Biographies of Contributors

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Biographies of Speakers

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Deepika Bahri is Associate Professor in the English department at Emory University, Atlanta. Her research focuses on postcolonial literature, culture, and theory. She has written several articles on postcolonial issues in journals and book collections. She is currently working on the representation of Anglo-Indians, Eurasians, and racial hybrids in postcolonial literature. HIV/AIDS in developing countries is a secondary research interest. Based on preliminary research in this area, she has written a report entitled *AIDS Prevention and Control in Tamil Nadu* for USAID/CDC. She earned her Ph.D from Bowling Green State University in 1992 and taught at the Georgia Institute of Technology before joining the English department faculty at Emory University in 1995.

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**Larissa Barbosa**

Larissa Barbosa is Brazilian and a journalist who has been living in Switzerland for 4 years. After working as an activist with the community and free radios movements in Latin America, she achieved a Master in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva where she started reflecting and doing research on gender, development and international migrations but also on feminism, gender and postcolonial theories. In 2007-2008 she was an assistant with the Gender and Development Programme of IUED, now the Graduate Institute, Geneva. In June 2008, she was admitted in the Swiss doctoral school on gender studies (2008-2011). Her PhD
research is entitled “Expressions and consumption of ‘latinidad’ in Switzerland: gender, corporalities and transnational migrations”.
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**Sara Bracke**
Sarah Bracke is a feminist scholar, teacher, film maker and activist based in Brussels. She received her Ph.D. in Women’s Studies from Utrecht University in 2004 and currently holds an Assistant Professorship in Sociology of Religion and Culture at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Her academic work deals with questions of modernity, religion and secularisation; female agency and subjectivity; and the production of knowledge and feminist standpoint epistemology. She is presently investigating “the post-secular” conjuncture looking at the ways in which female pious subjectivities (in Christian and Islamic traditions in Europe) challenge the secular underpinnings of feminist and social theory. She is active in the transnational European NextGENDERation network (http://www.nextgenderation.net) and the Belgian NextGeneration project on challenging white privileges (www.gebrokenwit.be), and was one of the organisers of the NextGENDERation interventions at the European Social Fora, as well as the Not in our Names campaign. She is currently working on a video essay, Pink Camouflage, about the intersections of sexual politics and the war on terror.

**Michel Carton**

Holding a PhD in science of education from the University of Geneva, Michel Carton has accomplished his academic career at the Faculty of psychology and science of education of the University of Geneva (up to 2002) and at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva where he had a professor position and which he has headed between 2004 and 2008. He is currently professor and deputy director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.  
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**Ochy Curiel**

Ochy Curiel is from the Dominican Republic and currently lives in Colombia. She teaches at the National University of Colombia and she is an active member of the Gender Studies Group and the Social Studies Center at the National University of Colombia. She is also a consultant and evaluator for independent research and education on feminist, anti-racist and lesbian issues. She has conducted research on the political strategies of afro-descendent women groups in Brazil, Honduras and the Dominican Republic from 2003 to 2005.  
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Janine Dahinden
A social anthropologist, Janine Dahinden is professor of transnational studies and director of the MAPS – the Maison d’analyse des processus sociaux (Center for the Understanding of Social Processes) at the University of Neuchâtel. She is a specialist on issues such as mobility, migration, social networks, ethnicity, culture and gender. She is also a partner of the Doctoral school on gender studies of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF).


Nomboniso Gasa
Nomboniso Gasa was the Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa. A political activist against apartheid whose first of many detentions was at age 14 in the former Bantustan, Transkei, she has a keen interest on feminisms in Africa. She is pursuing postgraduate research at the University of South Africa’s Department of History. Her current research focus is primarily on “Ubudoda: The making of a man amongst amaXhosa”, a feminist study of the process of male initiation, drawing from comparative experience across the continent and other rites of passage, including those undergone by women diviners and spirit mediums. She has previously published on gender, democratisation and political transformation in South Africa and Nigeria (where she worked for several years). She has written and published extensively in newspapers and journals on political and social commentary, culture and identity and development issues.


