



# Gender politics and contemporary counterpublics: Conceptualizing feminist activism beyond the co-optation vs. resistance dichotomy

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This lecture offers perspectives on gender politics in contemporary feminist counterpublics as differentiated from hegemonic feminisms that operate within a state-civil society-global governance nexus. Based on recent research (2017-2020) on the agendas, organizational forms, and political strategies of contemporary feminist activism in Turkey, I discuss that counterpublic feminisms tend to take more autonomous, informal, horizontal, or small-scale structures, and have an intersectional approach to gender politics. At the same time, the demarcation line between hegemonic and counterpublic feminisms is contingent as a.) the feminist counterpublic temporally expands and shrinks based on the specific agenda at hand, and b.) counterpublic feminisms often seek alternative ways of institutionalization which might lead to coopted relationships with institutions, local state structures, and social movements. Conceptualizing feminist activism beyond the co-optation vs. resistance dichotomy may help researchers to understand feminism as a fragmented, multi-layered movement and to better grasp the complex relationship between feminist politics and the historically specific contexts in which it operates.