



**KICGS 2021**

# **CONFERENCE BOOK OF PROGRAMME & ABSTRACT**

**5<sup>TH</sup>**

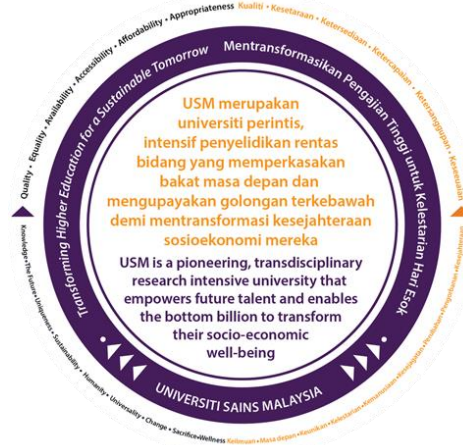
**KANITA INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON GENDER STUDIES  
(KICGS 2021)**

*"Doing" Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards  
Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth*

**28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

**Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang**

# UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM)



Established as the second university in the country in 1969, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was first known as Universiti Pulau Pinang. In 1971, USM moved from its temporary premises at the Malayan Teachers' Training College, Bukit Gelugor to the present 416.6 hectare site at Minden, approximately 9.7 km from Georgetown.

USM offers courses ranging from Natural Sciences, Applied Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences to Building Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Education. These are available at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to approximately 30,000 students at its 17 Academic Schools on the main campus in the island of Penang; 6 Schools at the Engineering Campus in Nibong Tebal (approximately 50km from the main campus); and 3 at the Health Campus in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan (approximately 300km from the main campus).

USM also has 17 dedicated research centres for a wide range of specialisations which include archaeology, medicine and dentistry, molecular medicine, science and technology, Islamic development and management studies, and policy research and international studies. It also provides consultancy, testing, and advisory services to the industry under the ambit of USAINS Holdings Sdn Bhd, the University's commercial arm.

Since the beginning, USM has adopted the School system rather than the traditional Faculty system to ensure that its students are multi-disciplined from their exposure to other areas of study by other Schools. It also encourages students to be active in extra-curricular activities given the myriad of clubs and societies available.

As a Research Intensive University recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) in 2007, USM offers educational and research opportunities to students and staff. In 2008, USM also became the first university in the country to be selected by the Malaysian government to participate in the Accelerated Programme for Excellence (APEX), a fast-track programme that helps tertiary institutions achieve world-class status.

## **Vision**

"Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow"

## **Mission**

USM is a pioneering, transdisciplinary research intensive university that empowers future talents and enables the bottom billions to transform their socio-economic well-being.

## **Value**

Quality, Equality, Availability, Accessibility, Affordability, Appropriateness

## **Thrust**

Knowledge, The Future, Uniqueness, Sustainability, Humanity, Universality, Change, Sacrifice, Wellness

**THE 5<sup>TH</sup> KANITA INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON GENDER STUDIES  
(KICGS 2021)**

---

**THE 5<sup>TH</sup> KANITA INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON GENDER STUDIES  
(KICGS 2021)**

---

**“DOING” SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW  
NORM: TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY, DECENT WORK  
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

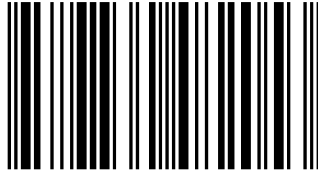
Organised by:  
Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA),  
Universiti Sains Malaysia

In collaboration with:  
Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS) &  
Universitas AirLangga

*E-Cetak / E-Printing 2021*

© KANITA

e ISBN 978-983-44820-5-3



9 7 8 9 8 3 4 4 8 2 0 5 3

*Hak cipta terpelihara. Tiada bahagian daripada terbitan ini boleh diterbitkan semula, disimpan untuk pengeluaran atau ditukarkan ke dalam sebarang bentuk atau dengan sebarang alat juga, sama ada dengan cara elektronik, gambar serta rakaman dan sebagainya tanpa kebenaran bertulis daripada Pusat Penyelidikan Wanita dan Gender (KANITA) terlebih dahulu.*

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or transmitted by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA).

*Diterbitkan di Malaysia oleh / Published in Malaysia by*  
*PUSAT PENYELIDIKAN WANITA DAN GENDER (KANITA)*  
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND GENDER (KANITA)

Universiti Sains Malaysia

11800 Pulau Pinang

*Laman web / Website:* <http://kanita.usm.my>

*Laman web rasmi KICGS / KICGS Official Website:* <https://kicgs.usm.my>

Email: [kanita@usm.my](mailto:kanita@usm.my)

*Atur letak di Malaysia oleh / Layout in Malaysia by*  
*Pusat Penyelidikan Wanita dan Gender (KANITA)*  
Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)

# CONTENT

|  |    |
|--|----|
| a. Welcome Message   |    |
| • Professor Dato' Dr. Narimah Samat<br><b>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International)</b><br><b>Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)</b>                | 4  |
| • Professor Dr. Noraida Endut<br><b>Director, Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), USM</b>  | 5  |
| • Professor Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan<br>Professor Dr. Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari<br><b>Co-Presidents, Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS)</b> | 6  |
| • Professor Dr. Emy Susanti<br><b>Chair, Centre for Gender &amp; Social Inclusion Studies (PSGIS)</b><br><b>Universitas Airlangga</b>                      | 7  |
| • Dr. Zaireeni Azmi<br><b>Chair, Scientific Committee of KICGS 2021</b>  | 8  |
| b. Programme   | 9  |
| c. Keynote Addresses   | 17 |
| • <b>Opening Keynote Speaker:</b> Professor Emeritus Dr. Kim Heisook<br>(Ewha Womans University)   |    |
| • <b>Special Public Lecture:</b> Professor Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail, FASc.<br>(Academy of Sciences Malaysia)  |    |
| • <b>Closing Keynote Speaker:</b> Professor Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan<br>(Thammasat University)  |    |
| d. Plenary Sessions  | 22 |
| • Professor Dr. Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari (Universitas Indonesia)   |    |
| • Professor Dato' Dr. Rashidah Shuib (Universiti Sains Malaysia)   |    |
| • Professor Dr. Kim Eun-Shil (Ewha Womans University)  |    |
| • Dr. Rusalina Idrus (Universiti Malaya)   |    |
| • Professor Dr. Emy Susanti (Universitas Airlangga)  |    |
| • Associate Professor Dr. Kartini Aboo Talib @ Khalid (Universiti Kebangsaan<br>Malaysia)  |    |
| • Miss Karen Lai (Women's Centre for Change)   |    |
| • Dr. Lesley Ann Foster (Masimanyane Women's Support Centre)   |    |
| e. Parallel Sessions: Abstracts  | 33 |
| f. List of Organising Committee Members  | 69 |

## WELCOME MESSAGE

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Universiti Sains Malaysia

---



Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and Greetings to All.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all presenters and participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS) 2021. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), USM for successfully organising the KICGS for the fifth time. My heartiest congratulations and appreciation also to KANITA's partners, the Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS) and Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) for co-hosting this meaningful conference. May this collaboration pave the way for many more of such collaborations in the future.

On behalf of USM, I would also like to express my warm welcome to all KICGS' keynote and plenary speakers who come from different parts of the world: Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea and South Africa. Our ability to globally interact in a single physical space may be limited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but advanced technology is aiding us and is allowing us to gain valuable knowledge and insights from your individual expertise. I am sure all the participants are looking forward to listening and interacting with all the keynote and plenary speakers. The theme of KICGS this year, "*Doing Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth*" is a commendable choice because while global discourses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have started since its inception in 2015, the way that gender equality, decent work and economic growth issues are approached today must be significantly distinct in the context of the "new norm" brought about by our current world health crisis. I believe this gathering of students and scholars in gender issues, as well as gender activists and civil society members will provide an avenue for discussion, exploration and comprehension of the phenomena of concern. On behalf of USM, I thank all participants for their commitment in preparing their abstracts and papers to be discussed and debated in this important conference. May extensive new knowledge be created from your interactions.

It is also my hope that this international conference is a step towards understanding and appreciating others and ourselves, and celebrating our diverse views and scholarships in gender studies. I wish all conference delegates a fruitful and memorable experience at the 5<sup>th</sup> KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS) 2021.

Thank you.

**PROFESSOR DATO' DR. NARIMAH SAMAT**

**WELCOME MESSAGE**  
**Director, Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), USM**

---

Dear KICGS 2021 speakers, participants and guests,



Welcome to KICGS 2021 and to the (virtual space of) Universiti Sains Malaysia!

The KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS) is a project which began in 2012 by the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in our attempt to create a platform for scholars from all fields to converge, find common grounds and share distinct experiences in research that are focused on investigating the social world and its impact on women and gender relations. KANITA as a centre for research that promotes equality and justice through gender research and advocacy, has been encouraging scholars to see these two ideals as key elements of a sustainable world. Investigating the social world without engaging with the gender lens has limited contribution to human development.

The theme of KICGS 2021, "*Doing Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth*" addresses the current social, economic and health challenges by locating them within at least two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 5 and SDG 8. The current world crisis in the form of the COVID 19 pandemic and at the same time, the challenge of the new disruptive technological era is clearly impacting the world we live in today in ways that we may never have imagined. How the challenges impact the achievement of decent livelihood, economic growth and gender equality is a very important analysis that must continuously be made and showcased by scholars taking into account emerging evidence of the specific ways that they have disadvantaged women. KICGS 2021 will not be a success without the commitment made by all participants to provide us with well thought-out abstracts and papers. As Director of KANITA, I would like to first express my gratitude to all keynote and plenary speakers for their kind acceptance of our invitation to share their expertise and wisdom. Paper presenters are the core of any academic conference. Special thanks and congratulations to all scholars who have submitted their abstracts and papers to be considered and presented at KICGS this year. We received papers with diverse subject matters and potentially rich issues to be discussed and debated. To all other participants who are joining us, many thanks to you and I look forward to your contribution and engagement in the many sessions that we have scheduled. It is my hope that all participants in this conference will be able to discourse and debate issues presented in the sessions with openness, respect and constructive engagement.

I would like to acknowledge the vital role of KANITA's organising partners, the Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS) and the Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) in ensuring that this conference materialise. I sincerely hope our collaborations will continue. This conference may not come to fruition without the hard work of its Coordinator, Dr. Zaireeni Azmi of KANITA and her team of dedicated committee members. Lastly, but not least, USM leadership has continuously given KANITA support in our scholarly endeavour such as this conference and I would like to express my gratitude for this.

May we have a momentous conference ahead. Thank you.

**PROFESSOR DR. NORAIDA ENDUT**



## WELCOME MESSAGE

### Co-Presidents, Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS)

---



Greetings to all.

Covid-19 pandemic has been affecting the social lives in all communities and societies. The fact that the 5th KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS 2021), which focuses on gender inequality, sustainable development, and the future of work, was postponed and rescheduled indicates the extent of disruption caused by the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic and of the state measures to contain and manage the disease on gender inequality presented the puzzles for social research. Women's studies and feminism must try to understand and offer the interpretations of both the impact of the pandemic on gender inequality and injustice. The academic conferences and meetings are opportunities for scholars, thinkers, and activists who are interested in social experiences of women to exchange ideas and observation of the shifting economies and social changes caused by Covid-19. The collaboration and partnership between organizations at the regional level will facilitate and enhance our knowledge of the significant social and economic issues and the impact of the pandemic.

KANITA, AAWS and Universitas Airlangga have chosen the theme "*Doing*" Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth. This is an important and very relevant topic considering the pandemic and new technology confronts us with the new norm, with its many challenges. We have to realize the importance of technology in the new norm, which is also intertwined with our endeavours towards gender equality.

It is our pleasure to welcome all the speakers and participants of the KICGS-2021. The opportunity to share ideas and information will certainly broaden our horizons.

**PROFESSOR DR. CHALIDAPORN SONGSAMPHAN**  
**PROFESSOR DR. ELIZABETH KRISTI POERWANDARI**

## WELCOME MESSAGE

Chair, Centre for Gender & Social Inclusion Studies (PSGIS), Universitas Airlangga

---



Greetings to all participants of the conference.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 5<sup>th</sup> KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS 2021). We are very grateful that in this year's conference, Centre for Gender and Social Inclusion (PSGIS), Universitas Airlangga takes part with University Sains Malaysia and AAWS as it is an indication of the overlapping interest in the central issue of gender within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) discourse between the three institutions.

As you know, the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment is in the heart of the SDGs advocacy. It comes across in the context of social justice in general and economic growth, decent work as well as technology usage in particular. While these aspects are clearly affected women, the current Covid-19 pandemic situation has complicated the path to the gender equality goals. Within this in mind, this conference provides venue for researchers, activists, women leaders and practitioners to meet and come up with as well as create spaces where they can initiate and revisit discourses ranging from the issue of women and entrepreneurship, vulnerable groups, women's human rights, security and conflict as well as climate change and life-changing technology.

The wonderful thing about this KICGS conference is in its international perspective that the participants bring. It thus offers rich discourses and various narratives as participants are coming from different parts of the world. At its best, it offers an unimaginable journey of knowledge on gender issues with SDGs framework.

Amidst the Covid19 pandemic, this year's conference will be a virtual one. Yet I am very sure that it will not affect the spirit of the undeniably significance issue of gender equality particularly in the new norm situation.

I sincerely hope everyone will enjoy the discussion and the networking sphere created by this conference.

Thank you for your participation.

**PROFESSOR DR. EMY SUSANTI**

**WELCOME MESSAGE**  
**Chair, KICGS 2021**

---



Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Welcome, Selamat Datang, 欢迎 (Huānyíng), स्वागत हे (svaagat he), স্বাগত (Sbāgata), வரவேற்பு (Varavēṛpu), maligayang pagdating, Hoşgeldiniz, ಸ್ವಾಗತ and स्वागतम् (Svāgatam), أهلاً وسهلاً!

Thank you all for participating and joining the 5th KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS 2021). I highly appreciate your efforts to be together virtually. We meet at a time when communication technologies are essential in our daily activities. Since 2012, KANITA has committed to provide an international platform for all scholars, researchers, students, activists from non-governmental agencies as well as policy makers and implementers in government who are dedicated to women and gender issues. For your information KICGS 2021 was originally scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 but due to the uncertainty and nature of the Covid-19 global pandemic, the conference was postponed to these current dates with the main theme of *“Doing” Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth*. For the first time KANITA takes the challenge to hold it virtually. Also, for KICGS 2021, KANITA is hosting the conference with great support from two institutional partners, Universitas Airlangga and Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS). The intensifying global spread of COVID-19, the reservations of international travel and of likely participation numbers are the realities in this new norm. We may not be able to shake hands, laugh or hug physically but let us make this virtual conference become an interactive, stimulating, rewarding and meaningful experience. The wonderful thing about KICGS 2021 is the international perspective all of you bring to the discussions. The committee received 44 abstracts from eight countries. The invited speakers are uniquely placed to highlight the key themes, issues, practices and recommendations for the audience. Thus, I sincerely hope you will enjoy KICGS 2021 which consists of two days of sharing knowledge, learning and re-learning women's lived realities as well as networking.

This conference may not be realised if it was not for the dedicated, committed and hardworking committee members of KANITA, Universitas Airlangga and AAWS. On behalf of the committee, let me finally wish you a successful virtual conference and thank you for your participation.

Thank you.

