

# Gender and Postsecularity.

## Tensions and transformations in knowledge production and popular culture

26–27 Nov 2021  
online conference

You can register at <https://gender.univie.ac.at/veranstaltungen/gender-and-postsecularity/> before  
22 November 2021



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A cooperation of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the Gender Research Office, the platform *Gender ambivalent in\_ visibilities* as well as the Department of Education at the University of Vienna and the research network *Transforming Values. Gender, secularities and religiosities across the globe.*

The Conference comprises four panels:

*Panel 1*

*Setting the frame: Postsecular/-ist  
feminist knowledge production*

At the start of the conference we would like to reflect on secularism as well as power relations and negotiations between secularity and religion in the Western world and academic research.

*Panel 2*

*Postsecular perspectives:  
The Western imaginary of the hijab*

In the second panel, we would like to debate Western assumptions and the imaginary of the Islamic veil and women who wear it. Until this day, Christianity is the in\_visible cultural norm, forming the basis for local understandings of secularity and thus affecting both academic and political arenas. However, it persists in a state of “cultural blindness” (bell hooks 1996). As other religions are being constructed as negative surfaces for one’s own religion and/or secularity, a hierarchy of religions and ‘cultures’ is being established.

*Panel 3*

*Queer-feminist and decolonial  
theologies*

The third panel will focus on queer-feminist and decolonial theologies that have questioned patriarchal as well as fundamentalist (monotheistic) religions over the last decades.

*Panel 4*

*Queer-feminist religious/spiritual  
iconographies*

The fourth panel will focus on the contemporary art, pop culture and media, which have left behind neither their religious memory nor the iconographic legacy of Christian religion, even though monotheistic religions have lost some of their importance during the last decades. However, such religions continue to thrive in secular societies, disguised by visual culture, where they occupy the space of desire that religion once held.

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Friday, 26 November

13:30 Welcome  
Sabine Grenz and Doris Guth

14:00–15:30 Panel 1 *Setting the frame: Postsecular feminist knowledge production*  
Lecture: Kim Knibbe  
Response: Chia Longman, Kavita Maya  
Moderation: Sabine Grenz

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:30 Panel 2 *Postsecular perspectives: The Western imaginary of the hijab*  
Lecture: Sophia Arjana  
Response: Nadia Fadil and Bettina Mathes  
Discussion: 40 min  
Moderation: Olga Sasunkevich

17:30–18:00 Coffee break

18:00 *Performance „Witchkitchen“*  
Konstanze Hanitzsch (<https://konstanze-hanitzsch.de/hexenkueche>) and Perel (<https://perelstudio.xyz/>)

Conference concept:  
Doris Guth  
Sabine Grenz

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Saturday, 27 November

13:30 Welcome  
Sabine Grenz and Doris Guth

14:00–15:30 Panel 3 *Queer-feminist and decolonial theologies*  
Lecture: Sa'diyya Shaikh  
Response: Melissa Wilcox and Susannah Cornwall  
Moderation: Maki Kimura

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:30 Panel 4 *Queer-feminist religious/spiritual iconographies*  
Lecture: Elke Pahud de Mortanges  
Response: Susanne Lanwerd and Mariecke van den Berg  
Moderation: Doris Guth

17:30–18:00 Coffee break

18:00–19:00 Panel 5 *Concluding panel and plenary discussion with Sabine Grenz, Doris Guth, Konstanze Hanitzsch, Maki Kimura, Olga Sasunkevich, Nella v.d. Brandt*

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