

RUW CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND SOCIETY
Royal University for Women,
Kingdom of Bahrain
19-20 April 2016

DAY II 20th April 2016	
Parallel Sessions IV “Women across Cultures”	
organised by the Centre for General Studies	
09.00 – 10.30 hours	Session II
Theme:	Language, Literature and Education
Chair	Mr. Parsa Zoqazi, Director QAAU, Royal University for Women
Speaker	Title
Dr. Doha Abualsaud, Dar Al Hekma	“Tea Cake Had Gone Crazy’: Moments of Trauma in Their Eyes Were Watching God”
Ms. Norhan Rahman, RUW	"The Effectiveness of Recasts in Second Language Acquisition"
Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff, West Virginia University	“(Re)claiming Her Voice: Anne Frank and the Diary of a Young Girl”
Dr. Valérie Lastinger, West Virginia University	“Educating Women in the 19 th Century: Cora Millet-Robinet, The Legion of Honor and Agricultural Education for Girls”
10.30-10.45 am	Coffee break
10.45 – 12.15 hours	Session III
Theme:	Women, Violation and Activism
Chair	Dr. Chitra Sinha, Associate Professor, Centre for General Studies, RUW
Speaker	Title
Dr. Hoda Thabet, Sohar University	“Re-identification of Female Suffering: A Contrapuntal Reading”
Dr. Hanadi Bader, Dr. Marwan Ghanem, Dr. Gül Özerol and Dr. Joy Clancy, Birzeit University	“Gender Empowerment and Treated Wastewater Reuse in Western Ramallah – Palestine”
Dr. Hanan Al-Modallal, Hashemite University	“Mental Health problems in Women with Childhood Domestic Violence” *
Dr. Madiha Faiz Rana, Dar Al Hekma	“Role of women in media in empowering the women in GCC” *
12.15 - 12.30	Coffee break
12.30 – 14.30 hours	Session IV
Theme:	Socio-Cultural Themes
Chair	Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff, Director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at West Virginia University
Speaker	Title
Ms. Jessica L. Davis, Dubai International Academic City	“Theorizing Transnational Praxis in the UAE: Where Do We Go from Here?” (Skype Presentation)
Dr. Sukaina A. Alzyoud, Dr. Sreenivas Veeranki, Hashemite University	“Women Waterpipe Smoking and Nicotine Dependence”
Ms. Rama Nair, RUW	“Women across Cultures: A Comparative Study of the South Asian and Eastern Arabian Countries”
Dr. Sukaina A. Alzyoud, Dr. Bani-Hani, Hashemite University	“The Map of Leadership in Social Responsibility: A Female Academician Navigator”
Dr. Chitra Sinha, RUW	“Social Construction of the 'Feminine' in Independent India: A Historical Perspective”
14.00 - 14.30 hours	Presentation by Tamkeen representative and closing remarks in AC 01
14.30 – 16.00 hours	Lunch

Session II: 'Language, Literature and Education'

Chair: Mr. Parsa Zoqaqi, Director QAAU, Royal University for Women

Rapporteur: Dr. E. A. Samier

Mr. Parsa opened the session by welcoming everyone to the session and introducing each speaker and the title of their paper. The following are the speakers in order of presentation with their presentation title and abstract.

1. Dr. Doha M. Abualsaud (Dar Al-Hekma University), "Tea Cake Had Gone Crazy": Moments of Trauma in Their Eyes Were Watching God'

This paper examined the dramatic discourse of African American women and their identity formation in patriarchal societies especially those experiencing trauma related to their sexual experience, relationships with men, and societal acceptance of the 'feminine' and women's goals and aspirations using in part Lacan's Mirror stage of delayed identity recognition.

2. Ms. Nourhan A. Abdel Rahman Ibrahim (Royal University for Women), "The Effectiveness of Recasts in Second Language Acquisition"

This paper examined the use of errors in language learning and their role in language pedagogy through appropriate forms of corrective feedback, especially the controversial use of 'recasts', a topic that has received little research attention especially from the learner's perspective.

3. Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff (West Virginia University), "(Re)claiming Her Voice: Anne Frank and the *Diary of a Young Girl*"

This paper examines the role of 'voice' in Anne Frank's diary about her family, philosophical discussion and societal critique, including that of women, constructed as a form of journaling to an imaginary friend and confidante, in part initiated by the influence of the exiled Dutch

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Minister of Education's plea that people capture their personal experiences for posterity instead of allowing government documents to be the only source of information.

