

Feminism/s Without Borders?: Perspectives from France and the U.S.

A symposium co-organized by NYU's
Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality (CSGS) and Institute of French Studies (IFS)

***October 16th, Friday
10:30 AM to 7:30 PM***

La Maison Française
16 Washington News
off University Place between
8th Street and Washington Square Park

This symposium will put scholars from the U.S. and France into conversation to explore how feminist movements have been divided over such differences as class, religion, sexuality, and race; how feminisms have been institutionalized by the state and by global institutions; and what kinds of alliances are possible across difference (including national difference). Different social and political contexts in France and in the U.S. have come to shape different feminist agendas and alliances in these countries. While French feminisms had to deal with the rhetorical frame of universal and secular Republicanism, U.S. feminisms were faced with the specifics of their racial history as well as the dismantling of the welfare state. Yet, French and American feminisms have constantly fueled each other, from the influence of Beauvoir in the U.S. to the recent importation by French feminists of the notions of postcolonialism and intersectionality. Invited speakers will address and speak from their national contexts, but will also move beyond the national to get to questions about feminisms and the transnational. As a transnational feminist project, then, this symposium moves to ask how ideas travel, what (and who) gets lost in translation, how and which global institutions (for example, the UN, NGOs, internationalized universities) come to shape feminist agendas in different countries.

10:30 AM: Welcoming remarks and introduction

Dean Catharine R. Stimpson (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, NYU)
Edward Berenson (History, NYU)
Frédéric Viguier (IFS, NYU)

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM: Institutional Legacies of Second-Wave Feminism

Laure Bereni (IFS, NYU)
Rana Jaleel (American Studies, NYU)
Discussant: Victoria Hesford (Women's Studies, SUNY Stony Brook)

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM: Feminism and Religion: Current Controversies

Nacira Guénif-Souilamas (Université Paris 13 / IFS, NYU)
James McBride (Liberal Studies, NYU)
Discussant: Ann Pellegrini (CSGS, NYU)

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM: The Future of Intersectionality

Elsa Dorlin (Université de Paris 1- Panthéon Sorbonne)
Robert Reid-Pharr (Graduate Center, CUNY)
Discussant: Nacira Guénif-Souilamas (Université Paris 13 / IFS, NYU)

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM: Keynote: Feminism's Difference Problem

Joan W. Scott (Institute for Advanced Study)

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come basis.
For more information, please call IFS at 212-998-8754 or visit CSGS at csgsnyu.org.