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„Transnational and Decolonial Feminisms and the Normativity Question“

Abstract:

In the lecture, I argue that it is possible to develop a genuinely normative anti-imperialist feminist position. Developing such a position depends on a) recovering the core moral commitment of feminism and b) reconceiving the role of moral ideals in transnational feminist praxis. Feminism's core normative commitment is, in my view, to opposing sexist oppression. Returning to this commitment, rather than treating the prevalence of Western cultural forms as indicative of feminist progress, reveals that the controversial forms of many values that have been accused of being vehicles of imperialism, such as individualism and autonomy, are not required for feminism. The role of moral ideals in transnational feminist praxis is what I call, borrowing a term from Amartya Sen, a "justice-enhancing" one. Rather than looking to them to prescribe a single vision of gender-just social relations, we should look to feminist ideals to help us overcome existing forms of gender *in*justice.