

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Gender Studies 3.0

DAY 1 – 24.10.2019

Simultaneous translation French - Dutch, except for the keynote (English spoken)

8:30 – 9:15 REGISTRATION

9:15 – 9:30 WELCOME WORD

By **ANNALISA CASINI & LISA WOUTERS** (co-presidents of Sophia)

9:30 – 11:00 INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

Gender studies and gender in academia

NADINE PLATEAU (Sophia), **CHIA LONGMAN** (UGent) & **LISE MÉNALQUE** (ULB)

Despite being a subject of interest since the early 70s, gender studies programs have been absent until the creation of a Master in Gender and Diversity in 2014 in Flanders and the establishment of a French-speaking Advanced Master in Gender Studies in 2017. Beside the institutionalization of gender studies, some gender equality policies have been implemented in Belgian universities, trying notably to face the lack or absence of women in academia, such as professors, board members or decision-makers. Each of those “successes”, largely expected by most feminists, raise crucial and specific issues. While the Masters in gender studies undergo attacks from anti-gender movements, gender equality policies are supposed to deal with quota issues. Specific issues, specific solutions... But the possibility of entangling gender studies and gender policies in academia has not been extensively investigated. What does gender studies bring to gender in academia? What does gender policy bring to gender studies? Hostile voices against gender studies, that challenge their foundation, are also those that are most resistant to the presence of women in academia. How do we keep promoting gender studies in times of increasing attacks and hostility? Should we articulate gender studies promotion and gender equality agendas?

Nadine Plateau co-founded la *Maison des Femmes* in 1975 in Brussels and *Chronique féministe*, a review of the Université des Femmes in 1982. In 1989, Plateau was the co-founder and president of Sophia, the Belgian gender studies network. She is also the founder of the *Prix Cinégalité* at the Brussels Women's Film Festival. Since 2005, she has been the president of the education commission of the *Conseil des femmes francophones de Belgique*, a pluralist commission whose objective is to integrate an equality approach in the whole education system.

Chia Longman (PhD 2002 in Comparative Sciences of Culture) is Associate Professor in Gender Studies at the Department of Languages and Cultures at Ghent University, Belgium. She directs the Centre for Research on Culture and Gender (CRCG) and is Programme Director of the Inter University Master Programme in Gender and Diversity. She is also board member of the International Association for the Study of Religion & Gender. Her primary research focus is women's identity and agency within different religious communities and movements in Europe, ranging from Orthodox Judaism to new spiritualities. Publications include *Interrogating Harmful Cultural Practices: Gender, Culture and Coercion*, Routledge, 2015 (with T. Bradley); *Féminisme et multiculturalisme. Les paradoxes du débat*, Peter Lang, 2010 (with G. Coene) and many book chapters and articles in journals such as *Citizenship Studies*, *Ethnicities*, *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Gender, Place & Culture*, *Politics & Gender*, *Religion & Gender*, *Religions*, *Social Anthropology*, *Social Compass*, *Women's Studies International Forum*.

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Former journalist, **Lise Ménalque** is a PhD student and teaching assistant in information and communication sciences at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. She has just earned her Master degree in gender studies (interuniversity degree Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) with a thesis about the history and sociology of the feminization's concept in social studies and a focus on the magazine *Les Cahiers du Genre*. Her current work is about female journalists in the French-speaking part of Belgium, and the process of feminization in the service public media, Radio-Télévision de la Communauté française (RTBF). Last year, she worked with researchers Florence Le Cam and Manon Libert on the study *Être femme et journaliste en Belgique francophone* (2018).

CHAIR GILY COENE (VUB) & DAVID PATERNOTTE (ULB)

Room: Theatre

11:00 - 11:30 coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

Feminist perspectives on equality versus difference

ALISON WOODWARD (VUB) & MALIKA HAMIDI (Cadis-EHESS & LASPAD)

The history of feminist studies and the debates that animate them have always been permeated by the tension between the question of equality/difference and diversities. The first exchanges in Europe placed gender binarism on the universalism-particularism continuum. The debate in other parts of the world, including the United States was, driven by confrontations between feminists, including not only different national feminism, but also black feminisms and LGB and T thinkers. Diversities among women in terms of class, race, sexualities, beliefs and bodies have always been at issue, and perhaps there has been a shift to the stakes specific to various groups. Are these debates still relevant? How have the debates evolved and in which direction? How have the questions of the boundary between 'normality' and difference been redefined? How has this debate affected our understanding of discrimination and inclusion issues? This dialogue aims to answer these questions and, more generally, to look at past and present tensions around equality, difference and diversity concerns.

