

Intersectionality: Minority Women Self-Representation in The Digital Realm

06 November 2024, 12:30 - 13:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

Intersectionality, within the European academic context, has been widely used both as a theory of identity as well as a method to analyze processes of power and inequality, often in the context related to minority women, to examine and explain conditions of conflict between cultural and religious practices of minority groups deemed discriminatory with minority and human rights. It has also been referred to as a paradigm, a human rights policy, a statistical tool, and a political project among others. The development of the concept has led to numerous attempts to map complex identities, emphasizing how social identity markers such as race, ethnic origin, gender, religion, class, sexuality, and others are experienced in relation to each other. Intersectionality is useful as both a theoretical framework and tool for practical analysis.

This talk first explores the historical and theoretical underpinnings of intersectionality, then explores the uses of an intersectional framework for studying minority women in the digital realm and finally applies intersectional analysis to a case study of minority women and self-representation in the digital realm, therefore showing how intersectionality can provide a critical framework to connect digital self-representation and minority identity. Ultimately, it aims to capture the digital processes of identity production in intersectional terms, namely in relation to minority and indigenous identity(ies), representation, discourse and power.

Biography of the speaker



Jody Metcalfe PhD is a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Art and History at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Until October 2024, Jody worked as a researcher at the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany where she focused on the impacts of digital platform governance, artificial intelligence and digital harm on identity formation of ethnocultural and national minorities in Europe.

Jody holds a double PhD in English Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of Bayreuth and is the first person to hold a PhD in Intersectionality Studies.

Her previous studies were completed at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), from which she holds a MPhil in Justice and Transformation in Political Science.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** as part of the HEurope HRJust (*States' practice of human rights justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*) and the SNF funded project GEM (*Gender Equality in the Mirror*) housed at the WTI, University of Bern.

All previous lectures are available at: <https://hrjust-intersect-observatory.eu/gender-intersectionality/#webinar-series>

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Participation is open to the public and free of charge

For further information please email Dr. Nicolò Alessi (nicolo.alessi2@unibe.ch)