

ViDSS International Workshop, organised in cooperation with  
the Research Network Latin America

**Feminist Research Practices and Theories in Critical Social Sciences**  
**– Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean –**

**Date:** 4–6 November 2024

**Lecturers:** Melissa Moreano (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador) and Diana Vela Almeida (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University)

**Supporting departments:** Department of Political Science, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Department of Development Studies

**Venue:** Meeting Room of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (Seminar Room 11), 1st Floor, Kolingasse 14–16, 1090 Vienna

**Organisers:** Nina Schlosser, Anna Preiser, Valerie Lenikus, Marie Jasser, Marcela Torres, Alina Heuser, Tamara Artacker

This workshop seeks to explore the theoretical and methodological contributions generated from critical feminist perspectives to analyse social processes around care or modes of reproduction. Feminist perspectives have been fundamental in providing new analyses to understand the dynamics of power in diverse social dynamics, such as the production of inequalities, socio-environmental conflicts, and diverse forms of violence from intersectional perspectives. In addition, they have provided important methodological reflections, addressing complex ethical and political issues involved in the research processes. Latin American feminisms have been and still are at the forefront of producing new methodological and theoretical approaches rooted in social movements and territorialised resistances. In this workshop, we aim to understand how we as European-based scholars can fruitfully implement and learn from those approaches.

The workshop will be held by guest professors Melissa Moreano and Diana Vela Almeida. As an important premise of feminist research, the workshop aims at creating a space of critical reflection and collective learning, in which theory and methodology are woven together. It intends to provide a setting to delve into a comprehensive discussion on feminist perspectives, with a primary focus on approaches developed in Latin America. However, this exploration extends beyond regional boundaries, encompassing diverse geographical contexts. It underscores the importance of acknowledging societal nature relations from diverse epistemologies while addressing key feminist issues such as care, reproduction, and life in ecological contexts.

Another focus encompasses the practical application of feminist research in social sciences. On the one hand, it explores how feminist aspects can be integrated into research, even when they are not explicitly articulated as a research subject. On the other hand, it emphasises the

incorporation of feminist theory, practices, and empirical analyses in social sciences research, while addressing its methodological implications and challenges regarding issues of reciprocity and positionality.

The international workshop offers the possibility for doctoral candidates of the ViDSS to participate in methodological training as a complement to existing course programs. It provides a rich understanding of feminist theory as well as research methods and offers a transdisciplinary platform for discussing theoretical approaches, and their methodological operationalisation of the individual PhD projects, without neglecting ethical practices in the field.

**Participants:** Student members of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS). If places are available, doctoral candidates in the social sciences who are not (yet) ViDSS members or doctoral candidates from other faculties can join. Doctoral candidates receive 2 ECTS upon participation. Postdoctoral researchers may apply but doctoral candidates will be prioritised. Female\* students will be prioritised.

**Application:** Please apply via e-mail to Anna Preiser ([anna.preiser@univie.ac.at](mailto:anna.preiser@univie.ac.at)) and Valerie Lenikus ([valerie.lenikus@univie.ac.at](mailto:valerie.lenikus@univie.ac.at)), including your motivation to participate in this workshop (max. half a page). Thematic or practical knowledge in this field is not required.

**Max. number of participants:** 15

**Application deadline:** 4 October 2024

## **Preliminary program**

### **Monday (4 November 2024)**

09:00–11:00 arrival and informal activity – Introduction (collective mapping and positionality of participants)

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–12:30 Lecture: theoretical talk with references to methods

Themes:

- Feminists perspectives on the production of inequalities
- Feminist spacialisation of injustices and violences

12:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30 Assembly: collective learning process and reflections

Readings:

Gago, Verónica (2020). [Feminist international: How to change everything](#). Verso Books. Chapter 4. A Feminist Economics of Exploitation and Extraction

Cielo Cielo, Coba Lissette (2018). Extractivism, Gender, and Disease: An Intersectional Approach to Inequalities. *Ethics & International Affairs*. 32(2):169–178. doi:10.1017/S0892679418000291

Ojeda, Diana (2024). Tourism as an everyday geopolitical project. *Tourism Geographies*, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2024.2387212>

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:30 Collective discussion and co-construction to carry out a practice of intervention in the public space (proposal, it can result in a very different activity)

For inspiration (a thorough reading is not mandatory for the discussion):

de Souza, Natália Maria Félix (2019). When the body speaks (to) the political: Feminist activism in Latin America and the quest for alternative democratic futures. *Contexto internacional*, 41, 89–112.

