

A PHENOMENOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CONDITIONS OF TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISM

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy and
the Department of Women's & Gender Studies



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In its attempts to be relevant across cultural and political borders, feminist theory and praxis in the Global North has often stumbled over its own presumptions about what counts as feminist liberation. This paper develops a critique of these missteps and a phenomenological foundation for genuinely intercultural engagement. Mobilizing in particular Serene Khader's challenge to what she calls "missionary feminism," the paper argues that the core values for transnational feminist praxis that Khader offers require more substantial normative justification that phenomenology can provide, with its foundational descriptions of both interpersonal life and human singularity. In dialogue with the work of John Russon and Saba Mahmood, it develops phenomenological support for Khader's otherwise promising arguments.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

5:00-6:30pm, Halle 300