



Birzeit University's Institute of Women's Studies' 9th annual conference

**Confronting Feminist Co-optation and Backlash:
colonial legacies, imperial neoliberalism, and anti-feminisms**

The conference is concerned with how feminist struggles in the Arab world, and the global south in general, confront various contemporary forms of colonialism, neoliberalism, and anti-feminism. The conference considers how feminism has been co-opted (in both its imperial liberal and globalized forms) in the service of projects that are counter to the basic principles of liberatory feminisms that strive to overturn racial, class, and colonial domination. It engages with how feminist concepts and rhetoric have been appropriated to further goals of capitalist exploitation and inequality, imperial domination and colonial dispossession. As a result, the conference situates and analyses the belief among some that neoliberalism offers women new forms of feminist liberation, on the one hand, and to the conservative backlash against feminist ideas under the pretext that they are in service of imperialism and colonialism, on the other. Within this frame, we ask: what are the possibilities for feminist struggles in formulating through theory and practice strategies to confront contemporary neoliberal-globalized and colonial projects?