Webpages with records of feminist public interventions:

- How is your heart?: <https://en.rootingcare.org/how-is-your-heart/>
- Fight back against extremists online! Become a Digital Defender: <https://act.womensmarch.com/signup/General-Sign-Up/>
- Monumental Interventions: Feminism, Art and Public Resistance in Mexico: <https://awarewomenartists.com/en/magazine/interventions-monumentales-feminisme-art-et-resistance-publique-au-mexique/>
- A possible form of affective politics. Sexual and reproductive rights from the public space (in Spanish, with nice pictures): <https://revistaerrata.gov.co/contenido/una-forma-posible-de-politica-afectiva-los-derechos-sexuales-y-reproductivos-desde-el>
- “A Rapist in Your Path”: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/20/chiles-a-rapist-in-your-path-chant-hits-200-cities-map> ; <https://designmuseum.org/exhibitions/beazley-designs-of-the-year/digital/a-rapist-in-your-way-un-violador-en-tu-camino#>
- Feminist wildposting: <https://www.womensmarch.com/initiatives/wildposting>
- Feminist embroidery and stitching: <https://hyperallergic.com/688986/zurciendo-el-planeta-un-climate-change-cop26/>; <https://inthesetimes.com/article/feminist-movement-namma-katte-bengaluru-community-sexual-violence>

## **Tuesday (5 November 2024)**

9:00–10:30 Seminar – collective discussion

Topics:

- Popular, indigenous, territorial, communitarian feminisms
- Care work, social reproduction and reproduction of life

Readings:

Cabnal, Lorena. [Without being consulted: the commodification of our body-land territory](#), in: Women Defending the Territory. Experiences of participation in Latin America. Urgent Action Fund of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015;

Gago, Verónica (2020). [Feminist international: How to change everything](#). Chapter 3. Body-Territory: The Body as Battlefield

Ulloa, Astrid (2017). Feminisms, Genders, and Indigenous Women in Latin America. In *The Routledge History of Latin American Culture* (pp. 261–283). Routledge.

Communitarian feminism pronouncement at the People's conference on climate change, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 2010 (Our translation)

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:00 Assembly: collective learning process and reflections

Topics: Feminist questionings to academic practices and epistemic violence

Readings (a thorough reading is not mandatory for the discussion, we recommend to read them in case you want to find inspiration during the assembly):

Viaene, Lieselotte, Laranjeiro, Catarina & Tom, Miye N. 2023. The walls spoke when no one else would: Autoethnographic notes on sexual-power gatekeeping within avant-garde academia. In: Pritchard, E. & Edwards, D. (eds.) *Sexual Misconduct in Academia*. Oxon, UK: Routledge.

Manzi, Maya, Ojeda, Diana, & Hawkins, Roberta (2019). “Enough Wandering Around!”: Life Trajectories, Mobility, and Place Making in Neoliberal Academia. *The Professional Geographer*, 71(2), 355–363.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2018.1531036>

12:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30 Workshop: journaling and short presentations about methodological experiences of the participants.

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:00 Final preparations for intervention in the public space

17:00–19:00 Tour with Decolonizing in Vienna – intervention in the public space

19:00 Dinner (self-financed)

### **Wednesday (6 November 2024)**

09:00–11:00 Workshop: Feminist proposals for analysis, reflection and political praxis in peer groups. (Proposal: Writing a femifesto)

11:00–12:00 Final reflections and closing

### Further readings:

Acevedo-Guerrero, Tatiana, Camargo, Alejandro, Roa-García, Clara, E., & Roa-García, María Cecilia (2024). Defending water and life: domestic ecologies and social reproduction in Buenaventura. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 1–22.

Cielo, Cristina & López Canelas, Elizabeth (2021). Reproductive Work, Territorial Commons and Political Precarity in Peripheral Extractive Sites in Ecuador and Bolivia. *Global Labour Journal*, 12(3)

Féliz, Mariano (2023), “Can Debt Be Sustainable, if Life Isn't? Argentina's Debt Crisis and Social Reproduction”, Sylla, Ndongo Samba (Ed.) *Imperialism and the Political Economy of Global South's Debt (Research in Political Economy, Vol. 38)*, Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 23–53. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0161-723020230000038002>

Haraway, Donna (1988). Situated knowledges: the science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective. *Feminist studies*, 14(3), 575-599.

Massey, Doreen (2008). A global sense of place. In *The cultural geography reader* (pp. 269–275). Routledge.

Patiño Niño, Diana Milena (2023). A philosophical conversation with Lorena Cabnal from Guatemala. *Revista Estudios Feministas*, 31(3)  
<https://www.redalyc.org/journal/381/38176175010/html/>

Tzul Tzul, Gladys (2016). Communal Strategies for Controlling Microfinance in Chuimeq'ena'Guatemala. *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 115(3), 625–631.