



The last several months of protest in Iran have provoked new thoughts, debates, and theorizations on women's rights issues and solidarities across the Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region. This two-day workshop provides participants a chance to engage on the issues at the center of these protests, revisiting topics of hijab, religion, culture, Orientalism, and advocacy through theoretical and practical exercises encouraging critical thinking and the building and sustaining of solidarity movements across different contexts. The first day of the workshop will begin with an introduction to the historical and political context of the wider debate underpinning the protests in Iran and its parallels in other parts of the region. It will discuss theoretical frameworks currently shaping the debates and highlight the problematics such frameworks may bring. Lastly, it will, with the workshop participants, elaborate new analytical approaches that young researchers working on gender and women's movements in the region may need to better make sense of the recent protests in Iran and the problems plaguing the formation of broader coalitions of women's resistances across the SWANA region. Day two will focus on praxis and advocacy, with participants learning about strategies for effective solidarity and the importance of centering the voices of those most affected by the issues at hand. It will include a discussion with an Iranian scholar and community organizer and an Arab women's rights activist towards this endeavor, providing a space for dialogue and reflection that bridges academia with activism. This workshop is ideal for anyone interested in women's issues, postcolonial theory, and the intersections of academia and activism as they shape discourses and debates. It will encourage participants to engage with issues that span national, ethnic and linguistic borders while learning to think critically and take action towards creating meaningful change. The workshop will be mainly conducted in English, but Arabic speakers are welcome.