Alison E. Woodward is a political sociologist and emeritus professor at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). She is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Institute for European Studies in the research field of Migration and Diversity. She is an active member of RHEA, the Centre of Expertise Gender, Diversity and Intersectionality (VUB) and has given some of the first courses in women's studies in Flanders. Her publications include equal opportunities policy in the European Union, the challenges of diversity and the role of civil society.

Malika Hamidi holds a doctorate in sociology from the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. She is also an associate researcher at the Laboratoire d'analyse des sociétés et pouvoirs / Afrique - Diasporas (LASPAD) of the Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis du Sénégal and an associate member abroad of the Centre d'analyse et d'intervention sociologiques (CADIS, EHESS/CNRS, Paris). Specialized in Muslim feminism in Europe, she is currently co-leading the European project "European Values for Primary School" as part of the Erasmus + Programme (European Commission) for Brussels.

CHAIR ANNALISA CASINI (UCLouvain) & BETÜL DEMIRKOPARAN (KU Leuven)

Room: Theatre

13:00 - 14:00 lunch break

14:00 - 14:30 PERFORMANCE *Narval*

This performance mixes the personal and the poetic. It combines experiences, backgrounds and emotions through texts and music on themes such as visibility, precariousness and identity.

With a new and accurate pen, **Narval** is an author, musician and activist who reflects on how to rethink and celebrate his masculinity and identity with a perspective rooted in his legacy.

Room: Theatre

14:30 - 16:00 INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

Relational, economic and bodily autonomy

CLAIRE GAVRAY (ULiège) & **MAGALY RODRIGUEZ GARCIA** (KU Leuven)

Matters of autonomy and emancipation are paramount for feminists given that throughout history, and in a variety of ways, women and other marginalised actors have been repeatedly denied the status of autonomous social actors. Although the ideal of autonomy once seemed to hold out much promise for feminist activism, in providing both a liberatory goal and a moral standpoint from which to criticize multiple forms of oppressions, it is now generally regarded by feminist theorists with suspicion. So much outstanding scholarship has emphasized the importance of care and dependence (Gilligan, 1982; Kittay, 2011; Tronto, 1993), relationality (Anzaldúa, 1990; Haraway, 2008), and thicker understandings of agency (Mahmood, 2005) in the face of liberal individualism and the spread of neoliberal modes of governance. The aim of this debate is to discuss the following issues: What is the relationship between autonomy and agency? What about autonomy of the family, the collective, the workplace? What is the relationship between autonomy and state responsibility and liberty? How does this reshaping of autonomy also change questions of activism, freedom and resistance?

Claire Gavray (ULiège) is a doctor of sociology. She developed her expertise of gender theory and analysis when finalizing her PhD on labour market developments and the gendered comparison of professional trajectories. She applies this approach to all her teaching and research at ULiège, particularly in the field of values, commitments, attitudes and behaviours in adolescence. She currently teaches the course 'Genre et travail' in the Gender Studies master's programme after having worked on the implementation of the master's programme. She is also a founding member of the FERULiège (Femmes-Enseignement-Recherches), of which she is the current president.

Magaly Rodriguez Garcia teaches history at the KU Leuven. She obtained her doctorate in 2008 with a dissertation on international trade unions during the Cold War. During her postdoctoral research (2009-15) she maintained her interest in international organisations but with a focus on the working conditions of women and other marginalised groups in society. She studied the League of Nations that carried out international surveys on human trafficking and prostitution during the 1920s and 1930s. Since then, sex work and subalternity have been central to her research. She focuses on the main actors of the sex industry (sex workers, procurers, brothel owners) and on how they navigate between resistance and alignment with hegemonic norms and structures. She works closely with organisations such as Violet and Boysproject, which provide medical and social assistance to sex workers (women, men and trans), and with UTSOPI, a self-organized collective of sex workers in Belgium.