**DR. ZAIREENI AZMI**

# 5<sup>Th</sup> KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS 2021)

28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## PROGRAMME

\*Time used in this programme is UTC+08:00 (Kuala Lumpur, Singapore)

| DAY 1: 28 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 (WEDNESDAY) |   |
|---|---|
| Time  | Programme   |
| 8.10 – 8.45 am                                | <b>Admission to conference (Cisco Webex)</b>  |
| 8.45 – 9.30 am                                | <p><b>Welcoming Remarks by</b></p> <p>Professor Dr. Noraida Endut<br/>Director of Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA),<br/>Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)</p> <p>Professor Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan and<br/>Professor Dr. Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari<br/>Co-Presidents, Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS)</p> <p>Professor Dr. Emy Susanti<br/>Chair, Centre for Gender &amp; Social Inclusion Studies (PSGIS)<br/>Universitas Airlangga</p> <p><b>Opening Speech and Official Opening of KICGS 2021 by</b></p> <p>Professor Dato' Dr. Narimah Samat<br/>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) of USM</p> <p><b>Group Photo Session (Online)</b></p> |
| 9.30 – 11.00 am                               | <p><b>Opening Keynote Address by</b></p> <p><b>Professor Dr. Kim Heisook</b><br/><b>(Emeritus Professor, Ewha Womans University, South Korea)</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> “Doing” Sustainable Development in the New Norm: Towards Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Professor Dr. Noraida Endut (Director of KANITA, USM)</p>   |
| 11.00 – 11.10 am                              | <b>Break</b>  |

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 11.10 – 12.40 pm  | <b>PARALLEL SESSION 1</b> |
| <b>ROOM 1: SOCIOCULTURAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXTS OF WOMEN’S LIVES</b><br><b>Moderator: Dr. Lai Wan Teng</b>  |                           |
| <p><b>FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/ CUTTING AMONG THE IMMIGRANTS</b><br/>Siti Nur Afiqah Zahari and Zaireeni Azmi</p> <p><b>WOMEN MOVEMENT DURING PANDEMIC COVID-19, GOVERNING WOMEN’S ISSUE</b><br/>Widjajanti M Santoso</p> <p><b>REFLECTION SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE AMONG MALAYSIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVIST AGAINST CULTURE OF IGNORANCE TOWARD VIOLENCE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN AMIDST PANDEMIC COVID-19</b><br/>Mansurni Abadi and Durrah Malek</p> <p><b>COPING STRATEGIES OF WOMEN IN YEMEN DURING CONFLICT</b><br/>Ghaidaa Motahar</p> |                           |
| <b>ROOM 2: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER</b><br><b>Moderator: Dr. Mia Siscawati</b>   |                           |
| <p><b>THE GOOD WOMAN: INVISIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER EXPECTATIONS AMONG MALAYSIAN SIKH WOMEN</b><br/>Charanjit Kaur, Ashwinder Kaur and Parvenpal Kaur</p> <p><b>PERCEPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LEISURE-TIME AMONG HOUSEWIVES IN TURKEY: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF INEQUALITY</b><br/>Meryem İlhan and Mozharul Islam</p> <p><b>STRATEGIES OF BATAK TOBA WOMEN PEASANTS IN OVERCOMING ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES: A CASE OF LAKE TOBA AREA</b><br/>Agnes Winaryati</p>                                 |                           |
| 12.40 – 1.00 pm   | <b>Lunch</b>              |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1.00 – 2.30 pm   | <b>PARALLEL SESSION 2</b> |
| <b>ROOM 1: GENDER AND SEXUALITY</b><br><b>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azman Azwan Azmawati</b>   |                           |
| <p><b>‘FROM US TO US’: RELIGIOUS AND MORAL GUIDANCE VIA FACEBOOK FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITY</b><br/> Rudy Imran Shamsudin, Nik Norma Nik Hasan and Saiful Nujaimi Abdul Rahman</p> <p><b>THE RISK OF PLEASURE. NEUTRALIZATION TECHNIQUES ADOPTED BY MALAYSIAN CLIENTS OF SEX WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</b><br/> Soo Jin, Lim and Shu Xu, Cheah</p> <p><b>TRANS MEN IN MALAYSIA: EXAMINING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN BECOMING MEN</b><br/> Vizla Kumaresan</p> <p><b>EXAMINING HESITATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN THE COMING OUT NARRATIONS BY CHINESE FILIPINO LGBTQIA+</b><br/> Hiraya S. Marcos and Roberto P. Lim Jr.</p> |                           |
| <b>ROOM 2: WOMEN IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK</b><br><b>Moderator: Dr. Kurniawati Hastuti Dewi</b>  |                           |
| <p><b>A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON LEADERSHIP IN THE PANDEMIC</b><br/> P. Sindhuja, N.K. Bhuvanewari and K.R. Murugan</p> <p><b>BOON OR BANE?: WORK FROM HOME (WFH) FOR WOMEN</b><br/> Swagata Sinha Roy and Kavitha Subaramaniam</p> <p><b>MIGRATION, WORK-FROM-HOME CULTURE, AND SOCIAL REPRODUCTION AND CARE IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC: A CASE STUDY OF INDONESIAN WORKING WOMEN IN HONG KONG</b><br/> Yusmiati Vistamika Wangka</p>  |                           |
| 2.30 – 2.45 pm   | <b>Break</b>              |

2.45 – 4.15 pm

**PARALLEL SESSION 3**

**ROOM 1: HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**Moderator: Dr. Malla Khullar**

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES USED BY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHWS) IN PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN BAY, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES**

Maria Estella Nacion

**MATERNITY PROTECTION ISSUES AND FEMALE WORKING EXPERIENCE IN ASIA: A SCOPING REVIEW**

Nor Hafizah Selamat, Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim, Noraida Endut, Shariffah Suraya Syed Jamaludin, Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah, Suziana Mat Yasin, Nurul Jannah Ambak, Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz and Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy

**IMPACT OF MATERNAL DIETARY INTAKE ON HUMAN MILK COMPOSITION**

Salniza Akmar Kamaruszaman and Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah

**ABORTION LAWS AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AS PART HEALTH AND NUTRITION CURRICULUM FOR ADOLESCENTS IN TAMILNADU HIGH SCHOOLS**

Poonkuzhali J

**ROOM 2: LIFE-CHANGING TECHNOLOGY**

**Moderator: Dr. A. H. M. Belayeth Hussain**

**NEPALESE WOMEN: PRESERVING CULTURAL TRADITIONS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Kavitha Subaramaniam, Swagata Sinha Roy and Devendra Kumar Budakoti

**CHALLENGES TO SMART PHONE ACCESS AND APPLICATIONS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION AMONG WOMEN IN BANGLADESH**

Touhida Tasnima and Ruhana Binti Padzil

**SOCIAL IDENTITY AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS IN MALAYSIAN TOURISM INDUSTRY**

Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz and Nor Hafizah Selamat

**ROOM 3: GENDER, COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS****Moderator: Dr. Leila Mohajer****ROLE OF CREATIVITY IN THE RIRI RENGGANIS FASHION INDUSTRY**

Ira Adriati

**STARTING THEM YOUNG! INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH CREATIVE CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING**

Raphael M. Ferrer, Sairah Mae R. Saipudin, Nephtaly Joel B. Botor and Katherine E. Del Rosario

**PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN INDIAN MASS MEDIA: AN INVESTIGATION**

Indira Malani Munusamy

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 5.30 – 6.30 pm | <p><b>Special Public Lecture by</b></p> <p><b>Professor Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail, FASc.</b><br/><b>(President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia)</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> Better Together in Leadership: Quality Education and Work through Gender Equality.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Dato' Dr. Rashidah Shuib (Honorary Professor, School of Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia)</p> |
|----------------|--|

**DAY 2: 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 (THURSDAY)**

| Time             | Programme   |
|------------------|---|
| 9.00 – 10.15 am  | <p><b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b></p> <p><b>4IR: A Revolution for Women?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari (Universitas Indonesia)</li> <li>2. Professor Dato' Dr. Rashidah Shuib (Universiti Sains Malaysia)</li> <li>3. Professor Dr. Kim Eun-Shil (Ewha Womans University)</li> <li>4. Dr. Rusalina Idrus (Universiti Malaya)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Mia Siscawati (Universitas Indonesia)</p> |
| 10.15 – 10.30 am | <b>Break</b>  |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| 10.30 – 11.45 am   | <p><b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b></p> <p><b>Intersectionality Today and the Fourth Wave Feminism</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Emy Susanti (PSGIS, Universitas AirLangga)</li> <li>2. Associate Professor Dr. Kartini Aboo Talib @ Khalid (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)</li> <li>3. Miss Karen Lai (Women’s Centre for Change)</li> <li>4. Dr. Lesley Ann Foster (Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Professor Dr. Diah Ariani Arimbi (Universitas Airlangga)</p> |
| 11.45 – 12.00 pm   | <b>Break</b>  |
| 12.00 – 1.30 pm  | <b>PARALLEL SESSION 4</b>   |
| <p><b>ROOM 1: LAW AND DEVELOPMENT</b><br/> <b>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Hafizah Selamat</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>AWARENESS OF MALAYSIA FAMILY LAW AMONG THE SIKH MARRIED COUPLES</b><br/> Ashwinder Kaur, Charanjit Kaur and Parvenpal Kaur</p> <p><b>A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ON THE PRECARITY OF WORK IN THE APPAREL SECTOR: EVIDENCE FROM BANGLADESH</b><br/> Sumena Sultana, Noraida Endut and A. H. M. Belayeth Hussain</p> <p><b>DIGNIFIED AND VIOLENCE FREE WORLD OF WORK: A STUDY ON WOMEN WORKING IN INFORMAL SECTOR IN NEPAL</b><br/> Anjam Singh and Sujeena Shakya</p> <p><b>GENDER EQUALITY AND DECENT WORK THROUGH THE ERADICATION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF PROTECTION AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANISATIONS IN MALAYSIA</b><br/> Noraida Endut and Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy</p> |   |

**ROOM 2: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**  
**Moderator: Dr. Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah**

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AND BARRIERS TO REPORTING IT AMONG FEMALE WHO USE DRUGS (FWUD) IN MALAYSIA**

Asnina Anandan, Darshan Singh, Suresh Narayanan, Nur Aizati Athirah Daud, Azlinda Azman and Vicknasingam Balasingam

**BEING ONLINE: AN EMERGING FORM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Sharon Wilson and Premalatha Karupiah

**THEORISING THE GEOGRAPHIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JOURNEYS IN MALAYSIA WITH GEO-NARRATIVE**

Zuriatunfadzliah Sahdan

**ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE QUEST FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN THE NEW NORMS OF THE WORKING WORLD**

Desintha Dwi Asriani

**ROOM 3: GENDER AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
**Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norzarina Mohd Zaharim**

**CHILD MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA**

Diana Teresa Pakasi, Gabriella Devi Benedicta and Irwan M. Hidayana

***PERINTAH KAWALAN PERGERAKAN: IMPAK SOSIAL DAN PSIKOLOGI KEPADA WANITA DAN KANAK-KANAK***

Siti Marziah Zakaria, Norizan Abdul Razak, Salina Nen and Norlida Ariffin

**VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE SEX WORKERS AMIDST COVID19 PANDEMIC: A PRELIMINARY REVIEW BASED ON PROTECTION BOUNDARIES DURING LOCKDOWN IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA**

Zenny Rezania Dewantary and Noraida Endut

1.30 – 2.00 pm

**Lunch**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2.00 – 3.30 pm | <p><b>Closing Keynote Address</b> by</p> <p><b>Professor Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan</b><br/><b>(Thammasat University, Thailand)</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> Pandemic, Disruption, and Inequality: Gender and Future of Work in Asia.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Aileen Park (AAWS)</p> |
| 3.30 – 4.00 pm | <p><b>Closing Remarks</b> by</p> <p>Professor Dr. Noraida Endut (Director of KANITA, USM)</p>  |

**KEYNOTE**  
**ADDRESSES**

---

**ABSTRACTS**



***“DOING” SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW NORM:  
TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY, DECENT WORK  
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH***

**ABSTRACT**

The economic and social situations after the Covid-19 pandemic will be significantly different and the digitalization of society will be more accelerated to the degree we can hardly imagine. From a women’s perspective, it would be even harder to conjecture what the future society would be like because boundaries that defined our society are moving very quickly and often, they are blurring. I believe that in the era of the new norm we cannot talk about gender equality, decent work and economic growth without considering the general impact of the development of digital technology and AI. My talk dealing with women’s lives in Asia in the post Covid-19, consists of 4 parts. 1. Asia matters, and Asian women all the more matter. 2. Technology is not gendered, but makers and users are. 3. AI and algorithms are not neutral. 4. Women’s universities have an important role as a site of collective intelligence empowering women of all ages in the post pandemic. In the post pandemic world, one of the most important global issues will be the overcoming of polarization in social arenas. Technology may help remedy the problem. However, what matters is not technology itself, but rather our determination and will to make a better world by using technology and upfront knowledge for those who have been marginalized during the time of economic and technological developments.

***Keywords:*** *Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, technological developments, Decent Work*

## **BIODATA**

Professor Dr. Kim Heisook has served as the 16th President of Ewha Womans University until the last February. Professor Dr. Kim was the university's first president to be elected through a direct election in which students, professors, staff members and alumni took part since its foundation in 1886. Professor Dr. Kim graduated from Ewha Womans University as an English language and literature major, after which she mastered in Christian Studies. Upon completing her doctorate in philosophy at the University of Chicago, she returned to Ewha as a professor in the philosophy department, where she has taught since 1987. Professor Dr. Kim became the first Dean of Scranton College in 2007 and created the Scranton Honors Program, which allows students to explore multi-disciplinary fields of study and benefit scholarships and other opportunities. This program has since been benchmarked by many other universities in Korea. In addition to her accomplishments at Ewha, Professor Dr. Kim has successively filled leading posts in national, as well as international academic societies of philosophy including Presidents of the Korean Philosophical Association and Korean Association of Feminist Philosophy. She served as a committee director of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies and was one of nine board members of the International Association of Women Philosophers. She also participated in several governmental advisory committees in the fields of education, law and presidential commission on policy planning.



***BETTER TOGETHER IN LEADERSHIP: QUALITY EDUCATION AND  
WORK THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY***

**BIODATA**

Prof. Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail is a woman of many firsts. She was the first female Vice Chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in 2012, and the first female Vice Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) (2016-2019) making her the first woman to be appointed twice as the Vice Chancellor of a public university. She had served as the country's first female Director-General of Higher Education (2014-2016) and is currently the first female President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (2016-2022). Her educational background includes having a BSc (Biology) from the University of Nevada, USA, M.A. (Microbiology) from Indiana University, USA and a PhD (Cellular and Molecular Biology) from UNR. Asma has initiated scientific discoveries that have led to the attainment of 14 patents and commercialization of the rapid diagnostic test for typhoid called TYPHIDOT which was advocated by WHO. As a researcher, she has published 131 papers, received more than 213 awards and recognitions, presented more than 425 papers including 376 invited talks/plenaries and 48 keynotes both at the national and international levels. She was elected to the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2003, The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in 2010 and The Islamic World Academy of Sciences in 2016. She was elected as Honorary Member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences in 2017, and in the following year as a Member of the College of Fellows, Keele University and as a Governing Advisory Board Member for Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan.

In recognition of her leadership in lifelong learning in the Commonwealth, especially for women, and her outstanding service to the advancement of higher education and science in Malaysia, she was conferred as Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning in Sept. 2019 and Hon Scholar for IIASA (Institute for Applied System Analysis) Vienna, Austria in Nov 2019. She currently serves on the selection panel for the Merdeka Award and Rhodes Scholarship to select Malaysians to Oxford Univ. In 2020 she was elected to be a board member of Commonwealth of Learning based in Vancouver, Canada. Her landmark contributions to Malaysia's higher education system include the establishment of the prestigious National Academic Award (Anugerah Akademik Negara), the establishment of Research Universities in Malaysia and also in co-helming the development and implementation of The Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2013-2025.



***PANDEMIC, DISRUPTION, AND INEQUALITY: GENDER AND  
FUTURE OF WORK IN ASIA***

**ABSTRACT**

Covid-19 has been disrupting and altering many dimensions of social experiences. It highlighted the impact of different axes of inequality on the ability to handle and adjust to the impact of the pandemic. The disruption of economic activities and social interaction brought about by the state policies and measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 complicated many aspects of gender and work. The pandemic reversed the progress in terms of income, job stability, and advancement of women in the labor force while gender inequality made it more difficult for women to adjust to the shifting economy and production. The state measures emphasizing the confinement of people in their own homes intensifies the situations of many women who have been attempting to juggle their doubles roles as workers in the labor force and as wives and mothers in the households. Women in many societies also experienced the worsening situations of gender-based and sexual violence in their domestic arena during lockdown. Gender shapes the ability and opportunities to survive and adjust to the disruption effect of the pandemic. For example, women are among the minorities participating in work and employment in flourishing sectors, such as cloud computing, and the educational background of many women did not prepare them for such activities. The intersection of different axes of inequality - such as gender, class, and ethnicity – indicates that experiences of women are diverse. Gender studies, women’s studies, and feminism should provide the stories, analyses, interpretation, and information about distinctive impact of the pandemic on the lives of women from different social background and social context. Also, examining the disruption on the work and the economy through gender lens will enhance the understanding of the sufferings that different groups of people are experiencing and how the complication caused by the pandemic on the future of work.

