

11 - The Body of Migrant Women in Europe: Learning from activists, academics and artists discussing taboos.

Format: Workshop, short presentations by one academic, one grassroots/activist and one artist. All will have approximately 15 minutes to discuss their knowledge and experiences with regard to how they or the discipline of their expertise field deal with taboo subjects with regard to the female migrant body. We will then discuss how these disciplines can inspire each other and work more interdisciplinary in order to enhance knowledge valorization between the broad public and the researcher

Content: This workshop aims to discuss the challenges experienced by female migrant women with regard to their body and provides a platform to share solutions or strategies to overcome these challenges. Here the body, or the embodiment of the subject, is not to be understood as a biological or a sociological category, but rather as a point of overlapping between the physical, the symbolic, and the social. Through the bodies of migrant women and the embodied experiences of these women we can unravel the many layers of power structures created by normativity within a multicultural society. Thus, it is through the female body we can learn about the hegemonic discourse on migrant women and how this affects them, both within the mainstream society as in the migrant communities themselves.

Within the mainstream society the female migrant body has become an often debated subject in the public and political debates, embodying something other than modernity, secularism and freedom. While the attention is mainly focused on the representation of the female migrant body in European societies, they also face challenges within their own migrant communities in which deviating from the norm of chastity causes counter responses. We can then use the embodied experiences of migrant women to learn and teach about the layered effects of normativity and how to engage in an intersectional analysis. The embodied experiences of migrant women lay bare the taboo's existing within society.

Invited contributions: We invite presenters to talk about their own projects within one of the fields: art, activism and/or academic research. Some of the questions which might be interesting to consider are:

- What inspired you to start this project?
- What were some of the obstacles you faced and how did you solve them?
- In what way did you encounter taboo issues?
- How did you deal with these taboos?
- How did you use the different fields of art, activism and/or academic research to learn and teach about the layered experiences of migrant women.
- What role did migrant women have in your project?
- What was the aim of your project?
- What were the reactions on your project?

All participants of the workshop will be asked to reflect on their own experiences and share what is considered taboo within their (sub)culture. After the presentations they will be asked to share their experiences and there will be space for discussion/reflection.

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