29th World Congress of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (IVR)

University of Lucerne, 7 -13 July 2019

**FINAL ABSTRACT**

**WORKSHOP TITLE:** *Empirical Studies of Gender, Activism, and Socio-Legal Transformation*

**ABSTRACT:** Currently the world is experiencing major pushes toward greater gender equality from international mass movements like #metoo and #womensmarch, as well as local iterations of gender rights activism by longstanding as well as newer or reenergized women’s movements across the globe. Social media connects and disperses these activist efforts. At the same time, activists seeking gender equality face both common and diverse challenges. Globalism and a spreading neoliberal order inform a shifting socio-political landscape for feminist and other gender rights activism. Conservative populist movements that seek to halt or roll back women’s gains are on the rise. These illiberal regimes resist, refute, or coopt activists’ claims. Nondemocratic regimes and those with religious law inform different opportunities and challenges for resistance and change.

This workshop brings together scholars exploring themes at the nexus of gender, activism, and socio-legal change through empirical research. Papers for the workshop will consider a variety of themes and contexts including the influence of social media on popular understandings of gender equality and women’s rights, efforts by feminist lawyers to resist and transform legal structures, and the impacts of the widespread turn toward authoritarianism and transformations within courts on social justice activism. The presenters bring diverse perspectives and expertise to bear on these topics and their empirical work. The empirical work presented will focus on Iran and Turkey, two Muslim-majority countries, one with religious law and one with (albeit struggling) secular governance. The workshop will also raise and invite comparative issues and questions to explore these topics.

**PRESENTERS/PAPERS**

Elizabeth L. MacDowell, Prof. of Law, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas, USA, “Activism Against Gender Based Violence in Turkey and the Authoritarian Turn: Noted from the Field.”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eylem Ümit Altigan, Lecturer, Near East University Faculty of Law, Department of Law, Philosophy, and Sociology of Law, TRNC, “Feminist Advocacy Against Masculine Violence.”

Dr. Sahar Maranlou, Lecturer in Law and Socio-Legal Studies, University of Essex, UK, “Justice and Gender in Social Media: Understanding Public Legal Culture in Iran.”

## Chair/Discussant: Hanne Petersen, Professor, Centre for European and Comparative Legal Studies

**TIME REQUESTED**

We request a four-hour workshop. But, since we have lost two of our presenters, we can split our time and be a two-hour session if the schedule is still too full or accept a “stray” participant whose work fits in our general topical area. Please let us know if these options are helpful.