

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON GENDER & POLITICS (ICGP 2023)

WOMEN & LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

المرأة والريادة في أفريقيا والشرق الأوسط
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IN HONOUR OF

FATIMA AL-FIHRIYYA, FOUNDER OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST UNIVERSITY, AL QUARAOUYINE

FEATURED KEYNOTES



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PROFESSOR OF LITERARY AND CRITICAL THEORY AND
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EX-AMBASSADOR TO THE EU, MOROCCO

12-13 OCTOBER, 2023

CONFERENCE ROOM

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES, ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES - AIT MELLOUL

GENDER.LEADERSHIP2023@GMAIL.COM

Call for Papers

The Culture, Language, Arts and Society LAB

in collaboration with

Heinrich Böll Stiftung in Rabat, Morocco, Babcock University in Nigeria, Pennsylvania State

University in USA and the African Feminist Initiative in USA

Organize the 2nd Edition of the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on GENDER & POLITICS (ICGP 2023)

Women & Leadership in Africa and the Middle East

المرأة والريادة في أفريقيا والشرق الأوسط

٢٠٢٣.١٠.١٢ - ٢٠٢٣.١٠.١٣

Venue: Conference Room FLASH, Ait Melloul, Morocco

12-13 October, 2023

Conference Background

“Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved¹”.

For decades and due to the global adoption of positive discrimination and diversity measures in corporate, educational and political governance bodies, women have become increasingly visible in public life. However, progress in achieving gender equality remains stalled in the so-called “patriarchal belt” societies, namely the Middle East and Africa, due to deeply rooted patterns of restriction and discrimination. The 2022 Arab Human Development Report, for instance, drew a grim picture of the MENA region as lagging behind the rest of the world. Men vastly outnumber women in public positions where policy and implementation are determined. In *political participation*, for instance, it is estimated that more than half of the electorate in the region are women. However, no woman has ever been elected president of the government. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (2022), the region has the lowest proportion of women in parliament, with only 20%. In addition, the region has the lowest rates of female participation in the labor market at just 20% and women-led businesses at an estimated 5% compared to a global average of 23%.

Compared to the Middle East, Africa is faring well in terms of female leadership in senior positions, but it still needs to capitalize on the full potential of one half of its societies beyond the politically correct statistics that do not translate into the development and prosperity of the continent. As for Morocco, there is still a long way to go to achieve a gender equal participation and representation of women in decision making structures. Mohamed the VI, king of Morocco, made it clear in his speech of the 23rd anniversary of his ascension to the throne that “Morocco’s progress hinges on women’s status in society and their effective participation in the development of all sectors”. This reaffirms his majesty’s conviction that the upcoming gravity pole geared towards building a modern and democratic society should focus on promoting women’s rights by empowering them socially, economically and politically.

Conference Objectives

The goal of this conference is to bring together scholars (from various disciplines), practitioners, feminists, activists and policy makers working on women’s rights and gender studies to explore the factors behind the gender leadership gap in so many public life sectors and cultural contexts and investigate the harm it does to societies. The main questions of interest are: Why does the gender gap in leadership remain far from being closed in Africa and the Middle East? Why do women usually operate at the lower levels of political and socio-economic power? To what extent do policies and measures of positive discrimination solve both the problem of women’s *descriptive* and *substantive* representation in leadership roles in various areas of public life?

¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chapter. I, resolution 1, annex II. Paragraph 181.

We also welcome women leaders, who have made it through the culturally ceiled pipeline and succeeded in positioning themselves at various leadership positions with the view of sharing their stories, journeys of success, struggle, and achievements with the next generation of aspiring women leaders.

Areas of interest include (but are not limited to):

- ✓ Status of women in political leadership
- ✓ Status of women in academic leadership
- ✓ Status of women at the workplace
- ✓ Challenges to women's leadership
- ✓ Essentials of good leadership
- ✓ Benefits of gender-inclusive leadership
- ✓ The political and legal infrastructures for empowering women in leadership positions
- ✓ Impact of gender-inclusive leadership
- ✓ Stories and trajectories of women leaders

Submission Guidelines

Proposals for paper presentations should consist of a title, an abstract, and a short bio specifying the author's current position, affiliation, research interests and publications. Abstracts are limited to 250 words in length, and bios are limited to 70 words. Individual paper sessions will be 15 minutes. The languages of the conference will be English, Arabic and French. Papers are expected to be submitted prior to the conference date (see deadlines below). Selected papers from the conference will be invited to submit their articles to an edited collected volume or a journal special issue after the conference. Papers should be sent to: gender.leadership2023@gmail.com.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: **June 20th, 2023**
- Notification of acceptance: **July 10th, 2023**
- Submission of conference papers: **September 10th, 2023**
- Conference: **October 12–13, 2023**

Conference Fees

600MAD for researchers and 300MAD for PhD Students, covering conference materials, lunch and coffee breaks. Travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of participants. Payment of fees should be paid onsite with the local Moroccan currency.

Conference Chairs

Hanane Darhour, FLASH Ait Melloul

Abdelghani Elkhairat, FLASH Ait Melloul

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Contact Information

For any inquiry, contact the conference organizing committee by email at:

gender.leadership2023@gmail.com