4. Dr. Valérie Lastinger (West Virginia University), “Educating Women in the 19th Century: Cora Millet-Robinet, The Legion of Honor and Agricultural Education for Girls”

This paper explores the work of two feminist agriculturalists in France during the 19th century who pioneered agricultural education for women: Marie Jeanne Marie Jeanne Armande Gacon-Dufour and her intellectual successor, Cora Millet-Robinet, both activists and prolific writers, who provided texts on the rights of women and women's education related primarily to agricultural training in order to give them a sense of their own power and control over the world.

5. Dr. Ruqaiya Al-Alwani (University of Bahrain), “The role of Prophet Muhammad in changing mores and traditions related to Women in Arabia”

The purpose of this study was to analyse the role Islam and the Prophet Muhammad played in changing the lives of Arab Women focusing on a comparison of the pre-Islamic Era with the “Status of women during the Era of the Prophet” followed by a discussion of the “Misconceptions about Muslim women today” focuses on changeable interpretations of texts that affect and control the true state of affairs of women today.

In the question and answer period, there was discussion about the context of Dr. Valérie's topic within the radical changes in education brought about by Napoleon Bonaparte in France, discussion about the main character's coming to terms with her fate in the novel analysed by Dr. Doha, and some lengthy discussion about the role of women in Islam with Dr. Ruqaiya.

Session III: 'Women, Violation and Activism'

Chair of the session: Dr. Chitra Sinha, is an Associate Professor, Centre for General Studies, RUW and a Guest Professor at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Rapporteur: Ms. Rama Nair

Dr. Chitra Sinha commenced the session by welcoming everyone to the session and introduced each speaker and the title of their paper. The following are the speakers in order of presentation with their presentation title and brief of the abstract.

1. Dr. Hoda Thabet (Sohar University): *"Re-identification of Female Suffering: A Contrapuntal Reading"*

The aim of the paper was to investigate Arab females' empowerment; an enhanced reading into the authors Hanan El-Sheikh/Lebanese, Nawal El Saadawi/Egyptian, Ghada Samman/Syrian, Salwa Bakr/Egyptian, Sahar Khalifeh/ Palestinian and Ahlam Mosteghanemi/Algerian. Her presentation highlighted how Arab women are caught in a confined state of being akin to death. The Arab female authors in these lands stand in the heart of cultural reforms due to their leading roles in addressing the state of females in the entire region. Through reading Arab female characters (Ferdaus/ *Woman at Point Zero*, Kafa/ *The Night of the First Billion*, Aziza/ *The Golden Chariot*, Nahla/ *The Inheritance*, Ahlam/ *Memory in the Flesh* and Zahra/ *The Story of Zahra*,) –their preliminary cultural empowerment is extended into a systematized global presence.

2. Dr. Hanadi Bader, Dr. Marwan Ghanem, Dr. Gül Özerol, Dr. Joy Clancy (Birzeit University, Palestine and University of Twente, The Netherlands) Dr. Marwan Ghanem was the presenter in the session on their behalf: *"Gender Empowerment and Treated Wastewater Reuse in Western Ramallah – Palestine"*

This presentation entailed the need to improve the empowerment of communities and individuals, particularly women, on the acceptance of wastewater treatment projects and the reuse of treated wastewater. Research was carried out at the Al-Tireh quarter in Ramallah on whether or not training women can increase their awareness and acceptance regarding the

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reuse of treated wastewater from the Al-Tireh Wastewater Treatment Plant. The study found that the establishment of baseline data in women's empowerment and wastewater reuse is identified as a critical need to create a more gendered approach to projects on treated wastewater.

3. Dr. Madiha Faiz Rana (Dar Al Hekma): “The Role of women in media empowering the women in GCC”

The presentation emphasized how media is seen to be served by males as well as females both in an effective manner as both of them are seen to be working whether it is behind the camera or in dramas or films. Ultimately, it was concluded that the positive or negative roles of media only aide the empowerment of women. Therefore, this whole work would be focusing upon the positive portrayal of the women in the media, and therefore, the research design selected is the one that would be helpful in viewing and analysing the empowerment of women as shown by the media from the different perspectives and the results interpreted according to the collected data.

To conclude the session, a question and answer slot was included. Wherein, participants of the conference posed questions to Dr Marwan and Dr Madiha on the challenges in their area of work.

Session IV: ‘Socio-Cultural Themes’

Chair of the session: Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff, Director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at West Virginia University.

Rapporteur: Ms. Norhan A. Rahman

Dr Jennifer’s area of specialization is literary analysis, especially from a feminist perspective. Her background is French literature, and her interests extend to all genres of creative expression in multiple cultural settings. Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff opened the session by welcoming everyone to the session and introducing each speaker and the title of their

paper. The following are the speakers in order of presentation with their presentation title and abstract.