Kaveri Ishwar Haritas
Kaveri I. Haritas is a Phd. Student at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies. She is a lawyer by background and has
worked on policy and law reform projects aimed at gender equality, particularly on domestic violence and sex selective abortions. She has worked with several organisations including Amba, Lawyers Collective, the Karnataka State Commission for Women and UNICEF, before she began her studies at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. She has been accepted at the Swiss doctoral school on gender studies (2008-2011) and has won a scholarship by the SNF to prepare her PhD research on the subject “Women’s political commitment in India; new postcolonial paradoxes on gender equality confronted to class and caste issues”.

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Kalpana Kannabiran is Professor of Sociology at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India and founder member of a women’s collective, Asmita Resource Centre for Women where she coordinates research and legal outreach for women. She was Chair of RC32 (Women in Society) of the International Sociological Association from 2002-2006 and General Secretary of the Indian Association for Women’s Studies in 1998-2000. Her areas of specialisation are Sociology of Law, Jurisprudence and Gender Studies. She received the Rockefeller Humanist in Residence Fellowship at Hunter College, CUNY 1992-1993 and VKRV Rao Award for Social Science Research in the field Social Aspects of Law in 2003 from the Indian Council for Social Science Research and the Institute of Social and Economic Change. A contributor to the Economic and Political Weekly and The Hindu, she has co-authored a volume of essays. She is also a contributor to the Routledge International Encyclopaedia on Women and the History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilisation, Volume IX Part 3 (New Delhi: Sage, 2005). Kalpana was a Member of the Expert Group on the Equal Opportunities Commission, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India in 2007-2008.

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**Azadeh Kian-Thiébaut**

Azadeh Kian-Thiébaut is a French-Iranian sociologist. She is a professor of sociology at the Paris Diderot-Paris 7 University, where she is the director of the CEDREF – Feminist Studies Documentation and Research Centre. Her main research topics are political sociology, gender theories, feminist, subaltern and post-colonial theories, in Iran, the Middle East and the Maghreb. Her publications focus on feminism and women’s movements in Iran, in relation to Islam and the socio-political context of the country. From 1987 to 1990, she taught political sociology in the United States (UCLA), and in 1995-1998, at the Paris III University and at Paris VII Saint-Denis University. Azadeh Kian-Thiébaut was a pioneer in the movement for the institutionalisation of Iranian Studies in France. Since 1995 she has also been a researcher with the Iranian and Indian Worlds Laboratory of the CNRS.

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**Eileen Kuttab**

A sociologist, researcher and activist, Eileen Kuttab has been assistant professor of sociology since 1981 and was director of the Women
Studies Institute at BirZeit University, in Palestine from 1998 to September 2008. Prof. Kuttab has been on different boards of trustees of human rights organizations, women’s centres and an active member of the General Union of Palestinian Women. She served as a consultant for various local and international organizations. She has published widely on Palestinian women, spanning divers topics in the context of feminism and nationalism and gender and development, in particular the Palestinian women’s movements, informal employment, and youth and political participation.

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Candida Acuzena Laguna Valverde
Candida Laguna has lived in the city of Estelí, Nicaragua, since 1986. She studied social sciences at the National University and law at the Centro Universitario Regional del Norte (CURN). She worked as a librarian and teacher at the Biblioteca Nacional de Nicaragua for 5 years and has also worked to the Escuela de Agricultura y Ganadería in Estelí, where she had a key role in defending the worker’s rights as secretary of the workers’ union. From 1996 to 2000 Candida worked with the Women’s Collective of Matagalpa (a city near Estelí) where she has asserted her gender consciousness through the debates, workshops and marches of the organisation. In 2000, together with other women of the neighbourhoods of Estelí, Candida founded a feminist organisation, AMEX, where she was the coordinator and a member of the directing committee for 7 years. She has been a member of the Red de Mujeres at the national and local levels. She now works with the organisation Entre Mujeres, also based in Estelí, where she is in charge of defending human rights. Her work focuses on the struggle against violence on women and children.
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Sabine Masson

