

Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democracy in the World. 8th Social Justice Conference. Virtual, May 10, 2024.

Organizers: Dr. Philipp Kneis, Tayler Holcomb, Lily Middleton, Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes

The rights of people to freely and safely live according to their gender identity have increasingly been under threat. While some progress has been made, most notably in Greece this year, in other countries, hard-won rights are again contested, and in several countries around the world, most notably Russia and Uganda, the lives of those not seen as living according to presumed traditional role models are physically in danger. Even in countries like the US, abortion rights and women's health are contested, and trans rights are politicized and threatened all over the world. The very lives of women, and people identifying as LGBTQUIA+ is under threat every day all over the world.

In the name of alleged tradition, a wider critique of modernity, democracy and human rights is seemingly gaining traction and is both figuratively and literally weaponized. Russia's war against Ukraine is frequently justified as anti-western, citing threats to traditional values as mandating war. The Iranian government continues to brutalize its female population, especially young women protesting on the streets. The return of the Taliban has again led to the oppression of women, made possible by the abrogation of Allied commitments made to democratic and liberal parts of the population.

Are we witnessing a global backlash not just against gender equality but all human rights? Is this trend not also fueled by a combination of economic interests on the one hand, and a lack of commitment to democratic and liberal values on the other? Are we living in a historic moment where all we thought we had achieved with regards to human rights post World War II is again under threat, heralding a new Era of anti-human brutality?

The 8th Social Justice conference at Oregon State University, in cooperation with Fielding Graduate University, the Equatorial Voices Network and the Climate Dialogue Group, will provide a forum for students, practitioners and scholars to share their research and experience with each other at a virtual forum during Holocaust Memorial Week.

Please contact Dr. Philipp Kneis (philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu) if you are interested in participating with a 15-20 minute virtual presentation.

Submission deadline for a brief abstract detailing your ideas: April 26, 2024

Format:

- 4-5 panels of approx. 60-90 minutes
- Each panel containing 3 speakers, each with 15-20 minutes talk
- Q&A discussion at end of each panel
- Completely Virtual event
- Start: 8 AM Pacific Time

Web Site: <http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sjc>