

CONFÉRENCE

# ROADS TO REVOLUTION: BUILDING FEMINIST TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN THE ERA OF #METOO

*We are at a turning point in how we think about feminism, womanhood, and resistance. In the U.S., feminism is under attack from the Right, the Left, and from within- causing American feminists a "triple bind". Across the Atlantic, women are engaging in these same struggles and finding their feet through a sisterhood and friendship formed between the threads of activism and shared struggles. Through the narratives of feminist activists in Iran, Tunisia, and India, I will show that women in West and South Asia are also experiencing a "triple bind". These women are simultaneously fighting the state, their religions, and themselves - all as informed by patriarchy. Many women struggle with expectations of womanhood as couched within these battles. But there is much to be learned from the way that women in the Middle East and South Asia engage feminism. I draw on these three contexts to highlight the role of feminists in inspiring Iran's Green Movement, Tunisia's Arab Spring, and the landmark repeal of Section 377 in India to decriminalize homosexuality. This ethnographically informed project is an opportunity for feminists across the globe who are interested in women's issues to explore a different kind of feminism, and the impact of that feminism on women's lives outside the context of Europe or America in order to build a truly transnational feminist movement in the wake of #MeToo.*

## **PARDIS MAHDAVI** DIRECTOR OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

*Pardis Mahdavi has focused her academic career on diversity, inclusion, human trafficking, migration, sexuality, human rights, feminism and public health. Mahdavi's approach to higher education has been informed by her personal journey as an Iranian-American woman growing up in the U.S., as well as her training as an anthropologist where she learned to be reflexive about complex power dynamics. Mahdavi comes to ASU from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, where she served as acting dean. Before coming to Denver, she was at Pomona College from 2006-2017 where she most recently served as professor and chair of anthropology, director of the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College, as well as Dean of Women. Her research interests include academic freedom, diversity and inclusion in higher education, gendered labor, human trafficking, migration, sexuality, human rights, youth culture, transnational feminism and public health in the context of changing global and political structures. She has published five single-authored books and one edited volume in addition to numerous journal and news articles. She has been a fellow at the Social Sciences Research Council, the American Council on Learned Societies, Google Ideas, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She has consulted for a wide array of organizations including the U.S. government, Google Inc., and the United Nations. In 2012, she won the Wig Award for teaching at Pomona College.*



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16 OCTOBRE 2019, 12H30 À 14H00  
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