***Keywords:*** *Gender, Gender inequality, women’s studies, Feminism*

**BIODATA**

Chalidaporn Songsamphan is a professor of political science at Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University in Bangkok. She is currently the Co-President of the Asian Association of Women’s Studies (AAWS). She also has been the president of the Service Workers in Groups Foundation (SWING). Her main research interest includes feminist political theory and politics of sexuality. Her recent publications are “Contestation of Abortion in Thai Context: Health, Liberty, and Morality” and “Rage, Hatred, and Fear: Online Gender-Based and Sexual Violence.”



# **PLENARY SESSIONS**

---

## **ABSTRACTS**



## CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: DEBATES ON GENDER ISSUES AND FEMINISM

by

*Professor Dr. Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari*  
Universitas Indonesia

### ABSTRACT

The internet and the latest technological achievements bring a fundamental change in the way we live, work and relate to one another. Enthusiasts envision an ideal society (Society 5.0) where various problems can be solved by technology. Meanwhile, those who work in the field envision many challenges. One issue is many jobs are lost and replaced by technology, which causes people to lose their livelihoods and have to compete hard for their survival. As the one carrying out the reproductive function, this can complicate the situation of women. In regard to social relations, gender relations and feminism, today is the post-feminism era, when everyone talks about gender and feminism issues, with many do not explore the issue fundamentally. There is a flood of information and frenetic social media, with backlashes and views in the name of personal freedoms, personal rights, or religious teaching, which are in principle against gender justice and the public interest. Meanwhile there is also a shift in behavior of the youth related to intimate relationships and sexuality with the presence of the internet. All of the above, coupled with the effect of Covid-19 pandemic, are challenges that need to be answered by all, particularly the women's groups.

*Keywords: 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, Post Feminism, Gender Issues and The Internet, Sexuality and Internet, Backlash*

### BIODATA

Elizabeth Kristi Poerwandari (Kristi) is an associate professor at the Faculty of Psychology and at the School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia (UI). Kristi completed her education as a psychologist, then took her Masters in Gender Studies and doctoral education in Philosophy. She was the Chair of the Gender Studies Program, and currently she is responsible as the Chair of Doctoral Program at the Faculty of Psychology UI. Her area of concerns is mental health, gender studies, trauma and violence prevention and intervention, and qualitative research. Kristi is one of the founders of the Pulih Foundation, an organization that focuses on trauma handling and psychosocial empowerment. She is the editor of the book "Indonesian Women in a Changing Society", (Ewha Womans University Press, Korea, 2005). Kristi is a member of editorial committee of the Asian Journal of Women's Studies (AJWS), and now is in charge as the Co-President of Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS).

**CENTERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MALAYSIA'S  
4IR POLICY**

by

***Professor Dato' Dr. Rashidah Shuib***

Universiti Sains Malaysia

**ABSTRACT**

On 1 July 2021, Malaysia proudly launched its 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy, against the backdrop of rising COVID-19 which has ravaged the economy world-wide. Loss of jobs has been staggering, social disruptions have been immense but new norms are also emerging. The spread of the new COVID-19 variants with no ending insight further added to our sense of vulnerability. The 4IR Policy is very clearly driven by economic necessities, aiming for Malaysia to “stay ahead of the curve,” and not wanting to be left behind. We have seen how unequal the impact of the virus has been on segments of the society; women and girls and the marginalised. According to the UNFPA, “global studies are already showing that COVID-19 could set back gender equality gains by a generation.” It is timely and critical to analyse Malaysia’s 4IR policy to see how gender sensitive this policy is and where women and girls are placed in the drastic transformational processes predicted to be taking place. This paper argues that 4IR can only be a revolution for women and girls if both their *conditions* and *positions* shift towards gender equality. Schwab (2015) highlighted the need for an integrated approach involving stakeholders from all sectors of the society. The question is will women and girls be included as one of the stakeholders or will we never learn from the past industrial revolutions. Women and girls must be at the centre of the Malaysia’s 4IR Policy if the country is committed to gender equality.

**Keywords:** *4IR Policy, gender equality, stakeholders, conditions and positions, Malaysia.*

**BIODATA**

Rashidah Shuib, a Fulbright-Hays scholar, graduated with a Ph D from Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA. Currently she is an Honorary Professor, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Unit, School of Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), where she was a founding member and responsible for introducing several courses in health sociology. From 2005-2012 she was the Director of the Women Development Research Centre (KANITA, now known as the Centre for Research on Women and Gender), USM. Her interests and publications are in the intersections of gender, health and development issues. Prof Rashidah Shuib led several international and national research projects and consultancies in subjects such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, marriage and migration, domestic violence, microcredit and empowerment, gender, development, and health. Recently she completed her consultancy with UNDP on sex disaggregated data and gender analysis for the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia. She was a member of the Gender Advisory Panel (WHO, Geneva) for six years and a Board Member of the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), a regional NGO, and a member of the International Women Advisory Panel (IWAP), IPPF, London. Currently, she is the President of the Reproductive Health Association Kelantan (ReHAK).



***Professor Dr. Kim Eun-Shil***  
Ewha Womans University

### **BIODATA**

Eun-Shil Kim is a Professor of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Currently, she serves as Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Dean of the Graduate School of Policy Sciences, and Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of Women's Studies (AJWS). She also served as Chair of the Department of Women's Studies, Director of the Asian Center for Women's Studies, Director of the Korean Women's Institute, President of the Asian Association of Women's Studies, and President of the Korean Association of Women's Studies. She has been involved in developing the intellectual community of feminist scholars in Asia since 1995 and has done research in the field of women's bodies, sexuality, nationalism, globalization and migration, feminist knowledge production and post-development issues. She worked as the Secretary General for the 2005 International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women. She is a published author, educator, commentator, and mentor.



## **IR 4.0, INEQUALITIES AND LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC**

by  
*Dr. Rusaslina Idrus*  
Universiti Malaya

### **ABSTRACT**

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) is touted as an era of great transformation, characterised by new technologies that are merging the physical, digital and biological worlds. It has the potential to increase efficiency and productivity, create better connectivity and accessibility, and improve the quality of life and increase global income levels. However, the impact of IR 4.0 is not equal across the board. Many have raised the potential negative impact for women and other marginalised groups. Much of the discussions, nevertheless, have largely focused on the impact in terms of economic and employment challenges. I argue here for the need to examine the impact of IR 4.0 from a more inclusive and intersectional lens. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the wider consequences of the technological gap and digital inequality as experienced by vulnerable and marginalised populations. Drawing from case studies during the pandemic in Malaysia, this paper discusses the impact of these inequalities and the consequences. It is argued that policy and social action need to embrace a more inclusive rights-based framework in navigating IR 4.0. This presentation ends with a call for more research that takes on an intersectional approach in examining the impact of the technological divide.

**Keywords:** *Fourth Industrial Revolution, COVID-19, digital inequality, technological gap*

### **BIODATA**

Rusaslina Idrus is a Senior Lecturer at the Gender Studies Programme, Universiti Malaya. Trained as a social anthropologist, her research focuses on issues concerning marginalised populations including indigenous peoples, people experiencing homelessness, and refugees in Malaysia. She is a recipient of the Star-Gamuda Inspiration Award 2016, the UM Excellence Award for Community Engagement 2017 and the UM Excellence Award Special Prize for an Academic 2019.

**FAMILY CHANGES, COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND  
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:  
INTERSECTIONALITY TODAY AND THE  
FOURTH WAVE FEMINISM**

by

***Professor Dr. Emy Susanti***

Centre for Gender and Social Inclusion Studies (PSGIS)  
Universitas Airlangga



**ABSTRACT**

This paper will discuss the important role of the family and the various family changes that occur during social transformation in the current COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding changes in family life is important in understanding gender and feminism issues. Discussing family is not only about the domestic sector because basically family life relates to public institutions. Problems that occur in the family will become public issues and state issues since problems that occur in the family will be related to the sustainability of the quality of people's lives. Many things could be discussed about changes in the family, including about productive work outside the home that is paid and reproduction. Between privacy in family life and increasing government efforts to regulate and influence how families behave. Between patriarchal heritage and the issues of gender equality. Between increased freedom of choice in conjugal relationships and the need for stability in children's lives. The most prominent family changes today are family changes in a period of social transformation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the work-from-home policy have a significant impact on family life and change and leads to social transformation. Social transformation means the realignment of all aspects of life; from culture to social relations; from politics to economics; from the way we think to the way we live. Gender issues during the COVID-19 pandemic include changes in gender positions and roles such as shifts in the distribution of authority, task negotiations, participation in decision making, and division of responsibilities in childcare, all of which start with family changes. Aspects of life have all been intensified, modified or reoriented through complex interactions in this time of social transformation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social transformation and social problems are closely related to each other. If the process of social transformation is suppressed, it creates new social problems. On the other hand, if the social transformation process runs naturally, families could make adjustments during the transition phase from the old system and the emergence of a new system. There are three basic theories of social change that are well known, namely evolutionary, functionalist, and conflict theories. Using social transformation and feminism theories, discussion must be based on the concept of intersectionality which sees women's oppression could only be fully understood in the context of marginalization of

other social groups and genders. Feminism is part of an awareness of greater oppression along with racism, ageism, classicism and sexual orientation. The fourth wave of feminism arises because of millennials' articulation of themselves as "feminists" which are their own version of feminism. One of the peculiarities of the fourth wave of Feminism is that Academics are ready to support new activism based at home, at work, on social media, and on the streets. The key point is the use of social media to highlight and address these issues where gender issues come to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic. Intersectionality and interrelated systems of power are emphasized, and how these contribute to the social stratification of traditionally marginalized groups. Fourth wave feminists advocate for greater representation of women's groups in politics and business, and argue that society will be more justice if policies and practices consider gender needs and the needs of all parties. The social transformation that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic should simultaneously focus on social change for the better, including a focus on gender equality. In other words, the movement towards gender equality should be part of the feminist movement and the ongoing social transformation.

***Keywords:*** *Family, Covid-19, Social Transformation, Feminism*

## **BIODATA**

Emy is a Professor in Sociology at Airlangga University and works as a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, AirLangga University since 1984. Emy teaches some subjects, i.e., Sociology of Gender, Social Research Methodology, Qualitative Research Methods, Social and Development Issues, Sociology of Organization at the Bachelor Degree, Master Degree and Doctoral Degree at Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, AirLangga University and teaches Gender Perspective courses in the Amerta International Student program at AirLangga University. She has been doing researches and writing books and articles and is a speaker in National and International forums on gender, women's empowerment, family, poverty and development issues. Scopus ID: 57213142220. Emy graduated from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Indonesia in 1983. Graduated from Master's Program in Sociology, Faculty of Humanity, Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia in 1994. Graduated from the Doctoral program majoring in Sociology, Gadjah Mada University in 2003. Emy is also involved actively in professional organizations and is the chair of the Indonesian Association of the Center for gender, women and child studies (ASWGI) from 2015 to 2019 and 2019 to the present. She is one of the founders and became an advisor to the Association of Indonesian Sociology Study Program (APSSI) from 2014 until now.



## **INTERSECTIONALITY TODAY AND THE FOURTH WAVE FEMINISM**

by

*Associate Professor Dr. Kartini Aboo Talib @ Khalid*  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

### **ABSTRACT**

Oppression and discrimination marked the beginning of the feminist movement in the West in eighteen centuries, although the denial of women's right to frivolity can be dated back to ancient Greek. The long history of oppression geared feminists to stand against the odds. However, the boundary between feminism, women, and gender changes how we conceptualize women's roles, functions, and contributions. Feminism is an ideology representing a belief in the equality of sexes in all aspects of life. Women Studies are about the multidisciplinary study of women's social status and societal contribution and the relationship between power and women. While gender studies explore men, women and transgender in social, cultural and political processes and structures through which societies are organized. This discussion will focus on feminism – the ideology of equality of sexes in different waves of social changes. Even though the term intersectionality was introduced in 1989 during the women liberation and freedom movement in the second wave of feminism, this term resurfaced in the fourth wave of feminism to enhance empowerment supporting marginalized women and minorities. Intersectionality and gender are mutually reinforced, both positive and negative, in assessing forms of discrimination and marginalization. Hence, Industrial Revolution 4.0 demands us to reassess the possibility of disadvantages and advantages of advanced technology towards social identities.

**Keywords:** *Intersectionality, Feminism, Minorities, Marginalization, Empowerment*

### **BIODATA**

Associate Professor Dr. Kartini Aboo Talib @ Khalid is currently a Deputy Director at the National Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) UKM. A Fulbright scholar (2000-2005) obtained her PhD in Law, Policy and Society from Northeastern University Boston. She completed 5 MAJOR National policy papers. She has been a consultant for Perbandaran Putrajaya, Blueprint Masyarakat Sejahtera, National Unity Index (IPNas), Country Consultant for United Nations on Women Empowerment; and a Member of Professional Organizations: Malaysian Social Science Association, Malaysian-American Association (MAAS), and NAES USA.



**RIDING THE (FOURTH) WAVE TO CHANGE:  
WCC'S WORK TO END SEXUAL AND GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE**

by  
**Miss Karen Lai**  
Women's Centre for Change



**ABSTRACT**

Fourth wave feminism is characterised by technological mobilisation, intersectionality, empowerment, social activism, and the denunciation of sexual violence (Cabrera et al, 2021). It is also transnational and intergenerational, where different generations and communities of activists converge who have gone through the last forty years of mobilisations, networks and movements often not communicating with each other and, indeed, in political, methodological, and strategic conflict, thus reshaping contemporary feminist discourse in extraordinary new ways (Peroni & Rodak, 2020). Its political potential centres around giving voice to those women still marginalised by the mainstream (Munro, 2013). What are the limits of this diversity and complexity? What are the implications for mobilisation towards a common and effective cause? Who benefits, who falls through the gaps, and how? Highlighting the recent work of the Women's Centre for Change (WCC), an established Malaysian women's NGO of 36 years' standing supporting women and children in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, this presentation will examine the issues against the backdrop of the cataclysmic Covid-19 pandemic, in the context of socio-political developments in Malaysia, and in connection with broader questions of gender equality in the "new normal".

**Keywords:** *Marginalization, Empowerment, Gender-Based Violence*

**BIODATA**

Karen Lai has been the Programme Director of the Women's Centre for Change (WCC) since October 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and practiced law for seven years. From 2017 to 2018, she was the Chief Operating Officer of the Selangor Women's Empowerment Institute, and the Programme Manager for Women's Empowerment and Leadership at the Penang Women's Development Corporation from 2012 to 2017. Throughout these six years of serving two state governments, she focused on developing women's political leadership and managed two national conferences on gender and electoral reform. She is currently a member of the Penang State Government's Top-Up Women-Only Additional Seats (TWOAS) Working Group, an initiative to increase women's representation at the state legislative assembly level. At the regional level, she serves as a volunteer for the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development and she is also a member of Malaysian Board of Directors. Karen is a 2015 Fellow of the Asia Leadership Fellow Program awarded by the International House of Japan and the Japan Foundation.



**RIDING THE (FOURTH) WAVE TO CHANGE: WCC'S  
WORK TO END SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE**

by

***Dr. Lesley Ann Foster***  
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre

**ABSTRACT**

South African feminists first began to learn about the concept of intersectionality when Kimberlee Crenshaw, who coined the term, came to the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related intolerances activism and provided the first training on the concept. In learning about the concept, South African feminist realised that the term “intersectionality” was already their historical and current struggles as they faced discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, economics and social oppression etc. Since that moment in 1998, the discourse within the country has developed and the activism that women have engaged in has broadened and deepened based on a growing analysis and evidence based related to women's lived realities in the South African context. South Africa has earned the notorious identity of being the country in the world with the highest levels of violence against women and girls. While VAWG has been a feature of the lives of women and girls during the heinous apartheid era, it only gained recognition post-Apartheid when democracy was born (1994) and a human rights culture became a key feature of the new South Africa. Feminists then began to focus on the high levels of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child abuse/incest. Over the past 2 decades, much attention was paid to the phenomenon and significant achievements were won such as legislation, policy reform and programmatic and resources were provided. However, the levels of rape and femicide continued to grow. In 2018 the country saw a huge escalation in the number of women bring killed by their partners or former partners and young women became increasingly incensed at these attacks on women. A movement known as the Total shutdown campaign was birthed and this campaign has led to significant shifts in responses to violence against women and girls that included legislative and policy reform, the establishment of new institutions and the strongest political will feminists have ever experienced. In the recent week, unrest broke out in the country and rampant looting and destruction of property took place. The Woman's movement responded immediately to the crisis bringing together various movements including the Gertrude Shope Peace building initiative to respond to the conflicts and unrest. This presentation will share how the 4th wave of feminism and an intersectional approach to the current feminist struggles were woven together to bring about the changes in South Africa.