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CHAIR **MICHEL DE PROOST** (VUB) & **NATHALIE GRANDJEAN** (UNamur)

Room: Theatre

16:00 - 16:30 coffee break

16:30 - 18:00 KEYNOTE

Challenges for gender studies in times of attacks: Reflections on contemplation and action.

A dialogue between **SONIA CORRÊA** (SPW) & **MIEKE VERLOO** (Radboud University)

Sharing our worries and our understanding of current troubled times, we will tackle three main themes:

1. The state of abnormality and the abnormality of the state.

In this part we share our views and knowledge on patterns of normalization of inequality and injustice, and of the actual and potential roles and responsibilities of intellectuals and others to respond to these patterns.

2. Attacks on knowledge production.

In this part we share our views on what is under attack right now, what and who is in this together, who can and should be allies, and why that is difficult.

3. Why is it 'gender' and 'feminism' that is attacked, more than 'women'?

In this part we discuss the ongoing problem of the 'woman' category, the crucial role of reproduction and sexuality, co-optation of feminism and how feminists with divergent visions and experiences need to continue the hard work of struggling among themselves.

Our positions are strongly coloured by our social, political and intellectual locations and histories. We will address these topics from distinctive but also convergent global South and North perspectives and trends. Throughout our dialogue we will refer to these and aim for a perspective that does include the *longue durée* and the value and critique of theories sometimes long forgotten.

Sonia Corrêa has been, since the 1970s, involved in research and advocacy on gender and sexuality. Since 2002, with Richard Parker, she co-chairs Sexuality Policy Watch (SPW), a transnational knowledge network devoted to analyses and action in the realm of sexual politics. She has published in Portuguese, Spanish and English and lectured in various academic institutions, more recently at the Department of Gender Studies of the London School of Economics. She is one of the editors of the Global Queer Politics series (with David Patternote). Since 2018, Sexuality Policy Watch is conducting a baseline research on anti-gender politics in Latin America.

Mieke Verloo is Professor of Comparative Politics and Inequality Issues at Radboud University in the Netherlands, and Non-Residential Permanent Fellow at the IWM, Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. She is the winner of the 2015 ECPG Gender and Politics Career Achievement Award. She was scientific director of large research projects on gender equality policymaking in Europe (see www.mageeq.net and www.quing.eu). She has

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extensive consultancy and training experience on gender mainstreaming and intersectionality for several European governments and institutions. Among her latest publications are: the edited volume on Varieties of opposition to gender equality in Europe published by Routledge (2018), and the special issue "The feminist project under threat in Europe" in Politics and Governance, co-edited with David Paternotte. Her recent work is on the complex relationship between democracy and gender+ equality, and on gendered body politics.

CHAIR PETRA MEIER (UAntwerpen)

Room: Theatre

18:00 - 19:00 PERFORMANCE *Hot Bodies - Choir*

The HOT BODIES - CHOIR workshops gather queer, LGBTQI+ and feminist individuals around writing and choir singing practices. In their frame, one exchanges experiences and ideas from the reading of queer-feminist manifestos (*Scum Manifesto - Valérie Solanas, Cyborg Manifesto - Donna Haraway, etc*) towards the collective writing of revolutionary texts. These unique, polyphonic and unruly texts constitute the basis of a choral score, arranged musically by Gérald Kurdian and performed live by the participants.

HOT BODIES - CHOIRS is the third project of **Gérald Kurdian's** research cycle HOT BODIES OF THE FUTURE around sexual revolutions.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

11:30 - 16:00

It's not a fiction - **GOLNESA REZANEZHAD PISHKHANI**

For this project, local and immigrant women are invited to participate in workshops in which they incorporate their memorial images in a piece of embroidered patchwork. *It's not a fiction* draws upon ethnographic methods but applies them as a process of transformation. The visual ethnography relies on the selected images that are part of people's personal belongings and contains memories and emotions. The images are transformed by embroidery and incorporated into patchwork. The Block Cabin quilt is inspired by ancient ways of making wooden cottages by attaching wooden trunks together and as such symbolically refers to the notion of home. The project aims to make visitors and participants think and reflect about the issue of social acceptance of diversity, and of putting immigrants on an equal footing with locals.

