

On Trial

Claiming Feminist Justice in Dark Times Between Law, Testimony, and Politics

International Conference
On Trial. Claiming Feminist Justice in Dark Times
– Between Law, Testimony and Politics

University of Verona
3-4 December 2026

Organizers: Natascia Tosel and Olivia Guaraldo

Conference schedule

3 December

Venue: Viale Università 4, Polo Zanotto, Room T.1 (ground floor)

10.30: Welcome

10.45: Institutional Greetings

11.00 – 13.00: **A Conversation on Women's Courts (with Staša Zajović)**

- Introduction: Women's Courts: A Missing Piece in the Jigsaw of Feminism
Natascia Tosel
- Women's Court – A Feminist Approach to Justice
Staša Zajović
- Screening of the docufilm on the Sarajevo Women's Court (2015)
- Q&A

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch Break (Catering)

14.00 – 15.30: **Panel 1 & 2**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room “Messedaglia”
Panel 1 Legal In/visibility: Not Believed, Yet Constantly Judged	Panel 2 Sex on Trial: Feminist Perspectives on Sexual Violence and Consent

Chair: Olivia Guaraldo (<i>University of Verona</i>)	Chair: Lorenzo Bernini (<i>University of Verona</i>)
○ Syeda Fuzna Haider (University of Karachi) <i>Injustice against Women in the Taliban's Fundamentalist Authoritarian Regime and the Ideological Handmaiden of Islam</i> ○ Joana Topa and Cátia Pontedeira (University of Maia) <i>Racism, Gendered Violence and Institutional Power: Reframing the Cláudia Simões Case through Feminist Justice</i> ○ Federica Valerio (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia) <i>From Intimate Violence to Institutional Violence: Feminist Legal Critique and the Continuum of Coercive Power</i>	○ Yiyang Bai (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) <i>What a Hearer Owes a Speaker: Epistemic Responsiveness to Sexual Refusal</i> ○ Eleonora Volta (Nova University Lisbon) <i>Counternarratives in Rape Trials: Reshaping Legal Perspectives on Consent</i> ○ Shannon Fyfe (Washington & Lee University) <i>Defendant "Suffering" and Sexual Violence on Trial</i>

15.30 – 16.00: Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30: **Panel 3 & 4**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room "Messedaglia"
Panel 3 Silenced Archives: What Women's Testimonies Tell Us About Violence	Panel 4 Thinking Without Banisters: Challenging Gendered Stigma across Institutional Contexts
Chair: Anna Argirò (<i>Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici</i>)	Chair: Daniele Bassi (<i>University of Verona</i>)
○ Milène Le Goff (University of Lille / Free University of Brussels) <i>Giving Victims a Voice? The International Tribunal on Crimes against Women (1976) as a Space for Testimony and Feminist Memory</i> ○ Laura Lammasniemi (University of Warwick) <i>The Making of a Silence: Women's Testimonies in Early Twentieth Century English Sexual Offence Trials</i> ○ Khushboo Upreti (Jawaharlal Nehru University) <i>Domestic Violence and the Pursuit of Justice in Mahila Courts of Delhi</i>	○ Linda Montanari (University of Lisbon and European Union Drugs Agency) <i>Women, Drugs, Prison. Profile and Pathways of Women Incarcerated in Italy and in Portugal</i> ○ Caterina Diotto (independent researcher) <i>Epistemological Migration. Evolving the Concept of Migration through Feminist Epistemology</i> ○ Zoe Schneider (Brown University) <i>Rethinking the Trafficked/Consensual Labor Distinction Through an Intersectional and Structural Lens</i>

17.30 – 18.00: Break

18.00: **Keynote: Leigh Gilmore** (*The Ohio State University*)
MeToo Redux: The Persistence of Survivor Testimony
Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1

19.00: Dinner (Catering)

4 December

09.30 – 11.00: **Panel 5 & 6**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room “Messedaglia”
Panel 5 Who Believes Women? The Persistent History of the Gendered Credibility Gap	Panel 6 Reorienting Justice Beyond the Logic of Coercion and Punishment
Chair: Giacomo Mormino (<i>University of Verona</i>)	Chair: Madlyn Sauer (<i>University of Zurich</i>)
○ Anna Ceglarska (Jagiellonian University) <i>Rethinking Medea, Judging Jason: The Limits of Individual Responsibility</i> ○ Giorgia Toppi (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele) <i>Putting Clytemnestra on Trial. Gender, Testimony and the Limits of Justice in Greek Tragedy</i> ○ Donata Chiricò (Università Magna Graecia – Catanzaro) <i>From the Scaffold to the Rostrum: Olympe de Gouges and the Performativity of the Gendered Trial</i>	○ Laikwan Pang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) <i>The Mutual Conditioning of Law and Life</i> ○ Nikki Godden-Rasul (Newcastle University) <i>Abolition Feminism and Gendered Violence: Radically Reorienting the Approach to Justice</i> ○ Masa Awartani (independent researcher) <i>The Second Sex Under the Rubble: Othering, Human Rights Penalty, and the Judicial Failure of the Gaza Reconstruction Plan</i>

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00: **Panel 7 & 8**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room “Messedaglia”
Panel 7 Reimagining the Forensic as a Site of Feminist Struggle	Panel 8 From Courtrooms to Classrooms to the Streets: The Circuits of Epistemic Injustice
Chair: Sabrina Zucca-Soest (<i>TU Dresden</i>)	Chair: Natascia Tosel (<i>University of Verona</i>)

○ Anousheh Haghdad (Goldsmiths, University of London) <i>Reimagining the 'Protection Racket': Women's Courts as Sites of Imaginary Justice</i> ○ Madlyn Sauer (University of Zurich) <i>"We want to grow and change" – The Radical Relational Witnessing of the Feminist Women's Court for the Former Yugoslavia</i> ○ Elif Can Çalıcı (Ankara University) <i>Legal Victory Without Triumph: A SLAPP Case Study on Femicide Activism</i>	○ Anna De Giuli (Università degli Studi di Milano) <i>Putting the Expert on Trial: Epistemic Injustice and the Performativity of Gendered Narratives in the Courtroom</i> ○ Lucia Botti, Nicolò Maria Ingarra and Luna Rovolon (University of Macerata) <i>Tertiary Victimization: Academic Perceptions and the Limits of Institutional Justice</i> ○ Anaheta Sharifi (University of Warwick) <i>What Does the Iran's Women, Life, Freedom Movement Tell Us About International Human Rights Frameworks?</i>
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13.00 – 14.00: Lunch Break (Catering)

14.00 – 16.00: **Roundtable “Claiming Feminist Justice in Dark Times”**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1

With: Ilaria Boiano (lawyer, *Differenza Donna*)

Olivia Guaraldo (*Università di Verona*)

Maria Tamboukou (*University of East London*)

Sabrina Zucca-Soest (*TU Dresden*)

16.00 – 16.30: Coffee Break

16.30: **Keynote: Anália Torres (Universidade de Lisboa)**

Gender Justice on the Battlefield: Progress, Backlash and Resistance

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1

17.30: Concluding Remarks



**UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA**
Dipartimento
di SCIENZE UMANE



**Hannah Arendt Center
for Political Studies**
Department of Human Sciences – University of Verona

POLITESSE
Research center
Politics and Theories of Sexuality



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