Understanding Gendered Racialization in the Canadian and European Immigration Context |

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This talk starts with the intersectional premise that race is always gendered and gender is always raced. Beginning with the concept of racialization, which is defined as “the extension of racial meaning to a previously racially unclassified relationship, social practice or group”, the presentation extends this to include instances of changing racial meanings attributed to already racialized groups. The process of racialization is not solely rooted in an interpretation of (presumptions about) biology but extends to bodily comportment and embodiment as well as cultural and religious practices, as, for example, the racialization of Muslim hijab-wearing women shows. Racialization is at times overused to the point of banality, and the concept enables a focus on the process of the intersectional categorization of difference that continues to be critical to understanding how inequalities are produced and structural violence is perpetrated against immigrant groups. Second, the presentation provides examples from research on LGBTQ refugees, headscarf-wearing, and responses to honour-based violence to illustrate how gendered racializations shape the lives of immigrant groups in Canada and Europe. Third, the other effects of gendered racialization are highlighted, focusing on the rise of contemporary populism and right-wing nationalism, “homonationalism” and “femonationalism”, and European “anti-gender” movements.