A sociologist and researcher at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and with the NCCR North-South, Sabine currently focuses on gender and feminist theory, postcolonial theory and subaltern theory, racism, colonialism, globalization, citizenship and indigenous movements in Latin America. She is currently conducting research on the impact and resistance to tourism projects and extraction and the enforcement of the right of self-determination of indigenous peoples in Honduras. She is a member of the editorial board of the Nouvelles Questions Feministes, International Francophone Review.

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Pun Ngai

Pun Ngai is a professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She is also the founder and Chairperson of the Chinese Working Women Network (CWWN), a grass-root organization of migrant women factory workers in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Her book, Made in China: Subject, Power and Resistance of Women Workers in a Global Workplace was published in 2005 by Duke University Press and it illuminates the workers perspectives and experiences, describing the lure of consumer desire and especially the minutiae of factory life. She looks at acts of resistance and transgression in the workplace, and explains the special position of migrant women workers in the global economy.

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Isabel Rauber

A Doctor of philosophy, Isabel Rauber is currently professor at the National University of Lanús (Buenos Aires district), where she gives a course on social movements in Latin America. She also directs a research group on the same issue and is the coordinator of the Observatorio del Pensamiento Argentino, at the Centro Cultural Caras y Caretas, Buenos Aires. She is also the editor of the magazine *Pasado y Presente XXI*. She worked as associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Havana University, in Cuba, and as associate researcher in the America Studies Centre, in Havana. She currently focuses on the political formation of social movements in Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia.

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Patricia Roux

A sociologist, Patricia Roux is professor of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne. She contributed to setting up the LIEGE network (Laboratoire Interuniversitaire en Études Genre), a network of more than 650 people in Switzerland integrating a gender perspective in their training, teaching and research tasks, or in other professional activities generally related to questions of equality. She is the director of the newly established Center on Gender Studies LIEGE based in the University of Lausanne, which main mission is to support the development of feminist research. Her own research focuses on the processes of legitimisation of the sexist and racist social order (2007). She also wrote two articles on the intertwining of the socially constructed categories of sex and race in the review *Nouvelles Questions Féministes* (2006, 2007, with Lavinia Gianettoni and Céline Perrin). New results of her research were presented during this colloquium.

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Fatour Sarr
Fatou Sarr is a researcher at IFAN (Institut fondamental d’Afrique noire), Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, where she directs the Gender and Scientific Research Laboratory (www.sengenre-ucad.org). She taught at the Faculté universitaire N.D. de la Paix in Namur, in Belgium, from 1985 to 1991. She has a pluridisciplinary educational background: a doctorate in anthropology and political sociology from the University of Paris VIII, a PhD degree in social work from the University of Laval, Quebec, a graduate degree in environmental science from the University of Dakar and a master in economic and social administration from the Aix-Marseille II University. She is the author of many publications on women entrepreneurship, gender issues and social movements. She has also been an international expert for the United Nations for over ten years and has supported about fifteen African countries on gender training and the development of national gender strategies.
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An anthropologist and a senior lecturer on gender and development at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IHEID), Christine Verschuur holds a PhD from the Sorbonne University. Her research interests are focused on popular urban movements and on migration. She is in charge of the Gender and Development programme at the
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Jurema Werneck

Dr. Jurema Werneck is an activist of the antiracist feminist movement who works mainly with the black women’s movement in Latin America. She is also a qualified doctor who has worked on marginalised women’s health from the perspective of the Afro-Brazilian cultural tradition. She is currently the coordinator of Criola (an NGO) and she has published extensively on bioethics, health and human rights in international and Brazilian magazines. She is a member of many feminist and anti-racist associations in Latin America and the Caribbean, where she actively participates in the struggle for more equitable health policies for Afro-descendent populations.

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