



Does Feminism Matter? Women and Gender in Egyptian Politics Today

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The 2011 Egyptian uprising brought to the international attention the images of women taking to the squares and demanding bread, freedom and social justice. These images are not new to Egypt's feminist historians. Contemporary women's political activism in Egypt is rooted in one century of feminism, which is documented in words and images, and which is a key component of Egyptian political and cultural history. What are the origins of Egyptian feminism? How does the movement intersect other social movements, such as human rights activism? What are the present-day challenges faced by Egyptian feminists? These are some of the questions discussed in this talk, which, highlighting continuities and fractures in contemporary Egyptian history, sheds-light on women's resilience against the "uses and abuses of gender" (Scott, 2013) to legitimize political authority in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Egypt. This talk challenges the idea that gender and sexuality are marginal categories to analyze Egyptian politics, and it transcends the borders between national, international and transnational women's history.