

CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM SUBMISSION FOR GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

WOMEN, GENDER, and SEXUALITY in the MENA and diasporas



The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Women, Gender and Sexuality Educational Initiative at the University of Illinois at Chicago is pleased to announce our inaugural Symposium on **April 6, 2022, with Keynote Address by**

Prof. Suad Joseph

- Are you an undergraduate or graduate student with interests in the study of women, gender, and sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa or in MENA-related diasporas?
- Are you working on an interesting project or paper in your classes or community?
- Would you like to share your ideas with a broader audience?

We invite you to share your research and join the conversation! The symposium event is open to students, researchers, and activists in the Chicagoland area. We encourage undergraduate students to participate in the symposium. You can participate in several ways:

- Share your class project or final paper
- Organize a roundtable discussion or panel discussion with a group of students on a shared topic
- Lead an interactive workshop activity (eg. embroidery, film screening, zine-making, yoga, meditation, etc.)
- Showcase your poster presentation

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- History of women's activism and feminist movements (eg. cultural and social transformation, nonviolent movements, women's rights),
- Gender rights through legal reform (eg. family law, gender-based violence, education, voting rights),
- Citizenship and governmentality (eg. class oppression, authoritarianism, secularism, Islamist regimes, political activism, religious authority),
- Sexuality and Health (e.g. sexual orientation/gender identity change efforts-also known as conversion therapy-and mental health; sex communication; abstinence/virginity; sexual behaviors; safer sexual practices, etc.)
- Artistic and creative productions (e.g literature, women's salons, graffiti and "the Arab Spring", comics, etc.)
- Mothering and Reproductive Justice
- The impact of war and militarism on concepts and practices of gender and sexuality

Presentation Guidelines

The symposium will offer space to connect with other researchers, faculty, and students from different disciplines. Your presentations should be accessible to an interdisciplinary audience. You can choose to present your research in various states of development (from ideas and questions you would like to pose to developed research you want to share). We would like the symposium to be interactive. Please consider planning for audience discussion through shared questions, short reflective writing prompts, small group analysis, or other thought experiments in addition to your presentation.

Individual Proposal (for paper, workshop, poster, etc.)- must include:

- Title
- Short paper description (no more than 250 words)
- Contact information (author's name, university affiliation, email address)
- Resume

Panel Proposal / Roundtable Discussion (no more than 500 words)- must include:

- Title
- Short description of the topic of the panel (50-100 words)
- Short description of the papers or commentaries by each of the participants (50-100 words each)
- Contact information (authors' names, university affiliations, email addresses)
- Resume of all participants

To APPLY: submit your proposal by **February 13, 2022:** <https://forms.gle/p4JRvCsnQ5RudfPM6>