## **BIODATA**

Dr. Lesley Ann Foster is the founder and Director of Masimanyane Women's Rights International. She was recently elected to the President's GBVF Board of Directors. She has worked across the African continent and has programmes in nine African countries on access to justice. Dr. Foster is a human right and gender expert renowned for her work to end violence against women and advance women's rights across South Africa and the world. Dr. Foster was elected the first African president of Amanitare, a Pan African network of organisations operating in 28 countries on the African continent. Dr. Foster has been acknowledged for her contribution to ending violence against women with an Honorary Doctorate which she received from Fort Hare University in 2006. She was also nominated for the alternate Nobel Peace Prize through the 1000 Women's Nobel Peace Prize Initiative. She is an Ashoka fellow and has received many other national and international awards for her work to advance gender equality and to end violence against women and girls. In 2019 Dr. Foster was appointed to the Presidential committee addressing gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa. Dr. Foster is currently the chairperson of the board of International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific.

# **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

---

## **ABSTRACTS**

## **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/ CUTTING AMONG THE IMMIGRANTS**

**Siti Nur Afiqah Zahari and Zaireeni Azmi**  
*Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*  
*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: sitinurafiqahz@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a controversial issue worldwide because it is understood as a form of gender-based violence and related to harmful practices. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is recognized internationally by The World Health Organization (WHO) as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. FGM/C practice affects between 100 and 140 million girls and women worldwide, with most cases occurring in the African and Middle Eastern countries, especially Egypt. In previous research, FGM/C has been documented in 30 countries, dominantly can be found in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia countries. FGM/C also can be found among the Muslims in Asia. FGM/C is currently practiced globally, and various ethnics groups in Western countries have recently reported FGC among the large immigrant population as a result of migration by people who originated from a country that practices FGC. In Malaysia, the practice is mainly done by the Malay Muslim community based on the previous literature, and there is no national data on the practice in this country. To date, there is no research on the immigrants practising FGM/C in Malaysia. This presenter will detail what FGM/C and factors that determine the practice among the immigrants' community, despite the United Nation's proposal to stop FGC internationally and condemn the practice.

**Keywords:** *Female Genital Cutting, Immigrants, Qualitative, Malaysia*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Siti Nur Afiqah Zahari is a part time PhD student at the Centre for Research on Women and Gender, Universiti Sains Malaysia. She holds a Master degree in Linguistics and English Language Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Studies in Universiti Sains Malaysia. She is currently working at RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus as Administrative Executive. Her research interests are in qualitative research on marginalized populations, social and education, especially on gender. Her PhD research focuses on Female Genital Cutting among immigrants. She is also actively involved in other studies with the transgender communities and even the indigenous community of peninsular Malaysia.

## **WOMEN MOVEMENT DURING PANDEMIC COVID-19, GOVERNING WOMEN'S ISSUE**

**Widjajanti M Santoso**

*Research Centre for Social and Culture  
Indonesia Institute of Sciences*

Corresponding Email: widjasantoso@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

This paper covers two issues: the first is to capture the women movements activity during the Covid-19, and the second is to view the process as a part of the fourth wave perspective. The background is Covid-19 has halted many things from people's mobility to people's interaction. Firstly, it produces several questions such as how to do empowerment and its effect on the women's movement. This legitimate question covers the social situation as most women empowerment activities are direct, face to face, within-group, and workshop with facilitators. Secondly, by using fourth-wave feminism, this experience brings a new alternative for the women movement. The method is women experienced as its standpoint for struggle, using the case study of the discussion of the revising of RAN-P3AKS (Rencana Aksi Nasional Perlindungan dan Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak dalam Konflik Sosial) which is the interpretation of the UN Resolution 1325. This paper also uses discussion on the web as interviews that are usually done directly. This platform has been initiated by the women movement to protect women and children during social conflict, as in Indonesia's 1998 change of regime had started some social conflict in several areas. The platform is a networked supported scheme from, government and also civil society, especially women's groups. The revision includes the radical and terrorism effect, which is a part of the contemporary social problem in Indonesia, facilitated by AMAN (The Asian Muslim Action Network), who worked as a liaison to the government body and participants and volunteers. To cover immobility, the AMAN uses the internet as the base of interaction and makes a web page a platform for discussion. The process included many sources and started the discussion, such as using the WhatsApp Group and email. The discussion the web is separated into five rooms represent four issues, and the fifth room is the common room as a platform to finish the conclusion and the report. All done with several changes such as the length of discussion extend for several weeks to get more comments and solve technical drawbacks such as troubleshooting for writing up and connections. The challenges are time differences among the West, Middle and East. Some of them are mothers who need to manage the domestic's needs and the internet connection. Two moderators were responsible for attracting, giving comments, and later making a conclusion based on the discussion and brought it in the fifth room as a general conclusion. The report then becomes the documents to discuss the issue in the International event. Digital disruption is usually the case; however, in this case, it disrupts positively. It becomes possible to participate in an international meeting that is usually rare and only for delegates.

**Keywords:** *Women movement, Women empowerment, Women experiences*

### **Presenter's Biography**

(Not available)

# **REFLECTION SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE AMONG MALAYSIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVIST AGAINST CULTURE OF IGNORANCE TOWARD VIOLENCE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN AMIDST PANDEMIC COVID-19**

**Mansurni Abadi and Durrah Malek**  
*Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: P103027@siswa.ukm.edu.my

## **Abstract**

When dealing with violence against women and children during or after the pandemic covid-19 in Malaysia, we cannot ignore the social-cultural elements in which the violence happened; it will play a significant role as an amplifier or liberator. In Malaysia, ignorance culture is more powerful than a culture of knowing close to civic knowledge. Therefore, the future generation, particularly university students with a position as protector of value, moral forces, irons stock, social control, and agent of change with a spirit of activism, will be motivated to alter, oppose, or control culture of ignorance in Malaysia. Aim of this research is to fill a gap in previous research about grassroots movements that overcome similar issues during and after pandemic Covid-19, which never revealed the activism spirit among university students, even though they already contributed to providing social networks and support to victims and helped to re-create a society that was free of a culture of ignorance—this research, using descriptive analysis with a focus group discussion with ten activists from ten different organization as primary information who involved with Alliance of National Walkout School Day (NWSA) as subject of research that supplemented by literature review. The research later found that three-play goals of activism among them (1) to Prevent, (2) to respond, and (3) to coordinate. All the goal goes beyond mere rhetorical narratives, periodic (seasonal) actions, and narrow concepts. However, it is already very specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound, even inclusive and equitable with practical steps such as (1) de-constructing understanding, which have been considered correct, (2) empathy with rationale thinking, (3) active listening, (4) zero-tolerance culture, (5) avoid politicizing and toxic response, (6) firmly acts without being hostile to culture, and (7) focused with network-oriented strategies beyond borders.

**Keywords:** *Culture of Ignorance, College student activism, Gender relation, Spirit Of resistance, Sustainable Development Goals*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Mansurni abadi is Former student activist in Indonesia, that have experience related to protest against government and lead social movement that concern with literacy in Indonesia. Enrolled as Master degree by research mode under institute ethnic studies since 2019, that interest with national integrity, radicalism, feminism, and youth activism currently active with Indonesia student association in Malaysia as executive member of research and strategic studies.

## **COPING STRATEGIES OF WOMEN IN YEMEN DURING CONFLICT**

**Ghaidaa Motahar**  
*Gender Studies Department*  
*Social Science Faculty*  
*Universiti Malaya*

Corresponding Email: [alabsi.ghaidaa98@gmail.com](mailto:alabsi.ghaidaa98@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

Yemen has continuously been one of the worst countries globally in terms of women's rights according to international development indicators, and the armed conflict has worsened the conditions for women in particular. However, studying Women's coping mechanisms in the current armed conflict in Yemen is extremely scarce in academic literature. In grey literature, few studies have been carried out by a variety of UN agencies and INGOs working in Yemen humanitarian response, which have primarily focused on addressing gender more broadly. Understanding coping mechanisms is crucial in humanitarian response to precisely respond to women's needs and utilize the existing local capacity. This research investigates the types of coping strategies women chose to survive and protect the livelihood means for their families. Besides, the research illustrates the internal and external factors that contribute to adopting a specific coping strategy over others. The research aims to categorize the coping strategies of women in Abyan and Hajja within a conceptual framework supported with evidence from the field. The empirical findings collected through qualitative in-depth interviews with 32 women-headed households in Khanfer district in Abyan governorate in the south of Yemen and Abs district in Hajja governorate in the northern part of the country. The findings indicate five coping strategies: problem-solving mechanisms, support seeking, escape avoidance, distraction, and religious coping. Also, the results illustrate how the social structure and power dynamics shape the coping strategies that women chose; besides, their role in enhancing or alleviating the negative coping strategies. The findings point out that the different coping strategies adopted in the northern and southern parts of the country reflect that Yemen does not constitute a single homogeneous group. In addition, the different historical background and conflict parameters of these two governorates played a role in women choices for coping strategies. This study could be used to formulate programs and develop services further to empower women amid the conflict.

**Keywords:** *Yemen, Women, Coping, Strategies, Choice, Power Dynamic, Historical Background*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Ghaidaa has seven years of work experience in the humanitarian sector with UN agencies and international organizations in Yemen. Her career and academic focus on gender and humanitarian. Since joining Malaya University, Ghaidaa has published essays and contributed to studies related to gender, women's security and humanitarianism in the context of Yemen. Ghaidaa is still PhD student with Malaya University and currently working in humanitarian coordination with UNOCHA-Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok



## **THE GOOD WOMAN: INVISIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER EXPECTATIONS AMONG MALAYSIAN SIKH WOMEN**

**Charanjit Kaur, Ashwinder Kaur and Parvenpal Kaur**  
*Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)*

Corresponding Email: charanjit@utar.edu.my

### **Abstract**

The Sikh religious scripture Guru Granth Sahib upholds the principles of equality between genders in every aspect of life. Sikh individuals are encouraged to marry and practice equality in family life. Each has equal roles, responsibilities, and powers as the other. Nonetheless, cultural traditions that prevent women from practicing the true Sikh religion tenets continue to plague most Sikh households. Women's roles are not only burdened by patriarchal tradition, but they are also "trapped" in sexist expectations. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to investigate how invisible female gender expectations are constructed in Sikh families, as well as to what extent personality and values influence the "shaping" of a good woman. The study's findings were obtained through a structured questionnaire and semi-structured interview in which a total of 35 females and 22 males participated. Thematic analysis was used to look for common patterns in data that were related to the research questions. According to the data, female authorities appear to be passing on stereotypical ideas to female members and expecting them to do household chores and be flexible at all times. Their mothers, on the other hand, do not encourage or train their sons to do housework. Predictably, male respondents expect females to handle household chores, where failure to learn is regarded as an unfit wife who is incapable of handling responsibilities. Despite being a religion that preaches equality, it is unfortunate that women in Sikh society are still expected to work in the domestic domain and are viewed as a sacrificing gender.

**Keywords:** *Sikh Women, Gender Expectation, Personality and Values*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Charanjit Kaur is currently an Assistant Professor at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's Department of General Studies, Faculty of Creative Industries (UTAR). Her area of expertise is cultural anthropology, with a particular emphasis on the Sikh minority community in Malaysia, where she addresses issues such as religious-cultural conflicts, gender identity, and social behaviour. She is also frequently invited to participate as a member of the Sikh religious panel in various academic and community forums hosted by local and international universities and religious organisations such as the Malaysian Institute of Integrity, TV Alhijrah, and Radio Traxx fm.

## **PERCEPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LEISURE-TIME AMONG HOUSEWIVES IN TURKEY: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF INEQUALITY**

**Meryem İlhan and Mozharul Islam**

*Department of Sociology*

*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

*Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University*

Corresponding Email: meryem.ilhan@std.izu.edu.tr

### **Abstract**

Leisure-time, a time left over from work and free from binding and obligation has emerged as a time that a person will use with her/his free will. It is shaped around many factors, such as education, working conditions, income, gender, and occupation, and reveals the dichotomy between the working and resting time of the individual. This study examines the position of leisure time needed for self-renewal to increase the quality of life of housewives who are outside the labour market in Turkey. In particular, this research explores the housewives' perception and management of leisure time according to their socioeconomic status determined by education, income, and profession. This study calculates the socioeconomic status of housewives with no income using The Turkish Socio-Economic Status Index (TÜSES). This study also employs the capability approach previously used by Nussbaum (2011) in the context of the human development perspective and by Robeyns (2003) to create the list of capabilities in the context of gender inequality. The capability approach aims to reflect the difference between the opportunities individuals have to achieve well-being. It is seen that the work and leisure-time of housewives are intertwined. Their perception of this phenomenon and the differences in their management of leisure-time activities reveal the inequality within the possibilities they have in line with their status. The study also revealed the following: Firstly, there is a significant relationship between the socioeconomic status calculated based on households, individual income, and education and the level of participation in leisure time and activities. Secondly, all housewives, irrespective of their status, education, or individual income, have emphasized the importance and indispensable position of leisure time in their daily lives. However, socioeconomic status is a determining factor when it comes to participation or leisure-time allocation.

**Keywords:** *Leisure-time, Perception, Socio-Economic Status, TÜSES, Housewife Inequality*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Meryem İlhan is an undergraduate student in the department of sociology at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. She is going to complete her Bachelor Degree in June 2021. She has interests in doing research works on many aspects affecting the societies. Her research interests cover inequality, social stratification, gender issues, everyday sociology, research methodology etc. Currently she is writing her Bachelor thesis titled 'Perception and Management of Leisure-Time among the Housewives with Different Socio-Economic Status in Turkey: A Sociological Analysis in the Context of Inequality'. Recently Ms. İlhan has achieved TÜBİTAK-2209A research scholarship from TÜBİTAK to complete her Bachelor thesis.

# STRATEGIES OF BATAK TOBA WOMEN PEASANTS IN OVERCOMING ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES: A CASE OF LAKE TOBA AREA

**Agnes Winaryati**

*Global Catholic Climate Movement Chapter Indonesia*

Corresponding Email: agneswin6@gmail.com

## **Abstract**

Policies on forest-based industries in Indonesia have created an ecological impact that affects the communities' lives surrounding the forest and the mill. Women peasants as members of these customary communities bear the heaviest ecological impacts. This study explores the ecological impact of forest-based industries development in the Lake Toba area. The study also reveals how the ecological impacts and the customary law have influenced Batak Toba women peasants and their strategies for overcoming the ecological impacts. Women's experiences in facing the ecological impacts are reflected using the Feminist Political Ecology approach to highlight the multiple impacts that women experience. Theories of Adaptation and Social Movement are used, to highlight the resistances as their response to survival. In-depth interviews and observation were conducted in 2004-2005, while secondary data is updated. The pulp industries in Porsea had various ecological impacts that affect the community, including the loss of their main livelihood, loss of land, and internal conflicts. The Batak Toba customary law, characterized by the kinship system of *dalihan na tolu* and the ideal life of *hagabeon*, *hamoraon* and *hasangapon*, has created an imbalance in labour division, the division of roles and access to economic resources between men and women. These gender inequities have been exaggerated in experiencing ecological impacts. They faced less access to and control over economic resources, the workload increases, the loss of their main livelihood, and threats to reproductive health. The Batak Toba women peasants have implemented various strategies. It can be concluded that the patriarchal perspective influences forestry policies in Indonesia, intertwined with customary law have placed women as the heaviest bearers of all the economic, social and ecological impacts. Through their strategies in overcoming all these difficulties, the Batak Toba women peasants have redefined the meaning of gender and their identity. The recommendation presented was to consider forestry policies not to treat forests as an economic resource for mere economic growth but to be managed for subsistence.

**Keywords:** *Ecological Impact, Strategies, Kinship Systems, Feminist Political Ecology, Subsistence*

## **Presenter's Biography**

1985 – 2015: worked at PT Kayu Lapis Indonesia Group, a forest-based company. 1999: joined Jaringan Mitra Perempuan, later changed the name to Mitra ImaDei, concerning on gender issues. In the same year joined the Paprika Foundation engaged in environmental education. 2002-2005: attended Women's Studies at the University of Indonesia with the title of thesis as the abstract I wrote above. 2016 – now serve as committee member of Justice and Peace Commission - Archdiocese of Jakarta. 2019: co-founded of SRIMPI, engaged in community empowerment around the conservation area. 2021: co-founded of GCCM Indonesia.

