialogue with the findings of current international research. It offers new insights by bringing together researchers in the fields of migration, labor, gender, care markets as well as care workers' organizations. By highlighting deficiencies in the economic, political and social regulation of elderly care work, it aims to shed light on the fundamental contradictions between decent care and decent work.

Information on Abstract Submission:

Abstracts may be submitted until Friday, January 31, 2020 at 11:59pm (**extended deadline**) through the ConfTool application at the following address: <https://www.conftool.com/decent-care-work2020/>. Participants will be notified of the Program Committee's decision by early February 2020. We welcome proposals from researchers at all stages of their career. For more details please contact us via email: decentcarework@soz.uni-frankfurt.de.

*WISHING EVERYONE A SPECTACULAR 2020!
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING, CONTRIBUTING AND
READING OUR NEWSLETTER.*