

On the Move: Gender and Race in the era of hyper-globalization

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Our lecture prioritizes intersectionality in order to historicize the trajectory of women and LGBT activism in the region. We find that this trajectory, far from being straightforward, is rife with contestations that help nuance our understanding of state-society relations, the place of religion and culture, the enmeshment of governance with historical racialization processes, and the relevance of our hyper-connected and globally-mediated relations to issues related to gender and sexuality. To this end, we explore a range of cases, including the controversies surrounding the 2022 Qatar World Cup and the kafala system, the failed promises of the "West" as a haven of liberty for women and LGBT bodies escaping sexual discrimination and oppression, and the promises (and limitations) of transnational activism and solidarity work.