

Call for Papers

Last date for submission of abstracts **30th April 2015**

Symposium: Faith and Feminism

28th May 2015, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1GB

Women of all faiths and none engage in feminist activism that challenges patriarchy and creates spaces for women's agency. Universities are in great need of such input for student guidance, particularly for female students (Guest, Aune, Sharma and Warner 2013, and Phipps and Young *That's what she said* 2012) Scholarly discussion about such 'faithful' feminisms is well-established; however there is little scholarship that brings together feminist thinkers. This event will compare and contrast different feminisms and propose templates for campus activities. **In doing so it will advance feminist scholarship around the plurality, convergences and divergences of the experiences of women of different faith or of no faith**

Hosted by the Centre for Society, Religion, and Belief at the University of Derby, this conference will bring together feminist scholars whose feminisms are underpinned and informed by their respective religious or non-religious stance and apply this to the position of women students on the modern university campus. Our confirmed guest speakers include:

- Dr Suha Shakkour speaking on Palestinian Christian Women, University of Derby
- Dr Kristin Aune speaking on feminist spirituality as lived religion, Coventry University
- Dr Opinderjit Thakkar speaking on Sikh women's experiences, University of Wolverhampton

We envisage that the conference will lead to a journal special edition and are currently in discussion with key publishers. Abstracts for papers that address one, or more, of the following questions are invited:

1. Are faith and belief compatible with feminism, or not, and why?
2. How are the intersections between religion, belief and gender experienced by students in the higher/education system?
3. Can women work together across religion or belief differences, and if so, how?
4. Is life on the secular university campus compatible with an ethical life, religious or not?

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, as well as the title of the paper, name of the presenter, institutional affiliation, contact details and a short bio (150 words) to Dr Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor (s.contractor@derby.ac.uk) and Professor Alison Scott-Baumann (a.scott-baumann@derby.ac.uk) by 5pm on Thursday **30th April 2015**. In order to facilitate discussion presentations will be short, of not more than 15 minutes – all abstracts must reflect this need for brevity. We apologise for the short notice: a small fund has just been awarded to us and we want to initiate this as a pilot for a bigger project. Shortlisted participants will be notified by **5th May 2015**. A registration fee of £10 will apply for all speakers and delegates. Further details about the registration process will be circulated by mid-April 2015.

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