Golnesa Rezanezhad Pishkhani is an artist and doctoral student, working on her PhD on a joint degree between the Center for Research on Culture and Gender in UGent and Royal College of Arts, KASK. Her Ph.D. focuses on female rug weavers' socio-political association in Iran. Within her research-practices she has been examining how artistic participatory projects could become a vehicle of giving minorities and marginalized groups of people visibility, expression and promoting reflection by the participants upon their position and potential in society.

Room: Foyer

19:00 - 22:00 birthday reception

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DAY 2 - 25.10.2019

Simultaneous translation French - Dutch during the morning roundtable and keynote. Parallel dialogues will be in French and Dutch.

8:30 - 9:15 REGISTRATION

9:15 - 9:30 WELCOME WORD

By **ANNALISA CASINI & LISA WOUTERS** (co-presidents of Sophia)

9:30 - 11:00 ROUNDTABLE

Breaking borders to share utopias: how to struggle together?

GHALIYA DJELLOUL (UCLouvain) in conversation with **ROBIN BRETTAR** (Mothers and Daughters & Transemble), **FANNY LAJARTHE AND CABRI** (Climate Justice Camp), **SAM MOUISSAT** (Merhaba) & **SUSAN VAN HOVE** (Queer Pride Gent)

Starting from a feminist perspective of "the border", this roundtable will focus on the position of several associations that fight against various sources of oppression through an "intersectional" reading of social relations. Starting from the description of their visions and practices of an emancipatory struggle, we will try to understand how their relationship to militant and/or academic spaces (access, expression, movement, exit) impacts their strategies.

Room: Theatre

11:00 - 11:15 coffee break

11:15 - 13:00 PARALLEL DIALOGUES

1 Decolonizing anti-racism

WITH **GIA ABRASSART** (Café Congo), **ROJIN ACILAN & MAYA** (Bledarte), **SARAH DEMART** (ULiège), **SEYMA GELEN** (Kahina), **MOUHAD REGHIF** (Bruxelles Panthères) & **SOPHIE WITHAECKX** (VUB)

The history of hegemonic anti-racism is by definition Eurocentric. This discussion aims to discuss the 'contours' of an anti-racism that differs from what is taught in schools or history books: an anti-racism that does not build on the concepts of 'humanism' or on ideas that are institutionalized in anti-discrimination laws. The starting point of the discussion could be as follows: it is important for people of colour to build their own heritage, a kind of narrative about the anti-racist struggle that starts from their own historical references, protagonists, intellectuals and activists. The aim is to raise a series of questions such as: how is the construction of this heritage linked with 'modernity' (representative democracy, the rule of law, nation, citizenship, ...)? What are the fault lines, when was there relative continuity? How is the specific historicity of racism, such as negrophobia and Islamophobia (Arab-Islamic imperialism and European colonization) taken into account in this discussion? In terms of genealogy,

what are the roots of collective political issues (e.g. African-American activists, decolonial militants, Islamism, pan-Africanism, European *négritude*, ...)? Should we or should we not shape this decolonial anti-racism outside of the feminist paradigm (as a product of a European-American history - although revived and transformed in the South: Muslim feminism, *chicana*, Afrofeminism, ...)? What other decolonial ways can we consider for the subjectivation (and emancipation) of women, men, LGBTQI+ of colour?

CHAIR MARYAM KOLLY (USaint-Louis)

Room 24

2 A gendered look at migration

WITH FLOR DIDDEN (11.11.11), **ZANA HANAFI** and **EVELIEN WAUTERS** (Women Refugee Route), **ABDESLAM MARFOUK** (ULiège & IWEPS), **SIBO KANOBANA** (UGent) & **LA LIGUE DES TRAVAILLEUSES DOMESTIQUES**

Although long made invisible, women have always migrated and today make up more than half of all migrants in Belgium (Myria). Once in Belgium, they face the harsh confrontation with forced clandestinity, a lack of recognition of their skills, a confinement to the domestic sphere and the grip of the global care chain. Nevertheless, they are the most loyal and first providers of remittances to their families in their home country. They also play a fundamental role in society and compensate for the lack of care (for children, sick people, the elderly, ...), which enables Belgian workers to generate wealth.

