

## Call For Papers

# "Unleashing Women's Economic Rights for Equal and Sustainable Societies: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from the global south"

**Deadline for abstract submission: February 10th**

# **"Unleashing Women's Economic Rights for Equal and Sustainable Societies: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from the global south"**



**Research Laboratory Language, Identity, Media, Patrimony, Culture and Tourism (LIMPACT), Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Marrakech, Cadi Ayyad University, Takamul Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung Organize an International Conference on:**

**"Unleashing Women's Economic Rights for Equal and Sustainable Societies: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from the global south"**

**May, 20-21, 2023**

Despite multiple initiatives, sectoral plans, and programs to promote women's economic participation (Min Ajliki, Green and Halioutis Plans, We4She), Moroccan women are kept from economic activity, the national business sector, and leading positions. Only 16.2 % of company leaders are women (compared to 62% in Sub-Saharan Africa). Morocco holds poor positions in the regional and global gender gap rankings (12 out of 19 and 143 out of 153 countries 2020 World Economic Forum's global gender gap index, respectively, and 146th in women's economic participation and opportunity). The National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) is higher among women (70% of male NEETs are unemployed, while 93% of female NEETs are inactive (World Bank, 2018).

The demand for women's economic participation, and the maximization of their role in decision-making positions, is a requirement for social development and equality promotion. Women have been fighting for equal rights and against oppression for centuries; they have been demanding gender equality in areas traditionally thought of as men's prerogatives. As such, women's economic participation is a societal issue as it establishes a balance among society members based on creative human values. ILO conventions recommend equal opportunity in labor and education because "when female labor is underemployed or misused; because of discrimination against women in markets and institutions erected by society, which prevents them from completing their studies, from being able to practice certain professions and to obtain the same remuneration as men; economic losses ensue" (IMF, 2013). This means that there is evidence of economic loss each time women are not included in the economic ecosystem. Thus, women's economic inclusion seems to be not only an important contributing variable in the gender equality equation, as it draws the design

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and layout of the democratic scene of a country, but also a pervading challenge to gender equality, inclusive and democratic society.

Women's economic exclusion, on the other hand, is regarded as a driving force for social oppression and economic inequality. Poor women are generally excluded or disadvantaged in terms of decision-making and access to economic and social resources. In this line of argument, Bradshaw and Lineker (2003) argue that women's poverty is triggered by three major factors: (1) women generally have fewer opportunities to transform work into income, (2) women still have limited decision-making authority, and (3) women tend to act for the benefit of others first when they make decisions. Thus, gender equality will not play its full role if not accompanied by equality of economic and social opportunities. By ensuring equal access to economic resources for women and men together, both genders will have the power to make economic decisions and participate in policymaking. However, the current definitions of women's rights are based on social representations which derive their legitimacy from social and cultural norms, and sometimes from jurisprudential interpretations of religious texts, where the centrality of women's reproductive roles determines their identity and status in society. In this respect, women's access to public domains is curtailed under their biological differences, which adversely affects their visibility, agency, and economic stability. Similarly, the limited presence of women in leadership positions contributes to the gender pay gap and the increase of the impostor syndrome among them. Women are crippled and snatched their rights to enjoy equal power and ownership of resources as men.

In a similar magnitude, gender inequality seems to affect the position of women in society and their possibilities of enjoying the rights conferred upon them by their country's legislation because economically dependent women are more subject to violence, whether in the private/family sphere or the public one. Economic inequality and dependence are fundamental causes of violence against women, as the unequal domestic frame might amplify the risks of violence against women because power lies with the one who owns resources. As a result, women's economic fragility undermines their empowerment and further perpetuates their social inferiority. In this line of argument, economic empowerment can, however, provide incentives to change the patterns which dictate a woman's traditional behavior as a dependent member of the household (The United Nations Population Fund, 2005).

Hence, the issue of economic discrimination based on biological differences becomes one of the issues that strongly pervade the public debate in the MENA region due to the prevailing practices arising from prejudices and misconceptions that have been built over generations and legitimized based upon specific interpretations of religious texts.

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According to this premise, this conference seeks to address the economic situation of women in various aspects and dimensions, focusing on:

- Women's economic rights in contemporary international law and the problem of its national adequacy mechanisms.
- Women's economic rights from within the jurisprudence system.
- Women's economic rights from within the religious interpretations.
- The implications of gender approaches on the economic reality of women.
- The role of social representations in perpetuating the inferiority of women in the economic field.

Along the lines of empowerment, representation, and resistance, this conference seeks debate, if not answers, to the following questions:

- How do international conventions and treaties deal with economic women's rights as an integral part of the human rights system?
- What are the current conditions for these rights in the MENA region?
- What is the impact of the gender approach on dealing with economic women's rights issues?
- In what way do the entrenched social, economic, and cultural structures of our Arab nations affect the representation of women's economic rights?
- Which mechanisms enable building a culture that denounces economic gender-based discrimination?
- To what extent do social institutions influence women's control over economic resources?
- What is the position of masculine jurisprudence vis-à-vis feminists' economic empowerment?

## **Submission guidelines:**

- Applicants are invited to send an abstract of 500 words, including a short biographical note of no more than 100 words. The bio contains essentially: city/country, phone number, e-mail, a personal photo, scientific degree, field of specialty and the academic affiliation.
- Applicants are invited to submit their projects in English.
- Full papers should be submitted as a Microsoft Word format, typed using Times New Roman (font size 12). Use APA style for referencing.

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- The manuscript must be original, not published before, of outstanding academic importance and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- The manuscript should be within the word limit of 5000 and 6000 words (including references).
- All submissions will be screened by two specialists/experts in the field for adherence to the conference instructions.
- Please note, only accepted applicants will be contacted.

## Important dates:

- Deadline for abstract submission: **February 10th**
- Notification of acceptance: **February 15th**
- Deadline for full paper submission: **April 5th**
- Date of the event: **May 20-21, 2023, Marrakech**. All submissions must be sent as email attachment to: [women.rights2023@gmail.com](mailto:women.rights2023@gmail.com)
- All accepted participants' accommodation and meal expenses will be covered by the organizers of the conference.
- Travel expenses are neither covered nor compensated.
- Participants are required to attend all the conference's panels to enrich the debate.

## Conference Coordinators

**Pr. Fatimazohra Iflahen**

Cadi Ayyad University

**Pr. Oifaa Tribak**

Moulay Ismail University

## Scientific Committee

- Doha Sahraoui: faculty of legal, economic and *social sciences*, *Cadi Ayyad University*
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- Siti Rukayah: Diponegoro University, Indonesia
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