



Sufism and Gender in Contemporary Societies

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice
03-04 December 2021

The conference aims to explore these themes of gender and sexuality within contemporary and historical Sufi traditions. Keeping in mind the call to decolonize knowledge production and epistemologies that subvert binaries of "resistance versus subordination" in Muslim women's life-worlds, we aim to take an expansive discussion of the complex processes of the agentive formation of gendered Sufi subjectivities.

Friday, 03 December 2021

09:00 - 09:15 *Welcome greetings*

Francesco Piraino, Feyza Burak-Adli, M. Shobhana Xavier,

09:15 – 10:45 **Female navigating strategies in Central Asia**

- **Razia Sultanova:** *Otin-Oy Malika and Central Asian Sufi rituals performance.*
- **Annika Schmeding:** *Navigating Access – (De)gendering Sufi Authority in Afghanistan.*

11:00 – 12:30 **Contemporary sufism and gender in Turkey**

- **Hande Gür:** *Female Dervishes of Mevleviye in Turkey: "What is Piety Anyway?."*
- **Ezgi Guner:** *Veiling the African Female Body: Tesettur as a raced and gendered problem in Turkey*

14:45 – 17:15 **Historical and literary discourses on female participation in sufi milieues**

- **Brett Wilson:** *Orgies on the Bosphorus: Sexual Deviancy and Gender in Modern Critiques of Sufism*
- **Feyza Burak-Adli:** *Agent of Change or Guardian of Tradition?: Sufism, Gender, and Nationalism in Cold War Turkey*
- **Brittany Landorf:** *"The Wayfaring Madwoman" (al-Majdh ba al-S lika): Articulations of Gender in Moroccan Hagiography*

Saturday, 04 December 2021

09:00 – 11:15 **Contemporary sufism and gender in France**

- **Hajar Masbah:** *Feminine Sufi dance in France: New appropriations and boundaries.*
- **Francesco Piraino:** *A Female Imam in Paris: From Sufi Humanism to Islamic Reformism*
- **Marta Dominguez-Diaz:** *Mothering him: gender, love, feminine suffering and the maternal in French Sufi autobiographical writings*

11:30 – 13:00 **Unconventional Bektashi Shaykhas**

- **Gianfranco Bria:** *Sufism, cosmic energy and universalism in a post-socialist realm: Misioni Shenjteror Eleonore's case".*
- **Sara Kuehn:** *Bektashi female leadership in a transnational context: the spiritual career of the only contemporary female dervish*

14:30 – 16:45 **Feminism, gender equality, and sexism in western sufi traditions**

- **Rose Deighton:** *Gender, Moral Agency, and the Co- Constitution of Authority in Two Contemporary Sufi Communities*
- **Nadège Chabloz:** *Is there a "Sufi feminism" in France?*
- **Hasnaa Mokhtar:** *Maryam and the Maryamiyya/Maryami tar qa: Re-reading gender, patriarchy, and oppression*