CHAIR EVA MARIA JIMENEZ LAMAS (CSC Brussels)

Room: Theatre

3 Climate and feminist movements: which radicalities should be considered and interlinked?

WITH ANNELEEN KENIS (KUL), **FEMKE LOOTENS** (Climate Express), **PASCALE VIELLE** (Extinction Rebellion) & **BENEDIKTE ZITOUNI** (USaint-Louis)

What does the climate, environmental and ecological movement look like today in Belgium? Versatile, dynamic and in a state of flux: the recent impact of citizen mobilisations denouncing political inaction on climate change bears witness to this. The actors in charge of the movement today are scattered in different groups and categories that can exclude and/or self-exclude themselves. Some are listened to, while others struggle to be heard. How can we collect different voices and be more listened to, respected and democratically legitimised? How can we rally researchers, activists, environmentalists and the general public? Is a new "radicalism" needed today and in what form? Can we intertwine different forms of radicalism - for there are necessarily several of them - in favour of a common struggle against a climate enemy? And if so, who or what is this common opponent?

This discussion aims to bring together ecofeminists and to shift the contours that currently determine the various thoughts and actions in the environmental and ecological movement (in the broad sense of the word) in Belgium. The speakers can express themselves in a safe space, where their thoughts will be shared and listened to with respect.

CHAIR ELÉONORE BARRELET

Room: Foyer

4 LGBTQI+ : reducing borders to share our struggles

WITH ROBIN BRETTAR (Mothers and Daughters & Transemble), HÉLOÏSE GUIMIN-FATI (independent researcher - project manager at Arc-en-Ciel Wallonie), MAXENCE ROELSTRAETE AND CAMILLE WARNIER (Les Cheff) & MARION WASSERBAUER (UAntwerpen)

LGBTQI+ struggles are crossed by multiple invisible borders since the experiences of each person and each group can be radically different. While the position of certain categories has improved in several aspects over the past few decades, other groups of people (particularly trans*, non-white, sex workers, inter* persons, ...) have witnessed their socio-economic and political vulnerability continue and worsen. How can we then struggle together, between LGBTQI+ people, knowing that alliances with other struggles can facilitate or complicate the search for emancipation for all?

CHAIR JULIEN DIDIER (Queers support the migrants - Bruxelles)

Room 34

5 Feminists against neoliberalism - a roundtable on our strategies for struggle

WITH CHIARA FILONI (CADTM), NATALIA HIRTZ (Gresea), SARAH SCHEEPERS (Hart boven Hard) & PATRIZIA ZANONI (UHasselt)

Feminist resistance to the dominant economic order covers a very wide spectrum of demands and practices and is rooted in a long history: struggles for the value of domestic and care work (a wage for domestic work, women's strike, etc.), struggles in the labour market (against wage inequality, glass ceiling, segregation in the lowest paid occupations, etc.), struggles against the privatization of the common (land, the city, health, knowledge, etc.) and/or for their recovery.

What economic struggles are we, feminists, engaged in today? And what are their intersectional configurations? How do power relations intersect within the same struggle? This roundtable is intended as a space for discussion and to share our strategies of struggle (issues of language, safe spaces, agendas, solidarities, alliances, coalitions).

CHAIR ELA CALLORDA FOSSATI (UCLouvain)

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Room: Theatre

13:00 - 14:00 lunch break

14:00 - 14:30 PERFORMANCE *Arachne and Teaching with Epiphanies and Aporias: the quest for the reparative academia*

The title of the work refers to Espen Aarseth's idea of ergodic literature (hypertextual narrative), which its structure premised on a reader's choices between numerous fragments of a story. In this kind of reading it is typical to stumble in the reading process and to experience difficulties in moving forward (*aporia*). However, a sudden revelation (*epiphany*) allows the reader to break a deadlock and continue his or her journey through the story.

The performance will take the form of a hypertextual story, which breaks up with a traditional and conventional linearly structured writing and reading. With the consent of those watching, the artist will share the story with them giving the thread which is unravelling from the sleeve which she will wear. The thread will mark the trajectory of the artist movement, the pattern of her contact with others, and the order of the story. A given situation is reorganised by stressing a relationship between the artist and Others, and between the Others themselves. A mesh emerges. The web of the connections joining Others to the structure of the artist narrative and her-the-ill-and-migrant-woman to the social structure.