## **‘FROM US TO US’: RELIGIOUS AND MORAL GUIDANCE VIA FACEBOOK FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITY**

**Rudy Imran Shamsudin<sup>1</sup>, Nik Norma Nik Hasan<sup>1</sup> and Saiful Nujaimi Abdul Rahman<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup> School of Communication*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

*<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication*

*Universiti Putra Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: rudyimran75@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

This article discusses the role and approach implemented by three LGBTQ organizations, Permata PINTAS, Cahaya Mentari and Usrah Fitrah, through social media to provide moral and Islamic guidance to the LGBTQ community in Malaysia. The organizations use Facebook to reach out to its community. They are supported by the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (MAIS) through its Al-Riqab department which focuses on the welfare of those in need in terms of economic, moral, and religious assistance. With the emergent of social media, efforts in remedying LGBTQ inclinations through the internet had been escalating. The focus of those efforts is in providing the fundamental religious and moral teachings. In Malaysia, MAIS and Al-Riqab have consistently disseminated and shared vital information with LGBTQ people through social media. MAIS holds countless religious rehabilitation programs and participants are also allowed to initiate their Facebook groups. This serves as an extension of MAIS itself and expand its programs outreach using social media. Various themes of past studies, such as issues of health, sexually transmitted diseases, had been done quite extensively. This study will use in-depth interview methods with six group leaders to explore their social media strategies to support the LGBTQ people. Thus, the objectives of this research are: (i) To strategize the social media content in attracting the LGBTQ community to participate in religious and moral guidance efforts; and(ii) To prepare the LGBTQ community in dealing with present and future challenges.

***Keywords:*** *LGBTQ, Facebook, Moral Guidance, MAIS, Malaysia*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Rudy Imran Shamsudin currently pursuing his PhD at the School of Communication, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Has almost 20 years of experience in journalism. His research interest includes journalism, communication and creative writing.

# **THE RISK OF PLEASURE. NEUTRALIZATION TECHNIQUES ADOPTED BY MALAYSIAN CLIENTS OF SEX WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Soo Jin, Lim and Shu Xu, Cheah**  
*Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)*

Corresponding Email: sjlim@utar.edu.my

## **Abstract**

On the 18th of March 2020, Malaysia implemented its movement control order (MCO) to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Malaysia. This had a huge impact on Malaysia and those involved in the sex industry. This study is a development on a previous study by the researchers examining the application of Sykes and Matza (1957) techniques of neutralization amongst Malaysian male clients of female sex workers. This study furthers the previous study's findings by examining the neutralization techniques used by male clients during the Covid-19 pandemic that greatly impacted Malaysia. This study examines 8 male clients of 2 female sex workers from June 2000 until January 2021. This study examined the discourse of the male clients with the aim of incorporating new data on how the Covid-19 pandemic had changed the discourses of these male clients when justifying their participation in commercial sex activities during a time of national and worldwide emergency. This qualitative study uses in depth interviews conducted online and offline using respondents whom the researchers in their previous study have recruited. This study also incorporated the view of the female sex worker and their views on how they navigate the increased obstacles in getting in touch and obtaining clients during the pandemic.

***Keywords:*** *Sex work, Clients, Techniques of neutralization, Deviant behavior, Covid-19*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Dr. Lim has been a lecturer in UTAR since 2004. He obtained his PhD in Social Science from UTAR in 2016. His area of specialization is in Gender studies specifically in examining the clients of sex workers in Malaysia.

# **TRANS MEN IN MALAYSIA: EXAMINING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN BECOMING MEN**

**Vizla Kumaresan**

*School of Arts and Social Sciences  
Monash University Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: vizla.kumaresan1@monash.edu

## **Abstract**

This study aims to examine the decision-making processes that trans men utilise in constructing their masculine identities. In inquiring about how trans men make decisions about the kind(s) of masculinity they want to express; this research also addresses from where trans men learn about being men and the factors affecting which aspects of masculinity they will adopt; and the cognitive factors that go into the decision-making processes in becoming men. Using a qualitative approach, the study utilises semi-structured, in-depth and audio recorded interviews to gain a perspective on trans men's masculine identities. These interviews centre on the experiences of trans men and the meanings they give to masculinity and masculine identities. Preliminary findings show that trans men perform and embody masculinity to the extent that it reduces the cognitive dissonance between what they describe as their true selves and they are having been assigned female at birth. They worked out for themselves the kind of men they wanted to be. In so doing, they disrupt the ideas of masculinity, binary ideas of gender, and norms of heterosexuality. It also raises important questions on gender relations and their role in maintaining gender inequality. Finally, it sheds light on the need to examine stereotypes of masculinity and femininity, as well as hegemonic femininity and its role in gender relations. This study opens an important inquiry on the under-researched area of masculinity and trans men in Malaysia. Addressing this gap literature has significance for the practice of clinical psychology where treatment modules can be set up for intervention in order to work with men or rehabilitate problem behaviours in men. It also contributes to the growing literature on achieving gender equality.

***Keywords:*** *Trans men, Masculinity, Malaysia, Cognitive Dissonance, Qualitative*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Vizla Kumaresan is a Clinical Psychologist and PhD candidate in Monash University Malaysia. She works on issues of gender identity and expression, and sexuality.

## **EXAMINING HESITATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN THE COMING OUT NARRATIONS BY CHINESE FILIPINO LGBTQIA+**

**Hiraya S. Marcos and Roberto P. Lim Jr.**

*Philippine Cultural College - Manila*

Corresponding Email: marcos.hiraya.s@philippineculturalcollege.edu.ph;  
limrob26@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

Especially within conservative circles of society, coming out has become a significant decision undertaken by the members of the LGBT community. While gender studies have gradually uncovered LGBT dynamics, there is more to grasp the dynamics across conservative cultural communities and the decision to come out. This study analyzes hesitation and empowerment in the narrations of Chinese Filipino LGBTQIA+. This study uses online interviews and textual analysis as its methodological design. It also applies queer phenomenology, which supposes queerness arising from contingency with other bodies that lay outside the perspective of heteronormativity. Within the stories of hesitation found in the coming out stories, a blend of personal, social, and cultural factors served as roadblocks in the initial phases, including internalized homophobia and surrounding hostile reactions. On the other hand, empowerment hinged on progression and individuation across the respondents' stories, highlight the agency of the self as capable of self-recognition, strength, and socialization in the coming out process. Given these, each narrative of coming out by Chinese Filipino LGBTQIA+ members lie across the confluences of hesitation and empowerment, where culture, identity, and tradition all inevitably culminate.

**Keywords:** *Hesitation, Empowerment, Coming out, Chinese Filipino LGBT*

### **Presenter's Biographies**

1. Hiraya Marcos is a graduate of the Philippine Cultural College HUMSS strand. She is interested in several branches of the social sciences, such as psychology, political science, and anthropology. She is also interested in learning about different cultures around the world. She has been the Editor in Chief for Tanglaw: The Official School Publication of PCC Manila for two years, and she plans on taking up the Interdisciplinary Studies course in Ateneo de Manila University, where she will be able to pursue her varied interests in a cohesive program.
2. Roberto Lim Jr. is currently finishing his Master of Arts degree in Asian Studies at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines. He specializes in the fields of memory in Chinese media texts, and media representations of Asian and Chinese communities. He handles courses in social sciences, humanities, social science research, and media and information literacy at the Philippine Cultural College Main Campus.

## A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON LEADERSHIP IN THE PANDEMIC

**P. Sindhuja<sup>1</sup>, N.K. Bhuvanewari<sup>2</sup> and K.R. Murugan<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Women's Studies*

*Alagappa University, India*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Politics and Public Administration*

*Alagappa University, India*

<sup>3</sup> *Department of Social Work*

*Alagappa University, India*

Corresponding Email: [sindhujaravi06@gmail.com](mailto:sindhujaravi06@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

This article focuses on the significance of having women leaders during the Covid-19 crisis. From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a lot of media attention paid to the relationship between female and male leaders of various nations in the effectiveness of their handling of the Covid-19 crisis. The Global Gender Gap Report 2020 shows that the countries high on the list are led by women leaders and fought against the pandemic most effectively. It also reveals that the same countries rank high when it comes to having women on corporate boards. Though women hold only 6% of the world's government leadership roles, several women leaders are actively engaging in preparing the mitigation activities against the coronavirus pandemic. Reports from The New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN, and USA Today have highlighted that the country led by women leaders has minimized deaths from Covid-19 by making firm decisions with the support of their people. The Covid-19 crisis has caught world leaders off-guard and has confirmed that the countries lead by women have powerful governments and their economies are well prepared to deal with an aggressive outbreak. Countries like Germany, New Zealand, Iceland, and Finland all with women leaders fall into this category. Women leaders in these countries are very compassionate, providing hope, and better healthcare facilities for managing the existing and post-pandemic situation. In this article, we argue the importance of harnessing the advancement of women leadership and execution of gender-inclusive lens during pandemic preparedness. This article also briefs out the constraints of women political leaders in performing their roles and suggest measures to facilitate women's influence over the decision-making process. The data from various nations have been collected through secondary sources which reveal that the presence of women leaders is indeed needed as they focus on both the gender for promoting gender parity during crisis too.

**Keywords:** *Gender, Covid-19, Leadership, Gender Parity and Women Leaders*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Since 2019 Ms. P. Sindhuja is working as a Teaching Assistant in the Dept. of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, India. Her Ph.D research focuses on gender role differences among the elected panchayat leaders in Tamil Nadu. She won the "Best Shanthi Sainik" award by the Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Deemed University, Dindigul for the year 2001. She is also an editor for a bulletin and e-newsletter published by the Dept. of Women's Studies, Alagappa University. She has published more than 15 articles in peer reviewed and scopus indexed journals.



## **BOON OR BANE?: WORK FROM HOME (WFH) FOR WOMEN**

**Swagata Sinha Roy and Kavitha Subaramaniam**

*Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)*

Corresponding Email: swagata@utar.edu.my

### **Abstract**

The coronavirus outbreak that occurred since the end of 2019 had brought enormous changes both personally or professionally. Many employees were instructed to work from home (WFH) as the Malaysian government announced partial lockdown throughout the country starting from 18th March 2020. During this period, many jobs had to alter their ways by acquiring the workers to work from their residence. Practically they would need internet access, laptops, or desktops to carry out tasks that were assigned. This study will explore the females who are in the teaching profession at the tertiary education level. As we are all aware, the teaching mode had to be switched from physical to online teaching and learning (OTL). Of course, in the quest of delivering knowledge to the students, the educators had to undergo various barriers, challenges, and obstacles not only with the students but also with their family members. Imagine the hurdles that one needs to go through in the helter-skelter scenario they are in for providing quality education without compromising the teaching standard from home! The role conflict paradigm will look at how these female educators need/needed to execute their duties professionally and personally (in the role as ‘family manager’). This dual role and status do affect the performance of these women as they are torn between delivering their best to the students as well as take care of each family member, more so the young children. The objective of this study aims at i) Conducting online teaching and learning (OTL) from home ii) The caretaking of their dependents (children, spouse, and elderly) iii) Balancing their role and status by working and housekeeping at the same time and space. The methodology that was utilized for this research comprises the qualitative technique. The authors interviewed 30 participants from a private university at Klang Valley. These interviews were audio-recorded with their consent. The transcription of the interviews was transcribed to examine the thematic patterns. Moreover, peer checking was conducted to reduce the bias of the information for credibility. The findings pointed out that the OTL mechanism was easier said than done as the participants had to face challenging situations such as poor internet quality, grasping the online software, and purchasing/upgrading the gadgets that disrupted their teaching competence. They were put in a strenuous role to juggle their teaching schedule while at the same time looking into the needs of each family member, such as being a mother, wife, daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, and sister-in-law. The interviewees were in a conflicting position where they had to oblige the 3 Cs at home which were to (i) clean house, (ii) prepare meals (breakfast, lunch, teatime, dinner, supper) and, (iii) care for young offspring(s) and frail parents or parents-in-law (basically play the role of caregiver). This caused a lot of conflicts as they need/needed to fulfill these duties concurrently with their online teaching duties.

**Keywords:** *Work from Home, Lecturers, Online Teaching and Learning, Family, Household Chores*

### **Presenter’s Biography**

Swagata Sinha Roy is from the Department of Modern Languages, Faculty of Creative Industries, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia. She has been working in UTAR since May 2004. Her research interests include cultural heritage, folklore, film adaptations of written narratives and presently, the toxicity of social media.

## **MIGRATION, WORK-FROM-HOME CULTURE, AND SOCIAL REPRODUCTION AND CARE IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC: A CASE STUDY OF INDONESIAN WORKING WOMEN IN HONG KONG**

**Yusmiati Vistamika Wangka**  
*CA Centre for Migrant Domestic Worker*  
*Hong Kong*

Corresponding Email: vivi\_stt@yahoo.com

### **Abstract**

The Covid-19 pandemic is impacting the world in an unprecedented manner. However, not all people affected in the same way as the impact of the pandemic is never gender-neutral. Emerging evidence shows that women are affected differently than men. The experience of migrant working women is one example. Many migrant women who engage actively in production work are still responsible for social reproduction work in the home, while men are only in the public domain. Gender roles that making women, in particular, are assigned to the domestic sphere embedded in many cultures in Asia contribute to this situation. In times of the pandemic, migrant working women experience the multi-burden situation as the pandemic intensifies the work-from-home culture. Hence, this paper examines the gender dimension of the Covid-19 pandemic by exploring the experiences of migrant working women dealing with work-from-home style at the same time perform social reproduction and care for the family. Based on participant observation and in-depth interviews with five Indonesian working women in Hong Kong, the paper explores the meaning of work-from-home, and social reproduction and care during the pandemic to these women. Further, the paper provides a feminist perspective on the intersection of migration, gender, and the Covid-19 pandemic by addressing how migrant working women negotiate multi-burden due to the sifting of work style and care work strategy to cope with.

**Keywords:** *Migration, Working Women, Covid-19, Work-From-Home, Social Reproductive, Care Work*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Yusmiati Vistamika Wangka graduated from Gender Study at School of Strategic and Global Study of Universitas Indonesia in 2018. At the same year, Yusmiati rejoined Centre for Migrant Domestic Worker of Christian Action Hong Kong as Shelter in-charge, where she works closely with women migrant domestic workers from various nationalities, the survivors of violence, discrimination and exploitation. Yusmiati has been worked in the same position from 2013 to 2016 before continued her study from 2016 to 2018. Prior to her temporary moved to Hong Kong, Yusmiati was actively working on women's issue in Indonesia, including established YWCA Indonesia.

## **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES USED BY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHWS) IN PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN BAY, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES**

**Maria Estella Nacion**

*Bureau of Local Government Finance  
University of the Philippines Los Baños*

Corresponding Email: mrnacion@up.edu.ph ; mr.nacion@blgf.gov.ph

### **Abstract**

Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are categorized as a village or grassroots health workers and considered as the first contacts of community people for simple curative and preventive health care measures. They are important in providing reproductive health (RH) services and information. Little information is known about BHWs at the community level (Dawson, 2010). Hence, this study was conducted to analyze the communication strategies employed by Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) in promoting reproductive health in the municipality of Bay, Laguna. Specifically, the study sought to 1) determine the socio-demographic characteristics of BHWs in Bay, Laguna; 2) identify the RH messages they communicate; 3) determine the communication channels they use; 4) find out the communication approaches they employ; 5) identify the communication problems they encounter in promoting RH information; and 6) ascertain their suggestions on how the communication strategies in promoting RH could be improved. The study employed a one-shot survey research design and used self-administered questionnaires to gather data from the 36 BHWs of Bay. The survey's salient findings were supported by key informant interviews to create an in-depth discussion of the issues and concerns faced by BHWs in promoting RH. Data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. Most of the BHWs of Bay were in their early 40s to early 60s, female, and married. The majority of them communicated RH topics on family planning, contraception, pregnancy, and maternal and prenatal health. The communication channels often used to communicate RH were as follows: 1) interpersonal channels – unintended conversations, house visits, and counseling; 2) group channels – group discussions and meetings; and 3) mass media – television and pamphlets. Information, education, and communication (IEC) was the communication approach employed the most. The BHWs perceived that many community people were skeptical, were not participative and had a low level of knowledge of RH. They also complained of a lack of communication materials and resources in promoting RH. They suggested that they should be provided with the following to improve the promotion of RH in Bay: 1) training in communicating RH; 2) resources for mothers' RH classes or seminars; 3) updated communication materials; and 4) strong government support.

