Thursday, 16 May 2019, 14:15-16:00

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“Feminist Trouble. Intersectional Politics in Post-Secular Times”

For more than two decades Islamic veils, *niqabs, burkinis*, have been the object of intense public scrutiny and legal regulations in many Western countries, especially in Europe, and feminists have been actively engaged on both sides of the debates: defending ardently strict prohibitions to ensure Muslim women’s emancipation, or, by contrast, promoting accommodation in the name of women’s religious agency and a more inclusive feminist movement. In this presentation, I investigate how these debates have transformed contemporary feminist movements, intersectionality politics, and the feminist collective subject, and how feminists have been enrolled in the ‘femonationalist’ project or, conversely, have resisted it in two contexts: France and Québec. At the normative level, I argue that feminism is better understood not as centered around an identity — women —, but around what I call a *feminist ethic of responsibility*, which foregrounds a pragmatist moral approach to the feminist project.

ÉLÉONORE LÉPINARD is a professor in Gender studies. She currently heads the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lausanne. Her research focuses on discrimination (intersectionality), feminist movements, gender quotas and feminist theory.