Malgorzata Dawidek is a visual artist, writer and art historian (PhD) and is currently conducting a PhD practice-led research at the Slade School of Fine Art / UCL in London. Her artistic and academic interests cover the visual arts, literature and certain medical matters. Her practice is focused on the conflict between the condition of the human body and discursive language. It addresses aspects of corporeality as a continuous narration, a text 'in process' - in relation to the Subject and Others - which she describes as bodygraphy. She also researches visual literature and is the author i.a.: 'A History of Visual Text. Poland, post-1967' (2012) awarded for the best PhD dissertation in Poland in 2010. She has been awarded the Pollock-Krasner Foundation (2004-2005), and British Federation of Women Graduates (2017-2018) grants.

Urszula Chowaniec is a professor at the Andrzej Frycz-Modrzewski Cracow Academy in Poland and a Research Fellow at University College London. She is the author of a monograph *Melancholic Migrating Bodies in Contemporary Women's Writing* (2015) and *In Search for a Woman: Early Novels of Irena Krzywicka* (2007). Her current research concentrates on women's emancipation movement from non-heterosexual perspectives, mainly concentrating on the movement in Eastern Europe, but also generally on the dialogues between women's movement and lesbian emancipation as well as the connection between the development of the feminist language and the language of nonheteronormative sexualities.

Room: Theatre and foyer

14:30 - 16:00 PLENARY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Plenary fishbowl discussing the outcomes of the parallel dialogues, how they relate to the issues and questions raised in the morning roundtable and how to proceed next.

CHAIR GHALIYA DJELLOUL (UCLouvain) & CAROLINE GLORIE (ULiège)

Room: Theatre

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16:00 - 16:30 coffee break

16:30 - 18:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE

How to share places of struggle in order to build “shared” utopias ?

A dialogue between **SARAH BRACKE** (UvA) & **Ouardia DERRICHE** (Kahina)

This dialogue, at the intersection of activism and research, aims to discuss the bridges that could or should be built between different struggles, such as feminism, ecology, antiracism, and anti-capitalism. While some of these interactions have already been imagined, they are still rarely understood in their entirety, hindering the possibility of a convergence of struggles and allowing conservative instrumentalizations of these issues (particularly women’s rights). What are the different obstacles, both theoretical and pragmatic, to this convergence and construction of the ‘common’ and, above all, how can they be overcome?

Sarah Bracke is Professor of Sociology of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Amsterdam. Before joining the Sociology Department at the UvA in 2017, she worked as a senior researcher at the Center of Expertise on Gender, Diversity, and Intersectionality (RHEA) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels and as Associate Research Professor of Sociology at Ghent University. Bracke’s main fields of research include gender, religion (Islam and Christianity), the secular and secular governmentality, and multiculturalism in Europe, with a focus on questions of subjectivity and agency. She has also investigated neoliberal forms of subjectification (such as the ethos of ‘resilience’) as well as the current anti-gender ideology movements against gender as an analytical category.

Ouardia Derriche was born in Algeria and studied both philosophy and sociology at University of Alger ; today, she is an active retired woman. Long-time feminist née en Algérie, a reçu une double formation en philosophie et en sociologie à l’université d’Alger ; elle est aujourd’hui une retraitée active. A long-time feminist, trade union delegate and community activist, she was Vice-President of the League for Human Rights for two legislatures and Vice-President of the Council of French-speaking Women of Belgium. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Belgian-Palestinian Association and the Eliane Vogel-Polsky Women's Committee of the FGTB Brussels. Finally, she is a founding member of the feminist collective Kahina.

CHAIR CHARLOTTE PEZERIL (USaint-Louis)

Room: Theatre

18:00 - 21:30 closing reception

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

10:30 - 13:30

It’s not a fiction - **GOLNESA REZANEZHAD PISHKHANI**

For this project, local and immigrant women are invited to participate in workshops in which they incorporate their memorial images in a piece of embroidered patchwork. *It’s not a fiction* draws upon ethnographic methods but applies them as a process of transformation. The visual ethnography relies on the selected images that are part of people’s personal belongings and contains memories and

emotions. The images are transformed by embroidery and incorporated into patchwork. The Block Cabin quilt is inspired by ancient ways of making wooden cottages by attaching wooden trunks together and as such symbolically refers to the notion of home. The project aims to make visitors and participants think and reflect about the issue of social acceptance of diversity, and of putting immigrants on an equal footing with locals.

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Room: Foyer