

**Call for Papers
Workshop
on**

15 June 2023

Organised by Jean Monnet Chair on

Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST)

hosted by the Department of Political Science and International Relations

Bahçeşehir University

Beşiktaş, Istanbul

Promoting gender equality has been at the core of the EU's agenda since the incorporation of equal pay for men and women in Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Since then, the EU's gender equality regime has evolved, with a series of directives and regulations on non-discrimination in the 1970s, and the adoption of gender mainstreaming with the signing of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995. Despite the EU's self-congratulatory proclamations as a beacon of gender equality in the world, the growing literature on gendering EU studies and the Europeanisation of gender equality policies in the EU identifies failures in generating sustainable changes in the lives of women and girls and addressing feminist and intersectional voices. The instrumental approach of the EU in treating women's rights with the broader objective of economic growth and development is also criticized. Moreover, the EU is being criticized for constantly "othering" third countries in its neighborhood, underlining their failures to adopt "European values" and often attributing this failure to these countries' culture and traditions (Kunz and Maisenbacher, 2017). Similar colonial tropes about Europe versus the rest of the world can be found in the content of the EU's gender equality policies. In other words, Borrell's call for the gardeners to move out of their safe spaces and to take care of the "jungle" out there is also reflected in the EU's mechanisms of influencing third countries in a top-down manner.

While previous studies have enriched our understanding of why the EU has failed to achieve positive outcomes in women's lives and problematized the gendered nature of EU policies, they have not engaged with the coloniality and epistemic hierarchies embedded in the content of the EU's gender equality policies. Eurocentric knowledge production patterns accord disproportionate credit to the EU-level drivers of positive change. We invite bridging EU studies with decolonial and epistemic injustice approaches (e.g., Fricker, 2007; Medina, 2017; Mignolo, 2021) and embracing decolonial thinking regarding the EU's "promotion" of positive change. Therefore, the workshop and the planned special issue seek to apply feminist standpoint and epistemic injustice approaches to offer a more comprehensive understanding of interpreting EU policies around the globe. It aims to break these androcentric distortions, adopt a feminist and decolonial approach, and single out feminist and intersectional voices in the making and interpreting of the everyday outcomes of EU policymaking (Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm and Cin, 2021).

Therefore, we invite proposals that move beyond conventional and male-dominated knowledge production patterns and prioritize women's episteme in researching and teaching the EU. As such, we invite proposals to address the epistemic injustice women are exposed to in the political discourse of EU politics and encompass a feminist and epistemically pluralistic rationale towards researching, teaching, and discussing EU-related topics, from mainstream areas ranging from foreign policy to cultural policies.

The topics include, but are not limited to:

- Gendered and racial institutional practices in EU politics and policymaking
- Anti-gender movements and gender backlash
- Decolonial and participatory methodologies in researching and teaching the EU
- Androcentric masculine discourse, spaces, and discussions in EU politics
- Questions of epistemic diversity and resistance in the EU
- Feminist and Decolonial resistances in civil society within the EU and beyond

This workshop is organized as part of the Jean Monnet Chair on “Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond” (FEJUST), funded by the European Commission. The workshop will take place at Bahçeşehir University on June 15, 2023 (full day) in a hybrid format, and arrangements for online participation will be made for those who cannot travel to Istanbul. The selected abstracts will be invited to be part of a special issue in a gender- and/or politics-related journal. We particularly invite early career researchers, representatives of civil society, educators at different levels, local, national, regional, and European-level policymakers, and the media to participate in our workshops.

Abstracts (max 400 words) should be sent to fejust@bau.edu.tr with the title - FEJUST Workshop before **15 May 2023**.

Timeline:

Drafting of the special issue proposal and deciding on the journal: July 2023

Author meeting for follow-up on proposal: September 2023

Revision and submission of the special issue proposal: October 2023

Progress Workshop 1 (Hybrid): January 2024

Progress Workshop 2 (Hybrid): April 2024

Final Submission: May 2024

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