



Département des Langues et Civilisations

Call for paper

Women: from objects to becoming subjects: Political Power, Legal Discourse and Professional Equality

'Women: from objects to becoming subjects: Political Power, Legal Discourse and Professional Equality' is the theme of the new international and interdisciplinary symposium that the Department of Languages and Civilizations of the Université Toulouse 1-Capitole will hold on January 16-17, 2015 within its premises. Scholars are invited to focus on women's and gender studies and to examine the topic of women as subjects. Rejected from the patriarchal society, excluded and discriminated against, women have always had to fight long battles to reach social and political inclusion in Western countries as elsewhere in the world. Such a (r)evolution has allowed women to evolve from a subordinate status to that of being political subjects in their own rights.

In the course of the 20th century, women secured voting rights, access to education and professional activities in many countries. Barriers to employment of women were considerably lowered, even though they have not completely disappeared. And in spite of such victories (some managed to become Heads of State) much needs to be accomplished. The difficult conquest of equal rights for women has even generated a lot of questioning and theoretical paradoxes in the field of women's studies. On the one hand, equality in legal status and equal opportunities was thought to lead to the abolition of gender discrimination. Yet, what was witnessed was the gradual feminisation of entire sectors of activities and the widening gap between men's and women's earnings, which questions the validity of feminism as a political ideology. On the other hand, some feminist scholars within the field of gender studies support the idea of a female specificity, which seems to contradict the quest for equality and can appear as essentialism in a new guise.

The aim of this symposium is to explore the implications of that paradox and possible contradiction both on a theoretical and a practical level, from the real life experiences of women engaged in politics in peace time as well as in armed conflicts, in the economy and in the field of law and of administration throughout the world.

The topic under scrutiny is not restricted to legal studies. Papers on art, literature, culture are also welcome. The organizers seek to bring together specialists from different disciplines (historians, geographers, sociologists, philosophers, specialists of psychology, literature, etc.) to debate on topics including, but not necessarily limited to, the following issues:

- Is there a feminine way of judging, working and governing?
- Women and associations: another way of conceiving power?
- Women, men and changes in the family sphere
- Women, finance and economics : from traditional societies to globalization
- Women and power : new legislations
- Women and conflicts : victims, accomplices, active guerilla members in conflicts
- Women and politics : Latin-American women's emancipation, indigenous women's organizations, Arab women and revolutions
- Women's voices (writers, film directors, artists), commitment and claims
- Women and/as marketing objects?
- Media representation of women from minorities
- Women: their commitment through literature from the 19th century to the present day.

Papers can be presented in French, English, Spanish and Catalan. An online publication will follow the symposium, in which case participants will be invited to submit essays based on their presentations.

The deadline for the submission of proposal abstracts (maximum 200 words) is September 20th, 2014. The proposals should include, along with the paper abstract, the paper title, a short biographical note (150 words), academic affiliation and contact information, as well as 5-6 keywords. Abstracts in Word Document (.doc / .docx) formats should be written in English and French and should be sent to gabrielle.massol@ut-capitole.fr.

Participation fee: 60€ for participants and professors; 30€ for PhD students

Scientific and organizing committee : Christine Dualé (UT1 Capitole, Laboratoire: CAS Axe 5, GENA, Toulouse II), Michel Martínez (UT1 Capitole, Laboratoire : FRAMESPA UMR 5136 Toulouse II, CRIMIC EA 2561 Paris 4), Gabrielle Massol (UT1 Capitole, Laboratoire : CRIMIC EA 2561 Paris 4), Anne-Marie O'Connell (UT1 Capitole, Laboratoire : LAIRDIL, Toulouse III).

Organisation: Département des Langues et Civilisations de l'Université de Toulouse 1 Capitole.