**Keywords:** *Reproductive Health, Communication Strategies, Barangay Health Workers*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Since joining the Bureau of Local Government Finance in 2015, Maria Estella has been involved with planning and programming work on gender and development as the Bureau's focal person. Maria Estella is taking up the Master's in Public Affairs, specializing in Strategic Planning and Public Policy, at the College of Public Affairs and Development, UPLB, and finished BS in Development Communication at the College of Development Communication, UPLB.

## **MATERNITY PROTECTION ISSUES AND FEMALE WORKING EXPERIENCE IN ASIA: A SCOPING REVIEW**

**Nor Hafizah Selamat<sup>1</sup>, Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim<sup>2</sup>, Noraida Endut<sup>1</sup>, Shariffah Suraya Syed Jamaludin<sup>2</sup>, Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah<sup>1</sup>, Suziana Mat Yasin<sup>2</sup>, Nurul Jannah Ambak<sup>1</sup>, Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz<sup>1</sup> and Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affan<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

*<sup>2</sup>School of Social Sciences*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: hafiz@usm.my

### **Abstract**

Women are more likely to participate in the workforce to be eligible for maternity and job protection aspect of the policy often drives this increase in participation. However, not much is known about the maternity experiences at the workplace. This systematic review aims to understand the various maternity protection issues and challenges experienced by women at the workplace in published research. An electronic search of eight major databases was conducted to discuss the knowledge gaps. Twelve (12) studies were included from 88,639 reviewed papers that were published between January 2009 to February 2019. A thematic synthesis identified six (6) key themes: managing maternity (n=1); maternity infrastructure (n=3); understanding issues of inequality in maternity protection (n=4); returning to work after confinement (n=4); maternity protection best practices (n=1); and challenges and support of maternity protection (n=4). This systematic review provides evidence of the various issues related to maternity that have an impact on the working experiences of women at the workplace. Given the small number of studies and the methodological limitations of the evidence, longitudinal studies are needed to further explore the practice of maternity protection by employers and its effects on employees and to address the needs of women workers in the workplace.

**Keywords:** *Maternity Protection, Female Working Experience, Women At Work, Systematic Review*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Dr. Nor Hafizah Selamat is a social anthropologist and now an associate professor at the Anthropology and Sociology Section, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. She is also currently the Academic and Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA). She obtained her master degree in Social Anthropology and completed her doctoral study in the same field in 2001 from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK specializing in Anthropology of Tourism. Nor Hafizah's scholarly interest includes anthropology of tourism, women and entrepreneurships, community development and gender studies.

## **IMPACT OF MATERNAL DIETARY INTAKE ON HUMAN MILK COMPOSITION**

**Salniza Akmar Binti Kamaruszaman and Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah**

*Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: kamaakmar@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The growth development of the baby depends on the quality of the milk itself. Unlike adults, who can get additional nutrition from various types of food and supplements, newborn to six-month-old babies feed only their mother breast milk or formula milk. What the mother consumes is what the baby consumes indirectly. The composition of human milk can be affected by the diet consumed by the lactating woman. To gather the quantitative evidence on this issue, we carried out a systematic search of articles published from 2010 and filtered the retrieved articles according to predefined criteria. Only studies that provided quantitative information on both maternal diet and milk data, measured in individual healthy mothers of healthy term infants and based on an original observational or experimental design, were included. The influence of the maternal diet on milk composition varies in magnitude between nutrients. It is hoped that this paper can contribute knowledge to all related and unrelated individuals and the body of organizations in conducting and collecting information on the impact of maternal dietary intake on the breast milk composition of mothers in Malaysia.

**Keywords:** *Human milk composition, Dietary intake, Lifestyle*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Akmar has graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), with Bachelor and master's degree of Science Biology (Zoology) in September 2013 and 2019. Since August 2019, she has been actively participating in research works under Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), as research assistants. Currently, she is pursuing her PhD at the KANITA USM.

## **ABORTION LAWS AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AS PART HEALTH AND NUTRITION CURRICULUM FOR ADOLESCENTS IN TAMILNADU HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Poonkuzhali J**

*Alagappa University  
India*

Corresponding Email: [poonkuzhalij@outlook.com](mailto:poonkuzhalij@outlook.com)

### **Abstract**

Many countries around the world have made health, nutrition, and physical fitness education mandatory. India is home to the largest adolescent population, with almost every fifth person of age 10-19 years range, with a total of 253 million, of which 47.3 percent are girls. India is a leading food grain, milk, pulses, fruits, cattle, and vegetable producer, yet 60 to 70 percent of adolescent girls are anemic in India. This study was conducted by visited colleges and high schools in rural and semi-rural areas of the country and highly felt the gap between the nutrition resources and disease prevention knowledge. In the academic year 2018-19, CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) made health and physical education a compulsory subject to study and pass for grade 9-12 students. Tamilnadu State Board of Education's Samacheer Kalvi briefly speaks about the POSCO act- an ordinance providing the death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years in social science textbook of Grade 9. Tamilnadu School Education Department plans to introduce one hour every week for students from classes 6 to 11 from the coming academic year for the health and wellness program. After reviewing the current literature, this study was conducted among 50 young adult women, who are in their second year of university inquiring about their knowledge on abortion laws in India and the reproductive rights of women. The results show that there is a big gap in the knowledge and hence there is a need to add this as part of the health and wellness programme of Tamilnadu's high school education and to offer regular sessions on reproductive health in colleges and universities.

**Keywords:** *Abortion Law, Adolescent Girls, Reproductive Health, Education, Nutrition, Rights*

### **Presenter's Biography**

I am educator who has worked around the world and is now spending quality time in completing my PhD thesis, using COVID confinement as an opportunity. My subjects of interest are medical sociology, women's rights, health and fitness along with my taught subject's physics, mathematics and English. I am also passionate about learning languages. I have published few articles and I also give awareness speeches to adolescent girls in high school and young adults in colleges in semi-rural areas of Tamilnadu on nutrition, education and self-sustaining. My priority is to learn more and raise awareness in effective ways.

## NEPALESE WOMEN: PRESERVING CULTURAL TRADITIONS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Kavitha Subaramaniam<sup>1</sup>, Swagata Sinha Roy<sup>1</sup> and Devendra Kumar Budakoti<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman*

<sup>2</sup> *Independent Consultant/Researcher*

Corresponding Email: kavitha@utar.edu.my

### Abstract

The paradigm shift in technology has brought unimagined developments in many communities. The technology has unveiled the social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and of course WhatsApp Messenger; these have provided an opportunity for individuals to communicate and exchange ideas on both personal and professional levels. In this paper the authors would like to examine the minority Nepalese community in Malaysia specifically their womenfolk who are the custodians in safeguarding the intangible heritage – this reference is to their cultural beliefs. The womenfolk play a vital role in ensuring that the community's cultural heritage can be preserved in the face of challenges from the other major or dominant cultures in Malaysia. As such the functionalist perspective framework is found to be suitable to be applied in explaining the expressive role that these minority women hold in their families and society. Before the internet era, many women could not reach out to their fellow community members and it created a vacuum. However, in this digital age, anyone from anywhere can be in touch virtually if they have internet access. Due to this life-changing norm, these women have been utilizing the WhatsApp channel to interact among themselves. The objectives for this study can be summarized as follows i) Women act as the major force in protecting their cultural traditions, and ii) Women are adopting and adapting to the needs of information technology to sustain their unique cultural values. The qualitative methodology approach is employed for this study. The researchers had in-depth interviews with 15 informants who are connected with one another in their particular WhatsApp group. The interviews were based on voluntary participation and were conducted in a blended technique such as face to face, telephone and via virtual platforms due to the coronavirus pandemic that has caused Malaysia to be in a lockdown situation. We audio-recorded the conversation with the participants' consent. Later, the interviews were transcribed to analyze the thematic patterns. The findings will be further discussed and presented.

**Keywords:** *Minority Ethnic, Social Media, Nepalese Women, Cultural tradition, WhatsApp*

### Presenter's Biography

Kavitha Subaramaniam is from the Department of General Studies, Faculty of Creative Industries, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia. She has been working in UTAR since May 2005. Her research interests include sociocultural studies, textual analysis and qualitative study.

# CHALLENGES TO SMART PHONE ACCESS AND APPLICATIONS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION AMONG WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

**Touhida Tasnima<sup>1</sup> and Ruhana Padzil<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Media and Communication  
University of Malaya*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Gender Studies  
University of Malaya*

Corresponding Email: ttasnima@gmail.com

## Abstract

The influence of smartphone usage as a tool for women's empowerment for violence prevention have been the subject of international mandate, national policy and scholarly debate in recent years. With the increasing trend of violence rate against women during this pandemic, mobile phone-based emergency, reporting, and learning applications for violence prevention have become even more significant than before, as it is one of the most effective tools for reaching the victim and informing them about their rights and services. Nonetheless, given that the violence rate has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic (Web Foundation, 2020), questions can be raised about the challenges and limitations women face in obtaining the efficacy of mobile phones that can protect them from any form of violence in the developing countries. This paper aims to analyze the specific challenges, in light of the social-cultural background and governmental initiatives of smartphone usage among Bangladeshi women to answer a key question: What are the barriers that women in Bangladesh face in gaining access and usage to smartphones for the protection and prevention of violence? Thus, the main focus of this study is Bangladeshi women who face several challenges in terms of access, ownership and usage of smartphone to enjoy the benefit of several applications which can assist them to prevent or protect from violence. For the purpose of explanation, a wide variety of secondary data sources, such as journal articles, policy documents, laws, regulations, and governmental reports have been used. The paper further analyses several policy implications which have contributed to increasing women's access, capacity and usage of mobile phone applications to evade different forms of violence now prevalent in other contexts and suggest ways that can be employed in Bangladesh to combat this pervasive social problem.

**Keywords:** *Violence Against Women, Smartphone, Bangladesh*

## Presenter's Biography

Touhida Tasnima is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Relations at East West University, Bangladesh. She is now pursuing her PhD program in the dept. of Media and Communication at the University of Malaya, Malaysia. She received her first MSS degree in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka and obtained her second master's degree in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, The Hague, Netherlands. Her research interest and earlier publications broadly lie in the field of development issues that deals with higher education, the ageing population, women empowerment and ICT interventions.



## **SOCIAL IDENTITY AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS IN MALAYSIAN TOURISM INDUSTRY**

**Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz<sup>1</sup> and Nor Hafizah Selamat<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

<sup>2</sup> *School of Social Sciences*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: hafiz@usm.my

### **Abstract**

Social media provides destination marketing organizations with a tool to help them reach a global audience with relatively limited resources. However, we have yet to understand how the gender of social media influencers plays an important role in every stage of the purchase decision process, as limited study has explored this context, particularly in the Malaysian tourism industry. This paper aimed to explore the relationship between the gender of an influencer and the reaction followers had on posts by the influencer when promoting tourism products and activities. By using social identity theory and theory of engagement, this study will explore how social identity and the gender of social media influencers have an impact on their audience or followers. Social media platforms are identified as the databases for this paper and five (5) female social media influencers, and five (5) male social media influencers were selected to conduct a “poll” survey on their respective Instagram accounts. A simple yes/no poll on preferred tourism destinations, activities, hotels, and food choices, as well as the type of dream-vacation, were conducted, and the results of the survey are analyzed to understand how their followers responded. The findings revealed that male influencers tend to receive more ‘adventurous’ responses in the type of vacation chose compared to female influencers. While female influencers received more ‘informational’ responses from their followers, male influencers received more ‘entertainment’ responses. The findings suggest that the identity of social media influencers have an impact on the follower’s engagement and ultimately helping in promoting tourism products and activities. The impact of the social identity of social media influencers must be considered as an important tool in promoting tourism products and activities.

**Keywords:** *Social Media Influencers, Social Identity, Engagement, Tourism Industry, Gender, Malaysia*

### **Presenter’s Biography**

Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz has graduated from University of Toronto, Canada with a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) in June 2014. She has later pursued her Master’s Degree at the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), USM and graduated in 2019. Her research interest revolves around the issues in Anthropology of Tourism, ethnographic study, and gender studies. Since 2015, she has been actively participating in research works under KANITA as research assistant. Currently, she is enrolled in a PhD programme under KANITA while working on a research grant under MOHE.

## **ROLE OF CREATIVITY IN THE RIRI RENGGANIS FASHION INDUSTRY**

**Ira Adriati**

*Faculty of Visual Art and Design (FSRD)*

*Institute of Technology Bandung*

Corresponding Email: ira.adriati@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic have had a bad impact on fashion entrepreneurs in Indonesia. Their sales decreased due to the low purchasing power of the people. One of the women entrepreneurs in Indonesia who is engaged in fashion is Riri Rengganis. She has the Indische brand for the kebaya brand. In addition, the Rengganis brand is used for other fashion products, such as Indonesian textile, handmade accessories, premium facemasks, blouse, skirt, culotte, outer, pants, and tunic. The study aims to investigate Riri Rengganis's strategy in running her fashion business. The analyzing method used is a qualitative method by carefully analyzing the result of interviews, observations and literatures study and then draw the interpretation of the theory used. The theory used here is Graham Wallas' theory of creativity, namely preparation, incubation, illumination, and verification. That theory is applied to understand the success of Riri Rengganis in her recent fashion product. Rengganis has insight related to traditional Indonesian textile and traditional Indonesian costumes in the preparation stage. When there is a challenge in a pandemic condition, she analyzes what products the community needs. Then she enters the incubation stage, when she does not think about solving a problem consciously, but in her subconscious thought. Illumination stage when Rengganis then found a design for her product. At this stage, she chooses products using embroidery with the development of traditional motives into new designs. She also made three-dimensional embroidery. The last stage is verification when Rengganis realizes the design. Her careful reading of the market always accompanies her creative process. She chooses a high-end market share for her products that emphasized handmade and limited quantities. This emphasis makes the product very exclusive. Their creativity in producing unique and original fashion product designs make their products in demand by high-class markets in Indonesia and the international market.

**Keywords:** *Graham Wallas theory, Creativity, Design, Riri Rengganis*

### **Presenter's Biography**

She has been a lecturer at FSRD ITB since 1995. Her researches are related to gender issues in visual arts, art as therapy, and Indonesian traditional arts. Publish some books: *Perahu Sunda* (2005), *Perempuan Perupa Dunia* (2007), *Wellbeing Dech!* (2020), *Selflove* (2021), and *Aktualisasi Diri Perempuan Perupa Indonesia melalui Instagram* (2021).

## **STARTING THEM YOUNG! INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH CREATIVE CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING**

**Raphael M. Ferrer<sup>1</sup>, Sairah Mae R. Saipudin<sup>2</sup>, Nephtaly Joel B. Botor<sup>1</sup> and Katherine E. Del Rosario<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Human and Family Development Studies (DHFDS)  
University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)*

<sup>2</sup> *Gender Center  
University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)*

Corresponding Email: [rmferrer@up.edu.ph](mailto:rmferrer@up.edu.ph)

### **Abstract**

No nation has passed the criteria of achieving gender equality even after 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action and five years since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Unequal distribution of unpaid labour to women still exists, leadership positions remain elusive for women, and gender-based violence abounds globally. In the Philippines, one out of four women and one out of five children are victims of sexual violence. These figures continue to grow and are aggravated by the COVID-19 Pandemic because the quarantine forces people to remain private and make it difficult to look for public support like police officers, lawyers, etc. In this situation, it is necessary to empower women and children to identify and fight against gender inequality. One of the most effective means to raise the consciousness of children is through stories. This is because children's stories not only advocate for changes in beliefs and morals, but also increase children's brain activity, promote language and literacy skills, develop empathy, foster socialization, and improve cognition. In this regard, the UPLB Gender Center and the Department of Human and Family Development Studies (DHFDS) formulated SOGIE-Inclusive materials through Tsikiting Stories - an initiative that documents and contextualizes the unique experiences and narratives from children about children's issues and community issues through storytelling and dissemination. The said books were converted into video read-aloud digital format to cope with the New Normal strategy. This paper found that advocacy through children's stories must follow the principles of (1) Age-appropriateness and (2) Issue-based advocacy. Specific books developed and how they tackle gender-related concepts through storytelling were discussed in this study. Implications to advocating gender equality and other gender-related concepts to children were highlighted. Finally, the findings guided future recommendations for planning and implementing advocacy initiatives for children.