1. Ms. Jessica L. Davis (American University in the Emirates) ‘Theorizing Transnational Praxis in the UAE: Where Do We Go from Here?’

Mechanisms of the state have enabled Emirati women to acquire greater independence and self-empowerment. Rulers of the UAE and their wives have woven women’s development programs into the national agenda framework through a large number of government organized non-governmental organisations (GONGOS) aimed at promoting women’s participation in all sectors and developing women’s skills in family, education, politics, and the workforce. The paper assesses the strengths and weaknesses of mechanisms of state feminism in reducing women’s obstacles to gender equality in Emirati society. In addition, it evaluates examples of decentralized and informal grassroots-level networking by employing a synthesis of social movement theory and state theory in addressing women’s development in the UAE.

2. Dr. Sreenivas Veeranki (Hashemite University) ‘Women’s Waterpipe Smoking and Nicotine Dependence’

The Waterpipe has become a major contributor to female tobacco use in the Middle East and other regions of the world. In recent reports, WP was considered a symbol of female emancipation, where women smokers reported feeling social, attractive, and defiant of traditional gender norms when smoking WP. The study aims to examine changes in WP smoking over three points of time before, during, and after Ramadan among a sample of Jordanian women. The findings illustrate the changes in women tobacco smoke in a culture that frown on women who smoke cigarettes yet accepting their WP tobacco smoking.

3. Ms. Rama Nair (Royal University for Women) ‘Women across Cultures: A Comparative Study of the South Asian and Eastern Arabian Countries’

The paper explores some of the cross cultural similarities and differences in women’s issues across cultures focusing on a comparison of four aspects; primarily based on the cross cultural theory and analysis on gender issues and equality, based on the South Asian and Eastern Arabian countries over the past two decades. Firstly, the societal requirements of

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marriageable age, child bearing and patriarchal families and transnational feminism would be examined. Then the diversities in global feminism, times, regions, societies and religions would also be reviewed in the context of women's studies. Secondly, the paper would assist to recognize and respect the diversity through multiculturalism, natural human tendencies, diversity within unity and cultural imperialism. Also, appreciate that women's rights equate to human rights. The importance of a life free of violence and with the right to political, economic, educational, social and personal freedom. Essentially recognize the need to avoid ethnocentrism as educated masses and people of the new generation. Thirdly analyze the concept of transnational feminism and deduce on the goals of feminism. A retrospection into the history of feminism in the past, the status of women in the current times and the implications of the likely changes in the future would also be reflected on

4. Dr. Sukaina A. Alzyoud & Dr. Bani-Hani (Hashemite University) 'The Map of Leadership in Social Responsibility: A Female Academician Navigator'

Universities are in a changing environment of becoming more financially independent which require them to move toward corporatization. This corporatization calls for universities to be a good corporate citizen and the best approach for universities to achieve that is by adapting the concept of Social Responsibility. Yet, very few universities are oriented to the concept or integrate it in their system and none has officially adapted SR in Jordan. The current paper presents Dr. Sukaina Alzyoud experience in a managing role to apply SR for the first time in a Jordanian university in this case the Hashemite University.

5. Dr. Chitra Sinha (Royal University for Women) 'Social Construction of the 'Feminine' in Independent India: A Historical Perspective'

The paper explores the formation, sustenance and evolution of the feminine image in Indian society since its independence in 1947. It makes an attempt to analyse the evolution of the feminine image through dynamic interaction of social variables. With the colonial legacy as a backdrop, the paper analyses the contribution of three major social institutions on the formation of women's image - first, the role of a pro-active State, second, the role of organized women's movement and third, the contribution of growing market forces and

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liberalization of the economy. By examining the social forces historically, the paper tries to bring out the visible changes in the image of women in the cultural terrain and explores the manner in which the representation of women in Media is shaped by dominant ideological paradigms. Drawing upon available evidence, the paper observes two dominant alliances that have dictated the formation of women's image in contemporary India - first, the alliance of state and patriarchy and second, the alliance of patriarchy and market forces. The paper also underscores the growing importance of image in modern societies, and urges women's organizations to focus their attention towards a fair representation of women in Media which will have a positive impact on women's empowerment. In view of the rapid technological change in Indian society coupled with the progress of mass media in the developing countries, media portrayal of women assumes centrality in the 21st century. Combining qualitative and quantitative parameters, the paper advances a methodological basis to analyse the evolution of women's image in society.

In the question and answer period, Dr. Jennifer E. Orlikoff led a fruitful discussion that included inquiries about Dr. Sukaina A. Alzyoud method and the reason for her selection of Ramadan as the point of measurement for her study. There were also comments about socio-cultural aspects that were presented by Ms. Rama Nair and Dr. Chitra Sinha.