

International Conference
On Trial. Claiming Feminist Justice in Dark Times – Between Law, Testimony and Politics

University of Verona
3-4 December 2026

Organizers: Natascia Tosel and Olivia Guaraldo

Conference schedule

3 December

Venue: Viale Università 4, Polo Zanotto, Room T.1 (ground floor)

10.30: Welcome

10.45: Institutional Greetings

11.00 – 13.00: **A Conversation on Women's Courts (with Staša Zajović)**

- Introduction: Women's Courts: A Missing Piece in the Jigsaw of Feminism
  Natascia Tosel
- Women's Court – A Feminist Approach to Justice
  Staša Zajović
- Screening of the docufilm on the Sarajevo Women's Court (2015)
- Q&A

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch Break (Catering)

14.00 – 15.30: **Panel 1 & 2**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room "Messedaglia"
Panel 1 **Legal In/visibility: Not Believed, Yet Constantly Judged**	Panel 2 **Sex on Trial: Feminist Perspectives on Sexual Violence and Consent**

Chair: Olivia Guaraldo (*University of Verona*)	Chair: Lorenzo Bernini (*University of Verona*)
○ Syeda Fuzna Haider (University of Karachi) *Injustice against Women in the Taliban's Fundamentalist Authoritarian Regime and the Ideological Handmaiden of Islam* ○ Joana Topa and Cátia Pontedeira (University of Maia) *Racism, Gendered Violence and Institutional Power: Reframing the Cláudia Simões Case through Feminist Justice* ○ Federica Valerio (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia) *From Intimate Violence to Institutional Violence: Feminist Legal Critique and the Continuum of Coercive Power*	○ Yiyang Bai (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) *What a Hearer Owes a Speaker: Epistemic Responsiveness to Sexual Refusal* ○ Eleonora Volta (Nova University Lisbon) *Counternarratives in Rape Trials: Reshaping Legal Perspectives on Consent* ○ Shannon Fyfe (Washington & Lee University) *Defendant "Suffering" and Sexual Violence on Trial*

15.30 – 16.00: Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30: **Panel 3 & 4**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room "Messedaglia"
Panel 3 **Silenced Archives: What Women's Testimonies Tell Us About Violence**	Panel 4 **Thinking Without Banisters: Challenging Gendered Stigma across Institutional Contexts**
Chair: Anna Argirò (*Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici*)	Chair: Daniele Bassi (*University of Verona*)
○ Milène Le Goff (University of Lille / Free University of Brussels) *Giving Victims a Voice? The International Tribunal on Crimes against Women (1976) as a Space for Testimony and Feminist Memory* ○ Laura Lammasniemi (University of Warwick) *The Making of a Silence: Women's Testimonies in Early Twentieth Century English Sexual Offence Trials* ○ Khushboo Upreti (Jawaharlal Nehru University) *Domestic Violence and the Pursuit of Justice in Mahila Courts of Delhi*	○ Linda Montanari (University of Lisbon and European Union Drugs Agency) *Women, Drugs, Prison. Profile and Pathways of Women Incarcerated in Italy and in Portugal* ○ Caterina Diotto (independent researcher) *Epistemological Migration. Evolving the Concept of Migration through Feminist Epistemology* ○ Zoe Schneider (Brown University) *Rethinking the Trafficked/Consensual Labor Distinction Through an Intersectional and Structural Lens*

17.30 – 18.00: Break

18.00: **Keynote: Leigh Gilmore (*The Ohio State University*)**
MeToo Redux: The Persistence of Survivor Testimony
Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1

19.00: Dinner (Catering)

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4 December

09.30 – 11.00: **Panel 5 & 6**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room "Messedaglia"
Panel 5 **Who Believes Women? The Persistent History of the Gendered Credibility Gap**	Panel 6 **Reorienting Justice Beyond the Logic of Coercion and Punishment**
Chair: Giacomo Mormino (*University of Verona*)	Chair: Madlyn Sauer (*University of Zurich*)
○ Anna Ceglarska (Jagiellonian University) *Rethinking Medea, Judging Jason: The Limits of Individual Responsibility* ○ Giorgia Toppi (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele) *Putting Clytemnestra on Trial. Gender, Testimony and the Limits of Justice in Greek Tragedy* ○ Donata Chiricò (Università Magna Graecia – Catanzaro) *From the Scaffold to the Rostrum: Olympe de Gouges and the Performativity of the Gendered Trial*	○ Laikwan Pang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) *The Mutual Conditioning of Law and Life* ○ Nikki Godden-Rasul (Newcastle University) *Abolition Feminism and Gendered Violence: Radically Reorienting the Approach to Justice* ○ Masa Awartani (independent researcher) *The Second Sex Under the Rubble: Othering, Human Rights Penality, and the Judicial Failure of the Gaza Reconstruction Plan*

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00: **Panel 7 & 8**

Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1	Venue: Chiostro di S. Maria delle Vittorie, Room "Messedaglia"
Panel 7 **Reimagining the Forensic as a Site of Feminist Struggle**	Panel 8 **From Courtrooms to Classrooms to the Streets: The Circuits of Epistemic Injustice**
Chair: Sabrina Zucca-Soest (*TU Dresden*)	Chair: Natascia Tosel (*University of Verona*)

○ Kirsten Campbell (Loughborough University) *Feminist Justice at the Sarajevo Women's Court*	○ Anna De Giuli (Università degli Studi di Milano) *Putting the Expert on Trial: Epistemic Injustice and the Performativity of Gendered Narratives in the Courtroom*
○ Madlyn Sauer (University of Zurich) *"We want to grow and change" – The Radical Relational Witnessing of the Feminist Women's Court for the Former Yugoslavia*	○ Lucia Botti, Nicolò Maria Ingarra and Luna Rovolon (University of Macerata) *Tertiary Victimization: Academic Perceptions and the Limits of Institutional Justice*
○ Elif Can Çalıcı (Ankara University) *Legal Victory Without Triumph: A SLAPP Case Study on Femicide Activism*	○ Anaheta Sharifi (University of Warwick) *What Does the Iran's Women, Life, Freedom Movement Tell Us About International Human Rights Frameworks?*

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch Break (Catering)

14.00 – 16.00: **Roundtable "Claiming Feminist Justice in Dark Times"**
Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1
With: Ilaria Boiano (lawyer, *Differenza Donna*)
Olivia Guaraldo (*Università di Verona*)
Maria Tamboukou (*University of East London*)
Sabrina Zucca-Soest (*TU Dresden*)

16.00 – 16.30: Coffee Break

16.30: **Keynote: Anália Torres (*Universidade de Lisboa*)**
Gender Justice on the Battlefield: Progress, Backlash and Resistance
Venue: Polo Zanotto, Room T.1

17.30: Concluding Remarks

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Venues:

- **Polo Zanotto** (Main Entrance: Viale Università 4, Room T1, Ground Floor).
- **Chiostro S. Maria delle Vittorie** (Main Entrance: Lungadige Porta Vittoria 41, Room «Messedaglia, First Floor).

The two venues are located in different buildings on the same campus, just a couple of minutes' walk from each other.