**Keywords:** *Children's stories, Gender equality, Advocacy*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Prof. Raphael M. Ferrer is an experienced assistant professor, resource speaker / trainer, and researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the field of college education under the University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB). Skilled in Coaching, Community Organizing, Writing, Conducting Training Needs Analysis (TNA), Formulating Training and Workshop Designs, Community Psychology, and Conducting Social Psychological Research. He has a strong professional education with a master's degree focused on Applied Social Psychology (MA ASP) from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) and a bachelor's degree in Social Work (BSSW) from the University of the Philippines - Diliman (UPD).

## **PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN INDIAN MASS MEDIA: AN INVESTIGATION**

**Indira Malani Munusamy**

*Universiti Teknologi Perak (UTP Tronoh Perak)*

Corresponding Email: [indiram@utar.edu.my](mailto:indiram@utar.edu.my)

### **Abstract**

The media's role towards women is becoming the growing concern of feminist writers, basically regarding participation, performance and portrayal of women. This is because different circumstances relating to the media's role towards portraying the fair sex have opened a new angle by leaps and bounds to think precisely about it. The feminists raise various criticisms. According to the different feminists' writers such as Simon de Beauvoir, Shulamith Firestone, Kate Millet, Gallagher, Bretty Friedman, media reinforces stereotype images of women as inferior, subordinate, and submissive are the house wives devoid of all qualities of decision making. India is also home to various feminist writers such as Ritu Menon, Kamala Vasin, Kiran Prasad, who have criticised the role of print and visual media towards women and portraying them. They focus on the point that as Indian society is male-dominated, this dominance can be seen everywhere. Unfortunately, media is not the exception. This paper presents an overview of the overall effect of women's portrayal in media to reinforce rather than reduce prejudices and stereotypes. The mass media in India has not made adequate efforts to discuss serious issues concerning women and prepare women to play their rightful and equal role in society. To change this condition, it is necessary to continuously monitor the media and point out its merits and demerits.

**Keywords:** *Gender Roles, Portrayal, Stereotypes, Mass Media, Indian Society*

### **Presenter's Biography**

I am currently doing my PhD studies in Universiti Teknologi Perak (UTP Tronoh Perak). I have major interest in research studies that relates to gender inequality, female portrayal in media, feminism etc. Since joining Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR Kampar), I have been involved in various studies related to language interpretation, student learning styles, as well as homeschooling in Malaysia. Before joining the university, I have worked with University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as Graduate Research Assistant (GRA). I have joined UTAR since 2015.

## **AWARENESS OF MALAYSIA FAMILY LAW AMONG THE SIKH MARRIED COUPLES**

**Ashwinder Kaur, Charanjit Kaur and Parvenpal Kaur**  
*Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)*

Corresponding Email: ashwinderg@utar.edu.my

### **Abstract**

Despite the fact that we are in the twenty-first century, divorce is still considered a taboo and serious issue in the Sikh community. This could be due to the fact that the word divorce does not appear in religious scripture or Punjabi, the mother tongue of Punjabi Sikhs. Gurdwara institutions, on the other hand, generally do not provide advice on Malaysian Family Law, which is inconvenient for couples experiencing marital problems. The researchers want to know the level of awareness of Malaysian Family Law among married Sikh couples, particularly regarding divorce and childcare issues, out of a sense of social responsibility. This article also discusses the possibility of a couple divorcing if they understand the law. The study's findings were obtained via a questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions, in which 40 females and 40 males participated. To describe the respondents' understanding of the subject matter, a descriptive statistic was used. The majority of respondents are unfamiliar with Malaysian family law and believe that Malaysian law is biased toward women. Males are seen to have less of a divorce thought than females. In the survey, the females stated that divorce was an option to end marital misery due to having to deal with a violent partner and dealing with overwhelming days. This study should serve as a wake-up call in Sikh society, assisting in the creation of awareness to assist both genders in coping and saving themselves from having a serious breakdown and the hassle of learning about family law in the future.

**Keywords:** *Family Law, Sikh Couples, Divorce, Childcare*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Upon joining Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman & completing her Masters, Ashwinder has been interested and involved with studies related to media & religious identities in minority with a focus on Sikhs and gender. She is currently pursuing her PhD in UTAR in relation to minority Sikhs as well. She has been with UTAR since 2008.

## **A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ON THE PRECARITY OF WORK IN THE APPAREL SECTOR: EVIDENCE FROM BANGLADESH**

**Sumena Sultana, Noraida Endut and A. H. M. Belayeth Hussain**

*Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: [sumenasultana@student.usm.my](mailto:sumenasultana@student.usm.my)

### **Abstract**

The export-oriented apparel industry of Bangladesh has flourished at a rapid pace utilizing a flexible supply of female labour. Despite its widespread recognition, this industry has encountered criticism from the outset for maintaining precarious working conditions in factories. However, since Rana Plaza's collapse- the deadliest industrial disaster in world history, the worst scenario of precarious working arrangements in the apparel industry has received worldwide attention. The Rana Plaza catastrophe has compelled key stakeholders to adopt new regulatory initiatives to address the precarity of work in the apparel industry. Foremost amongst these is the Accord on Fire, and Building Safety in Bangladesh, the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, and the ILO Better work. Recent studies, however, demonstrate that these remediation initiatives primarily focus on structural and safety issues, putting employers under additional financial pressure. Besides, employers have adopted various cost-cutting strategies to thrive in the competitive market. These factors combine to create a more flexible labour market in which workers experience different forms of precarity than in previous times. In light of these circumstances, this paper aims to explore the nature, causes, and implications of the precarity of work in the apparel industry in Bangladesh, focusing on gender perspective. In doing so, this paper follows a systematic review of the literature using the guidelines and checklist outlined by the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) statement. Using a multi-layer search strategy to get relevant articles from key international journals, researchers select 42 articles for final review that completely meet the inclusion criteria. This research demonstrates that precarity in the apparel sector is very pervasive in the post-Rana plaza period, especially in job insecurity, lack of overtime pays, and collective bargaining rights. Women are disproportionately affected by the precarious nature of work due to gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace. The precarity of employment in the apparel industry has different implications on female workers' financial, physical, psychological, and social well-being.

**Keywords:** *Precarity, Job insecurity, Collective bargaining, Decent work, Gender*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Sumena Sultana is a PhD student at the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Her main research interests include precarious employment, gender issues, decent working conditions, labour rights, and reproductive health.

## **DIGNIFIED AND VIOLENCE FREE WORLD OF WORK: A STUDY ON WOMEN WORKING IN INFORMAL SECTOR IN NEPAL**

**Anjam Singh and Sujeena Shakya**

*CARE Nepal*

Corresponding Email: [npl.carenepal@care.org](mailto:npl.carenepal@care.org)

### **Abstract**

A significant percentage (66.5%) of women in Nepal work in the informal sector and are vulnerable to all forms of violence and exploitation. The violence experienced by women in the informal sector ranges from physical, sexual, verbal harassment to labour and economic exploitation by employers, co-workers and family members. The existing legal provisions such as the **Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Act, 2015** does not have specific provisions for the informal sector whereas, other mechanisms to address violence against women, in general, remain ineffective in implementation. In addition, socio-cultural norms and structures limit women's access to justice-seeking mechanisms. Despite pervasive instances of violence and harassment experienced by women in informal sectors, there is a dearth of comprehensive documentation and evidence building on this issue. In this light, the paper examines the existing status, nature and experiences of violence faced by women working in diverse areas of the informal economy. It also critically analyses key gaps in existing legal provisions/policies and barriers to implementation from the perspective of informal sector workers. The paper is based on the findings from 36 case studies of women working in 15 different informal sectors, Gendered Political Economy Analysis (GPEA) with community and policy stakeholders and desk review of relevant policies/legal provisions. The paper argues that women gendered social roles, lack of collectivization, and representation in decision-making bodies put them in a weaker bargaining position to voice against violence instances or make it a priority agenda of advocacy for policymakers. The paper also claims that the lack of adequate and effective policies/provisions on safe working conditions and their implementation leads to the invisibilization of violence at the workplace, enabling powerholders to continue cycles of violence and exploitation without accountability. The paper will contribute towards mainstreaming discourses around dignified work for women in the informal sector. It will also serve as an evidence-based advocacy document to influence the government to ratify **ILO Violence and Harassment Convention No. 190**, a binding international treaty that protects all workers in formal and informal economies.

**Keywords:** *Dignified Work, Violence, Informal Sector, Women*

### **Presenter's Biographies**

1. Ms. Anjam Singh works in CARE Nepal as Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist. She is responsible for designing and implementing research and evaluation activities. Prior to joining CARE, she was involved in several academic and policy research projects in Nepal related to gender and development as an independent qualitative researcher. She has primarily worked on the issues of women's empowerment, unpaid care work, natural resource governance, feminist leadership and domestic violence. Her areas of interests include women's land rights, political economy of gender-based violence and, qualitative/post-qualitative research methodologies.
2. Ms. Sujeena Shakya works as Knowledge Management (KM) Specialist in CARE Nepal. She is responsible for developing and implementing effective KM and learning practices and systems. Since 2017, she has also been working as a part-time lecturer in development communication in Tribhuvan and Purbanchal universities. She also worked in development organizations such as Build Change, RUWON and ADRA Nepal. In most of these roles, she has been directly or indirectly involved in promoting women empowerment and leadership, by using communication and research as tools for empowerment and advocacy. She is also an alumni of Harpswell ASEAN Program in Women Leadership.

# **GENDER EQUALITY AND DECENT WORK THROUGH THE ERADICATION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF PROTECTION AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANISATIONS IN MALAYSIA**

**Noraida Endut<sup>1</sup> and Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

<sup>2</sup> *School of Social Sciences*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: noraidaendut@usm.my

## **Abstract**

Sexual harassment is an unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that can humiliate and threaten the health and safety of the person receiving the conduct. In relation to the workplace, it is a form of violence against women that leads to gender discrimination because women are disproportionately affected by it and as a result, they are often disadvantaged in terms of their employment. The achievement of several of the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth requires the elimination of all forms of violence against women and the provision of safe and conducive workplace that is free from discrimination. This paper is based on a wider study of public service organisations in Malaysia, which inter alia, seeks to investigate how different civil service organisations deal with cases of sexual harassment in the workplace. A survey of 123 public service organisations in the categories of federal, state, local government agencies and statutory bodies was conducted to ascertain the types of policy and practice available in offering protection against sexual harassment in the workplace. Briefly, the study finds that about 84% of the organisations report having a policy of sexual harassment or having observe a practice where sexual harassment is dealt with formally. The paper will also discuss the various responses taken in cases of sexual harassment in these organisations. The preliminary analyses of this survey allow the researchers to delve further into challenges and best practices in dealing with cases of sexual harassment in the workplace in Malaysia, which forms an objective in the wider study mentioned above. In the longer-term context, this study contributes to providing evidence that may help Malaysia achieve the targets of SDG5 and SDG8 by the year 2030.

**Keywords:** *Sexual Harassment, Violence Against Women, Gender Equality, Decent Work, Civil/public service Organisations, SDG 5, SDG 8.*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia with a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) in 2016. He has later pursued his Master's Degree in Social Work at the School of Social Sciences, USM and graduated in 2018. His research interest revolves around the issues in Child Studies, Mental Health, and Gender Studies. Since 2015, he has been actively participating in research works under the School of Social Sciences and the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA) as a research assistant. Currently, he is enrolled in a PhD programme at the School of Social Sciences while working on a research grant under MOHE.



## **FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AND BARRIERS TO REPORTING IT AMONG FEMALE WHO USE DRUGS (FWUD) IN MALAYSIA**

**Asnina Anandan<sup>1</sup>, Darshan Singh<sup>1</sup>, Suresh Narayanan<sup>2</sup>, Nur Aizati Athirah Daud<sup>3</sup>, Azlinda Azman<sup>2</sup> and Vicknasingam Balasingam<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup> Centre for Drug Research*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

*<sup>2</sup> School of Social Sciences*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

*<sup>3</sup> School of Pharmaceutical Sciences*

*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: [asninaanandan@student.usm.my](mailto:asninaanandan@student.usm.my)

### **Abstract**

Females who use drugs (FWUDs) are vulnerable to intimate partner violence (IPV). This study was initiated to identify factors that evoke IPV and identify barriers that preclude FWUDs from seeking help. Two hundred FWUDs were recruited from a mandatory drug rehabilitation centre (CCRC) for this cross-sectional study. The data were collected through face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire. The majority in our sample was Malay (86%, n=171/200), and their mean age was 32.3 years (SD=8.61). The lifetime IPV prevalence rate in the sample was 53% (n=105/200), far exceeding the reported rate for non-drug dependent married women in Malaysia. The prevalence rates for physical, psychological and sexual violence in the sample were 41%, 29%, and 24%, respectively. Lifetime IPV incidence among FWUDs was associated with residing in temporary or unstable living quarters, having a regular intimate male partner who uses drugs, and being a victim of underage rape. The main reasons cited for not reporting IPV were fear of retaliation by the partner, lacking awareness of individual rights and not knowing how to access legal counsel. Our findings can be used to design interventions to minimize IPV and promote assistance and treatment among FWUDs.

**Keywords:** *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS), Female Who Use Drugs (Fwuds), Physical Violence, Malaysia.*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Public health researcher, educator and advocate with 8 years of experience in teaching psychology in tertiary education. Currently a PhD candidate at Centre for Drug Research. Principal research interest in the area of female reproductive health, drug use, intimate partner violence, pelvic examination and sexual health.

## **BEING ONLINE: AN EMERGING FORM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Sharon Wilson<sup>1</sup> and Premalatha Karupiah<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Creative Industries  
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman*

*<sup>2</sup> School of Social Sciences  
Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: sharon@utar.edu.my

### **Abstract**

Social media platforms, such as Instagram, have become a critical space for women and marginalized groups to express themselves at an unprecedented scale. However, a stream of research by Amnesty International (2018) showed that many women are subject to targeted online violence and abuse, which denies them the right to use social media platforms equally, freely, and without fear. These acts directed at visible and audible women demonstrates that cyberspace once heralded as a new, democratic, public sphere, suffers similar gender inequalities as the offline world. This paper reports findings for seven types of cyberbullying experiences among Indian women on Instagram on everyday topics and reinstates that Instagram is not only a form of free communication and a tool of self-expression but a platform for cyberbullying to occur. It examines the experiences of those on the receiving end, thereby making a valuable contribution to existing research, which tends to focus on the analysis of the communications themselves.

***Keywords:*** *Online, Harassment, Abuse, Violence, Self-Expression*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Dr. Sharon Wilson holds a Ph.D. in Communication from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Her research focuses on media, crime and society and has interest in research on Indian woman and identity and their usage of technology as a platform to empower themselves and inadvertently as a tool for their voices.

# THEORISING THE GEOGRAPHIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JOURNEYS IN MALAYSIA WITH GEO-NARRATIVE

**Zuriatunfadzliah Sahdan**

*Faculty of Human Sciences*

*Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)*

Corresponding Email: zuriatun@fsk.upsi.edu.my

## **Abstract**

Gender inequality remains a key challenge as a global health threat with intense violent and forced displacement of women, threatening to reverse much of the development progress. In Malaysia, while domestic violence has deeply affected abused women's lives, most of their experiences have been muddied by the muted response from the relevant agencies. This is partly due to the relatively limited literature on domestic violence in Malaysia from various fields, particularly within social sciences. In general, the gravity of domestic violence is still understood quantitatively by looking at the fluctuation of domestic violence statistics over the year, the frequency of physical violence reported by the survivors, and evaluations that focus on counting numbers who use services. In this way, the formal and informal help provided fails to capture the lived experience of those who use services. This paper aims to propose a framework in theorising women's journeys from abuse toward the success of the global goals in addressing gender-based violence. The proposed method incorporates the oral history of abused women's journeys and then visualises it via Geographical Information System (GIS). The journey mapping approach has previously been deployed successfully to examine women survivors of domestic abuse's experience and access to services. Thus, conceptualising women's relocation due to domestic violence is crucial to point towards possibilities to inform greater understanding and more effective policy and practice.

**Keywords:** *Abused Women's Journeys, Domestic Violence, Oral History, Geo-Narrative*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Zuriatunfadzliah Sahdan is a lecturer in human geography at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia. Dr. Sahdan received her PhD from Durham University. Her research focuses on postcolonialism, space and cultures of domestic violence in Malaysia, using participatory methods and storytelling. She co-authored *Trauma, Gender and Space: Insights from Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UK* (2020) appeared in *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*. Some of her recent works include *Demonic Possession: Narratives of Domestic Abuse and Trauma in Malaysia* will be published in *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*.

# ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE QUEST FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN THE NEW NORMS OF THE WORKING WORLD

**Desintha Dwi Asriani**  
*Department of Sociology*  
*Gadjah Mada University Indonesia*

Corresponding Email: [desintha@ugm.ac.id](mailto:desintha@ugm.ac.id)

## Abstract

Since the new corona disease (Covid-19) is causing unprecedented health crises, people are forced into social distance and lockdown. The corona pandemic is then changing human habits, including the way to use technology. Undeniable, technology has become one of the solutions for tackling the new challenges during the pandemic. Technology plays a vital role to mitigate the difficulties during a pandemic because it enables people to remain connecting and working remotely. In terms of gender, technology even offers flexibility; thus, men and women have the equal opportunity to transform their daily activities into the online platform during a crisis. But, at the same time, this transition indirectly facilitates the rise of online sexual harassment and abuse cases. In Indonesia, the number of reported online gender-based violence is more than doubled during the pandemic, including workplace and social media-based interaction (SafeNet, 2020). This situation increases the vulnerability of women (and girls). Meanwhile, access to technology is a fundamental requirement for those who need to maintain their interaction and activity when the government constantly applies the policy of work/school from home. Furthermore, the risk of online sexual violence against women in the pandemic shows paradox, especially regarding the efforts to implement gender equality in the technology era. This paper intends to discuss the conception of gender equality that should be addressed when all individuals have no choice but expect that technology could provide an alternative and “safest” space in the new norm era. This paper is based on qualitative research that provides a critical analysis regarding the new challenges for advocating women’s participation and gender equality, especially in the context of the new norms’ era.

**Keywords:** *Online Gender-Based Violence, New Norms Era, Gender Equality, Technology*

## Presenter’s Biography

Desintha Dwi ASRIANI (SCOPUS ID: 57188976678), is a lecturer in Department of Sociology, Gadjah Mada University. She received a Bachelor and Master's degree in Sociology UGM, and a PhD from the Department of Women's Studies, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea. Her main concerns include reproductive and sexuality health issues, gender politics, embodiment, and women’s/girls’ agency. She has performed enthusiastically in delivering research results and reports as journal articles, books, and policy briefs, especially in the issues of gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gendered experiences among adolescent group. Along with SRI Institutes, she is also active in the social and policy advocacy activities to explore the reproduction of knowledge based on women’s experiences and another marginalized group. Desintha is also registered as a member of several gender studies associations at both national and international levels.

## **CHILD MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA**

**Diana Teresa Pakasi, Gabriella Devi Benedicta and Irwan M. Hidayana**

*University of Indonesia*

*Indonesia*

Corresponding Email: [diana.pakasi@ui.ac.id](mailto:diana.pakasi@ui.ac.id)

### **Abstract**

Child marriage, a marriage where one of the parties is under the age of 18, has been common in many parts of Indonesia for a long time. In the time of Covid-19 in Indonesia, there has been a rise in child marriage cases due to the economic burden faced by the family. Some child marriages result in divorce at a young age, significantly impacting the lives of young couples, their children, and their families. While there are previous studies on the causes and impacts of child marriage as well as the trend and causes of divorce in Indonesia, there is little known about child marriage and divorce in the context of child marriage especially during the pandemic Covid-19. This paper examines how the practice of child marriage and divorce occur in the period of pandemic Covid-19 in Indonesia and how young women navigate their lives after divorce in child marriages. We argue that although the pandemic Covid-19 made girls from poorer families more vulnerable to being married off, girls and young women show their agency by socially navigating their lives between the family expectations and their own aspirations, as well as the local marriage norms and the Islamic sexual morality. In the face of uncertain life transitions after child marriage or divorce, they do not become passive agents who are stigmatized by the community. Especially those who had gone through a divorce after got married at a child age, the young women could show their ability to become independent and enjoy their freedom to work, socialize with peers, or date someone of their own volition. This article is based on a study conducted in Sukabumi Regency (West Java), Rembang Regency (Central Java), and West Lombok Regency (West Nusa Tenggara), Indonesia.

**Keywords:** *Child Marriage, Divorce, Youth, Pandemic Covid-19, Agency, Social Navigation, Indonesia*

### **Presenter's Biography**

Diana Pakasi has conducted numerous studies on gender, sexuality, and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights in Indonesia. In addition to being a lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Indonesia, since 2018, she has chaired the Center of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the same university.

## **PERINTAH KAWALAN PERGERAKAN: IMPAK SOSIAL DAN PSIKOLOGI KEPADA WANITA DAN KANAK-KANAK**

**Siti Marziah Zakaria, Norizan Abdul Razak, Salina Nen and Norlida Ariffin**

*Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan (FSSK)*

*Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: marziah@ukm.edu.my

### **Abstract**

*Pandemik Covid-19 telah memberikan kesan yang besar kepada kesejahteraan fizikal, psikologi, ekonomi dan sosial masyarakat. Kesan ini wujud apabila masyarakat perlu terus berada dalam perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP) dalam jangka masa yang panjang. Tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa PKP adalah langkah terbaik kerajaan dalam membendung penularan wabak. Namun ia turut memberi kesan kepada kehidupan harian masyarakat. Kajian secara analisis dokumen telah dijalankan ke atas artikel-artikel berindeks, laporan dan dokumen peribadi. Dokumen ini diinterpretasi untuk mendapatkan input mengenai kesan PKP ke atas wanita dan kanak-kanak. Kandungan dokumen dianalisa melalui analisis bertema untuk mengeluarkan tema daripada kandungan. Hasil analisis menemukan 6 domain kesan utama PKP kepada wanita dan kanak-kanak iaitu: 1) keganasan rumah tangga, 2) penderaan fizikal dan seksual, 3) kemurungan dan kebimbangan, 4) keciciran dalam pendidikan, 5) krisis kewangan, dan 6) kesunyian. Impak sosial dan psikologi ini harus diberikan perhatian oleh kerajaan, badan bukan kerajaan, sukarelawan, pekerja sosial, kaunselor dan komuniti. Golongan wanita dan kanak-kanak adalah antara kelompok yang paling terkesan rentetan PKP kerana kekurangan fizikal dan keterbatasan mereka. Mereka perlu dibantu, disokong dan dilindungi oleh semua lapisan masyarakat. Kebajikan dan kesejahteraan hidup mereka perlu sentiasa dipantau dan diberikan keutamaan.*

**Keywords:** *Pandemik, Covid-19, Kesan Sosial, Kesan Psikologi, Wanita, Kanak-Kanak*

### **Presenter's Biography**

*Siti Marziah Zakaria (PhD) aktif dalam menjalankan kajian dan menerbitkan artikel berkaitan pemerksaan wanita, kualiti perkahwinan dan kesejahteraan emosi wanita. Beliau telah menerbitkan beberapa buah bab dalam buku dan buku mengenai kesejahteraan wanita, antaranya: Realiti kepuasan hidup wanita bekerjaya pertengahan usia.*

# **VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE SEX WORKERS AMIDST COVID19 PANDEMIC: A PRELIMINARY REVIEW BASED ON PROTECTION BOUNDARIES DURING LOCKDOWN IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA**

**Zenny Rezania Dewantary and Noraida Endut**  
*Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA)*  
*Universiti Sains Malaysia*

Corresponding Email: zennyrezania@student.usm.my

## **Abstract**

Female sex workers (FSW) are vulnerable towards violence, given the dangerous environment they are settled in. As a vulnerable and marginalized group, they rely on assistance from social departments as well as non-government organizations to provide security, advocacy and mental and physical health support. A significant proportion of the FSW in Jakarta, Indonesia, reside in prostitution localizations, which are designated areas where sex work is regulated by the local government laws. In March 2020, after the first COVID-19 case was reported in Indonesia, the national government mandated a macro lockdown where everyone must be isolated at home. In the case of prostitution, this policy affected the FSW in an adverse way since the social department and NGOs are no longer able to provide the usual support and supervision towards them. There is evidence that the lockdown has also increased the risk of violence against FSW. FSW is forced to still receive clients regardless of the risk of infection and of being arrested by authorities. This paper provides a preliminary review of how the lockdown has impacted the freedom and safety of the FSW from violence and exploitation. This is relevant in the context of the discourse on decent work in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8). By using the framework of the principle of due diligence in state obligation on violence against women, it also analyses the forms of interventions that are available for the FSW if they face these risks. The paper is based on desk reviews of secondary materials featuring news and discourses about FSW during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also be based on preliminary interviews of key informants or experts in the area of sex work in Indonesia. This paper potentially contributes towards the emerging discourses on the COVID-19 pandemic and addresses a number of targets of SDG 8.

**Keywords:** *Violence Against Women, Female Sex Workers, Covid-19, Lockdown, Due Diligence Principle of State Obligation, SDG 8.*

## **Presenter's Biography**

Zenny joins PhD program at KANITA as student in August 2020 with research on violence against female sex workers. She is also a lecturer in Law Program of President University in Bekasi, Indonesia. Zenny has been involved in research and publication related to criminal law and women and children rights.

## LIST OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>ADVISOR</b><br><b>Professor Dr. Noraida Endut</b>  |   |
| <b>CHAIRPERSON</b><br><b>Dr. Zaireeni Azmi</b>  |   |
| <b>ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS</b><br><br><b>Chair: Dr. Zaireeni Azmi</b><br>Nurul Jannah Ambak<br>Kelvin Ying @ Tang Shee Wei<br>Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz<br><br><b>Review Panel:</b><br>Professor Dr. Noraida Endut<br>Professor Dr. Hajar Abdul Rahim<br>Associate Professor Dr. Nor Hafizah Selamat<br>Associate Professor Dr. Premalatha Karupiah<br>Associate Professor Dr. Norzarina Mohd Zaharim<br>Dr. Zaireeni Azmi<br>Dr. Sharifah Zalhura Syed Abdullah<br>Dr. Leila Mohajer<br>Dr. Lai Wan Teng<br>Dr. A. H. M. Belayeth Hussain<br>Dr. Aileen Park<br>Dr. Yuyun W.I Surya<br>Dr. Tuti Budirahayu | <b>SECRETARIAT</b><br><br><b>Chair: Hasniza Mohamad Hassan</b><br>Nurul Jannah Ambak<br>Hamizah A Halim<br>Rehnuga Jagatheesan<br>Ishak Suratee<br>Ahmad Yasri Yahaya<br>Salniza Akmar Kamaruszaman   |
|   | <b>PUBLICATION</b><br><br><b>Chair: Dr. A. H. M. Belayeth Hussain</b><br>Dr. Lai Wan Teng<br>Dr. Sharifah Zalhura Syed Abdullah<br>Dr. Leila Mohajer<br>Dr. Zaireeni Azmi<br>Haja Mydin Abdul Kuthoos |
| <b>REGISTRATION AND PROTOCOL</b><br><br><b>Chair: Nurul Jannah Ambak</b><br>Rehnuga Jagatheesan<br>Hamizah A Halim<br>Salniza Akmar Kamaruszaman<br>Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy  | <b>PUBLICITY</b><br><br><b>Chair: Dr. Lai Wan Teng</b><br>Hasniza Mohamad Hassan<br>Kelvin Ying @ Tang Shee Wei<br>Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz<br>Ishak Suratee  |
| <b>TECHNICAL AND SECURITY</b><br><br><b>Chair: Ishak Suratee</b><br>Haja Mydin Abdul Kuthoos<br>Ahmad Yasri Yahaya<br>Mohd Faiz Fansuri Mohd Affandy<br>Salniza Akmar Kamaruszaman  | <b>MASTER OF CEREMONIES</b><br><br><b>Chair: Dr. Leila Mohajer</b><br>Dr. Sharifah Zalhura Syed Abdullah<br>Hasniza Mohamad Hassan<br>Farah Syazwani Hayrol Aziz                                      |



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The 5<sup>th</sup> KANITA International Conference on Gender Studies (KICGS 2021) would not have been possible without the contributions of organisations, departments and individuals within Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) as well as those outside the university. The organising committee would like to thank the following individuals and organisations:

- Office of the Vice-Chancellor, USM
- Institute of Postgraduate Studies (IPS), USM
- Division of Academic and International Affairs, USM
- Media and Public Relations Centre (MPRC), USM
- Centre for Instructional Technology and Multimedia (PTPM), USM
- Board Members, KANITA, USM
- Chairpersons and Commentators
- Students and Research Officers, KANITA, USM
- Participants



## **ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S STUDIES (AAWS)**

**Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS)**, which was established in 2007, is a forum for discussion and co-operation on new ideas in feminist education and research with a focus on Asia and to promote the dissemination of information on relevant community programs. The AAWS seeks to establish an institutional basis for feminist education and research on Asia, linking associations of women's studies, research institutions, resource centers, as well as individual scholars and practitioners in the region, with the intent of addressing issues of common interest in Asia.

Professor Chang Pilwha (Convenor, Organizing Committee for WW05, Ewha Womans University, Women's Studies, South Korea) was elected as the first president of AAWS and Prof. Suwanna Satha-Anand (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand) was elected as Vice- President of AAWS, in 2007. Dr. Kristi Poerwandari (Universitas Indonesia) and Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan (Thammasat University) was elected Co-Presidents of AAWS, with Prof. Dr. Noraida Endut (University Sains Malaysia) as Vice President AAWS, in 2020-2022 period. In addition to that, AAWS has a Council Members included feminist scholars from different regions of Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam). As an academic association which aims to provide transnational forum of discussion and cooperation, AAWS holds a congress every three years to sustain the transmission and sharing ideas on feminist research, education, and policies in Asia.

The forthcoming of 6<sup>th</sup> AAWS Congress will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2022. Since the AAWS Inaugural Conference in November 2007, the AAWS membership has gradually increased significantly comprising scholars from Asia-Pacific, as can be seen at <https://aawomenstudies.org/members/>. There two category of AAWS membership namely as "Institutional Membership" or as "Individual Membership".

Please visit our official website at <https://aawomenstudies.org/general-information/> and follow the link to register yourself as AAWS member! We welcome all of you to the AAWS!



## **UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA (UNAIR)**

**Universitas Airlangga (Unair)** is one of the best Indonesian universities located in Surabaya, East Java. Different programs are offered, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral degree in various fields such as medicine, law, social sciences, science and technology, fisheries, business and dentistry. The university has a strong emphasis in research with Tropical Disease Centre as one of the Asia's best research centre. According to QS World University Ranking Asia, Unair is in 171 and 651-700 QS World University Ranking 2020. It has always been committed to making efforts and playing a more prominent role in the world. The university continues to conduct various collaborative programs such as joint research and exchange. Unair is a growing global community with more international engagement.

### **About Unair's Gender and Social Inclusion Study Center:**

<https://www.unair.ac.id/site/article/read/4148/get-to-know-more-about-unairs-gender-and-social-inclusion-study-center.html>

### **About the Program S1 Sosiologi - Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Airlangga:**

<https://www.unair.ac.id/site/article/read/4148/get-to-know-more-about-unairs-gender-and-social-inclusion-study-center.html>



## **CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND GENDER (KANITA), UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA**

The main thrust of KANITA is to achieve excellence in the field of research on women and gender in the development process. KANITA is a research centre set up by the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). KANITA conducts its academic, research and advocacy activities through its full-time academic and administrative staff as well as a team of Board Members from various Schools at the University. While our associates comprise mainly of full-time academic staff of USM, KANITA also welcomes the participation of a large number of concerned scholars and social activists who are not necessarily university-based into its activities. KANITA is also committed towards offering high quality postgraduate studies in the field of gender studies. It welcomes all enquiries and suitably qualified applicants into its postgraduate programme.

### **VISION**

Transforming society towards gender equality and social justice.

### **MISSION**

As a Centre of Excellence, KANITA is committed towards research, transfer of knowledge, advocacy and community engagement, utilising and promoting a gender and social equality framework. It strives to impact on the academe, the state, women and the society at large.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To intensify the impact and significance of KANITA as a centre of reference concerning research on women's and gender issues for the academe, state and society in Malaysia and the region.
2. To conduct inter and trans-disciplinary research in critical areas of women's and gender issues and to utilise the findings to advocate for social transformation.
3. To produce publications which stimulate intellectual and public discourse on women's and gender issues.
4. To develop postgraduate programmes of international standing in the field of women's and gender studies.
5. To initiate and engage in intellectual, advocacy and community related activities through diverse communication strategies.
6. To lead in the development of an accessible women's and gender issues data bank and resource centre.

### **THRUST AREAS**

1. Health
2. Policy and Law
3. Sustainable Development
4. Leadership and Governance

e ISBN 978-983-44820-5-3



9 789834 482053